

■ IB English A1 HL and SL

Introduction

As a learning tool, the study of literature provides rigorous pathways into imagined experience, adumbrates the ambiguities which are an integral part of human judgement and explores the history and authenticity of moral codes and climates. The language A1 component will seek to place the above in the context of a study of literature which is wide-ranging in its thematic, historical and generic implications while also encouraging an ambitious international mindset. The study process will focus on a general reading schedule as well as the development of detailed practical critical skills. Intending students must be inspired by the excitement both of reading and of literary ideas. An openness to both familiar and less familiar ideas, together with a capacity for logical and well-grounded argument, will be paramount. Language A1 provides a unique and challenging opportunity to experience Literature in a fresh and vigorous discipline.

Content

The following works will be studied at HL. Only twelve are studied at Standard Level.

Part One: World Literature:

- Murakami: The Wind-Up Bird Chronicles
- Kundera: The Unbearable Lightness of Being
- Fo: Accidental Death of An Anarchist

Part Two: Detailed Study:

- Shakespeare: The Merchant of Venice
- Shakespeare: Othello
- Chaucer: The General Prologue and The Miller's Tale
- Bronte: Jane Eyre

Part Three: Groups of Works:

- Albee: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf ?
- Williams: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
- Friel: Translations
- Beckett: Waiting for Godot

Part Four: School's Free Choice:

- Carver: Collected Poems
- Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby
- Austen: Persuasion
- Rilke: The Duino Elegies

Assessment

At the both levels, the final examination will consist of two written papers, each worth 25% of the final mark. The study of World Literature is assessed by written assignments which are set internally but marked externally, worth a total of 20% of the final mark. At Standard Level only one World Literature assignment is set, whereas at Higher Level two are required. The coursework constitutes 30% of the final mark and takes the form two oral exercises, one of which is a formal commentary that is marked externally via the medium of tape-recordings.