



Option Internationale du Baccalauréat policy: Lycee International de Londres Winston Churchill

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I. What the course is:

The Option Internationale du Baccalaureat (OIB) is a rigorous bilingual and bicultural school-leaving certification which is studied alongside the regular French Baccalaureate. It is an option available to all Bac students taking S, ES or L. It is a qualification which is run in partnership between the French Education Ministry and Cambridge International Examinations (CIE). LV1 (langue vivante 1) is replaced by English language and literature taught in English, and Histoire/ Géographie, traditionally taught in French, is replaced with a bilingual programme.

In September 2016, there were 478 international sections in 284 schools and high schools both in France and in the network for French schools abroad (AEFE). Sixteen languages and cultures are represented with sections (Arabic, Brazilian, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, English - British and American - German, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish). In LIL, the British option of the OIB is taught to students.

Both English language and literature and History/ Géographie are taught to the equivalent of A level study. The French Baccalaureate (FB) has no connection with the International Baccalaureate (IB), the European Baccalaureate (EB), the Welsh Baccalaureate or the English Baccalaureate.

As only LV1 and *histoire-géographie* are modified, students still take a version of the *baccalaureat* which is largely the same as the French version. As such, a student is said to be taking *series S, ES or L* with the OIB. The subjects taught in the OIB are given extra weighting (see table below).

Both History/Geography and English Language and Literature are evaluated in written and oral exams at the end of Terminale.



There are four possible pass marks for the OIB:

Passable	from 10/20 to 11.99
<i>Mention assez bien:</i>	from 12/20 to 13.99
Mention bien:	from 14/20 to 15.99
Mention très bien:	from 16/20 upwards

For the OIB, the marking system gives extra weighting and extra importance to English language/ literature and History/ Geography. It therefore acknowledges both the extra degree of difficulty and the increased workload demanded by the OIB.

The *coefficients* of the two subjects that form the International Option are set out in the table below.

	Lang-Lit		History-Geography		Approximate percentage of overall marks gained via OIB subjects
	Coefficients		Coefficients		
	Written	Oral	Written	Oral	
<i>Baccalauréat L</i>	6	4	5	3	40%
<i>Baccalauréat S</i>	5	4	4	3	30%
<i>Baccalauréat ES</i>	5	4	5	4	40%

II. English language and literature

Students taking the International Option take the two subjects most commonly associated to culture: *langue et littérature* and *histoire-géographie*.

In Language and Literature, students have a choice of literary texts from four genres: drama, poetry, prose fiction and Shakespeare's plays. For the oral exam, they must prepare a Shakespeare play and then two additional texts illustrating a synoptic genre. Present synoptic genres include **Writers and writing of the Romantic Age and post-colonial literature**. For the written examination in this subject, they must study three texts, one from each of the three genres. Texts studied for the oral examination may not be used in the written examination. Students also follow a Critical Appreciation course and must be prepared to write on a previously unseen passage of poetry or prose.



In terms of reading, the OIB English written and oral examinations assess the student's response to and analysis of at least six complex whole literary works, including a Shakespeare play. The study of texts includes a synoptic unit (currently either 'Writers and Writing of the Romantic Age' or 'Postcolonial Writing'). Texts are taught in the same depth and using the same methods as in an A level course.

The OIB English literature exams assesses the candidate's ability to:

- Produce a response in essay form to A level-style questions about works of literature
- Demonstrate evidence of control of formal and critical language, structure and clarity of expression
- Analyse and interpret and produce a personal, reflective response to literature

Programme for students sitting the exam in 2019

Written exam

Drama	Prose	Poetry
<i>The Importance of being Earnest</i> , Oscar Wilde	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i> , Jane Austen	<i>The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion</i> Kei Miller

Oral exam

Shakespeare play	The Tempest
Synoptic Topic	Postcolonial writing

Programme for students sitting the exam in 2020

Written exam

Drama	Prose	Poetry
<i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</i> , Tom Stoppard	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i> , Jane Austen	<i>The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion</i> Kei Miller

Oral exam

Shakespeare play	The Tempest
Synoptic Topic	Gothic writing

Students in Première and Terminale have 5 teaching hours of English language and literature a week. They are evaluated on material covered in both Première and Terminale. They compose their exams in English. Students sit a 4 hour written exam and a 30 minute oral exam at the end of Terminale.

Students who take this option are expected to approach their learning with an independent and mature attitude and accept the additional academic requirements that this level of study will entail. They will have further reading assignments, essay assignments and research tasks to complete in their own time.

III. History and GeographyProgramme for students sitting the exam in 2019Summary of themes: OIB History Syllabus

Theme 1 - Collective Memory.

Theme 2 - Media and Public Opinion in the context of one Political Crisis.

Theme 3 - Great powers and world tensions

- China and the world from 1949 to the end of the 20th century.
- the USA and the world since the 14 Points of President Wilson (1918) to the 2nd Gulf War (2003).
- A century of tensions in the Near and Middle East (1918 - 1993).

Theme 4 - Levels of government

- Governing France since 1946: State, government and administration from 1946 to the end of the twentieth century.
- Continental Level: European Integration from 1948 to 2007.
- World Level: World Economic Governance from 1945 to the end of the twentieth century.

