Course notes

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Language B · HL

IB Language B first assessment 2020; English B focus

Teach English B for the Chinese ESL audience, supported by the official English B specimens. Themes: identities, experiences, human ingenuity, social organization, sharing the planet. Future 2029 briefs are not the 2026 assessment model.

Writing Paper 1 25%, listening and reading Paper 2 50%, individual oral 25%. SL writing 75 min (250–400 words), HL 90 min (450–600 words); HL studies two literary works and uses a literary extract for the oral.

Productive skills; five themes · English audience, register and purposeful writing

A proposal usually states a need, a practical plan and expected benefits. A friendly message can use a more personal tone.

Grammar and vocabulary should serve the message; a memorized opening cannot compensate for missing task content.

> ■ **Checked example**
>
> For a proposal about a reading club, identify the purpose, meeting schedule, supervision and expected benefit. Use polite, specific recommendations.
> We recommend a supervised Thursday meeting is clearer than we must have a great club soon.

■ Limits and practice

English B is language acquisition, not Language A literary criticism.

Follow the SL or HL word range and task choice; do not pad the response with unrelated memorized phrases.

Which sentence best suits a formal proposal?

Answer: We recommend a supervised weekly reading meeting with a clear sign-up process.

Receptive skills · English listening and reading inference

Read or listen for the whole message before isolating a word. Contrast markers such as but can change the interpretation of a sentence.

An inference must be supported by the text; plausible outside knowledge is not enough.

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■ Checked example

Longer than expected signals an inconvenience. Made it worthwhile then gives a positive overall evaluation of the view.
A suitable answer preserves both parts rather than selecting only the negative clause.

■ Limits and practice

A transcript is useful for analysis but does not replace listening practice with real audio.

This package needs school-recorded or licensed listening material before receptive-skill parity can be claimed.

What is the speaker's overall attitude in the original sentence?

Answer: The journey was inconvenient but the view justified it.

Interactive skills · English oral communication and follow-up

At SL, the oral uses a visual stimulus linked to course themes. At HL, it begins with a literary extract from a studied work.

Present clearly, then respond to the teacher's questions with relevant detail, reasons and examples.

■ Checked example

For a visual, describe people sharing dishes, link this to a particular cultural practice you have studied and qualify the comparison.
If asked about differences, explain one specific experience rather than listing stereotypes.

■ Limits and practice

HL requires two literary works and extract-based discussion; an SL picture lesson alone does not cover that requirement.

The teacher conducts and records the actual oral; self-written answers cannot substitute for interaction.

Which opening is most careful?

Answer: The image shows shared dishes; this may connect to a specific communal dining practice studied in class.

HL literature · English literary extract and oral development

Use the extract's language and situation to interpret the character, then explain the reading in clear English.

HL English B assesses communicative command as well as understanding of the extract; it is not a Language A technique catalogue.

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■ Checked example

In the original classroom vignette, the mismatch between words and behaviour may suggest unease. Explain this as a possibility supported by both details.
For assessment, replace the vignette with an extract from the school's studied work and connect it to that work.

■ Limits and practice

Do not claim an invented vignette satisfies the two-literary-work requirement.

Teacher selects eligible works and verifies the oral procedure and timing; no generic literature lesson covers every language.

What supports the inference of unease?

Answer: The contrast between reassuring words and avoidance of eye contact.

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