Theme 5 - Study of Britain (1945-1990)

Summary of themes: OIB Geography Syllabus

Theme 1 - Globalisation and development

- Introduction to development
- The Globalisation of economic activity and its impact on development.



- The role of International aid, trade, and other factors in international development.
- Regional development within countries.

Theme 2 - Urbanisation and demographic issues

- Urban trends, issues of urbanisation and migration.
- International migration.
- Demographic issues.

The history-geography exam assesses the student's ability to:

1. Exploit, organise and compare information
2. Construct and clearly express a well-reasoned argument using appropriate knowledge
3. Analyse and critique documents from different sources
4. Understand, analyse, and compare different historical and geographical interpretations in a bilingual and bicultural context
5. Synthesise , think synoptically and develop reasoned arguments.

Students in Première and Terminale have 4 hours of History/ Geography a week. These subjects are taught **bilingually** in English and in French. They are only evaluated on material studied in **Terminale**. All exam materials are in English but students can choose whether they want to compose their exams in French or English. The oral exams are always in English. They sit a 4 hour written exam and a 15 minute oral exam at the end of Terminale.

Students who take this option are expected to approach their learning with an independent and mature attitude and accept the additional academic requirements that this level of study will entail. They will have further reading assignments, essay assignments and research tasks to complete in their own time.

IV. Entrance procedure at LIL

At LIL, students can apply to join the OIB section at the end of Seconde when they decide which stream they want to study for the Baccaalaureat.

Official texts stipulate that students who take this option must have a B2+ level at the end of 3eme. Typically, students who are already studying at LIL who want to go into the OIB section will be studying in iGCSE English language or iGCSE English literature classes, or will be performing extremely well in upper intermediate language classes.

Students who wish to join the OIB section sit an entrance test in April. For English language and literature, they have to analyse a literary extract and write an essay response, and for



History/Geography, they have to do a reading comprehension with integrated longer responses which rely on general culture and critical reasoning skills.

Following this, students complete oral exams. This is a 15 minute long exam with 20 minute preparation time. In History/ Geography, students have a document which they have to present for 3 minutes before discussing it and linking it to related global themes for a further 4 minutes. In English language/ literature, students are given a quote about literature and present it for 3 minutes, linking it to their own reading habits, before leading to a discussion stage for a further 4 minutes.

Students are accepted onto this course based on the combined results of these tests and the teaching staff's views on individual suitability. Students are notified mid-May as to whether their application has been successful and an information evening is held at the beginning of June to give parents more information about the course and the demands that it places on students. Students can then meet with teaching staff to evaluate motivation to join the course and discuss academic content in more detail.

V. Leaving the course

Students who join the OIB in Première can either leave the OIB at the end of the first half-term (before the November holidays) or at the end of Première. **Students cannot leave the course outside these stipulated dates.**

Once they start the course in Terminale, they should stay in the programme and sit the OIB exams at the end of Terminale. They should choose 'OIB' as an option when they sign up for the Baccalaureate in November of Terminale. **Students who join the course in Première are strongly advised to do so with the mindset that they will sit the exams at the end of Terminale.** Students should be aware before they join the course that this is a demanding option which requires focus, independence and discipline. They should, therefore, think seriously about whether they have these skills before agreeing to start the option.

VI. The OIB as proof of language proficiency

The OIB English Language and Literature examinations are first language examinations. The literature component is examined and assessed at a level equivalent to A-level English literature, and language is assessed by reference to educated mother tongue usage. The linguistic demands of these exams are in relation to the use of English in an academic context. This makes the OIB English Language and Literature exams excellent preparation for undergraduate study in any subject.



The levels of linguistic achievement for successful candidates are C1 or C2 on the CEFR, or 'educated native speaker/writer'. iGCSE students at the end of troisième are already expected to have attained B2 in a course that has an emphasis on literary and cultural content.

In terms of reading, the OIB English examinations demand the comprehension and analysis of complex literary works in their entirety. Examples of writers examined in 2019 include William Congreve, Oscar Wilde, Tom Stoppard, Jane Austen, Julian Barnes, Rose Tremain, Ezra Pound, Lord Byron and Kei Miller. All students also have to study a Shakespeare play and a synoptic topic. Oral and written assessments focus on understanding, analysis, engagement, and awareness of the ways in which style and form convey meaning. Candidates are also required to respond to an unprepared text in a critical appreciation exercise in the written examination.

In terms of writing, the OIB English examination demands extended analytical responses in essay form to A-level-style questions about works of literature. Qualities of argument, control of formal and critical language, structure and clarity of expression are assessed.

The 30-minute OIB oral examination gives a full assessment of the candidate's speaking and listening through an analytical, reflective response to literature. The candidate has to give a formal presentation analysing an extract from any part of the Shakespeare play. (S)he then faces questions on the presentation, and on the play as a whole. An exploratory discussion of the synoptic topic, through detailed reference to the texts studied, follows. Successful candidates demonstrate language skills equivalent of an 'educated native speaker/ writer' of English, meaning that they are fully prepared for rigorous undergraduate study at university.

VII. Extra information and links

- <http://www.asiba.fr/>
- http://www.asiba.fr/documents_-2/#1454311673987-5ec7eb6f-54f7
- http://www.asiba.fr/documents_-2/#1450423856056-dd7b0fbd-ae25
- http://www.education.gouv.fr/pid25535/bulletin_officiel.html?cid_bo=77684