



# IB LANGUAGES



## UK linguistic needs

There can be no doubt that the UK needs more of its people to speak foreign languages – for employability, for trade and the economy, and for our cultural life.

## A little language can go a long way

However, given that Japanese car manufacturers, Chinese infrastructure developers and French utility companies all make huge contributions in the UK, you do not need to cross the equator or even the English Channel to find situations and jobs where even a little Chinese, Japanese, German, French or Spanish can be a real career enhancer.

## Small investment worth doing!

It begins with a few words and phrases – and that small investment can grow into a lifetime of interest, employment and opportunity.

## UK businesses

British employers regularly express dissatisfaction with school and college leavers' skills in languages. 70 per cent of businesses value language skills among their employees, particularly in helping to build relationships with clients, customers and suppliers. An inability to trade in languages other than English is damaging the UK's export performance.

A SMALL INVESTMENT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!



## Why languages at IB?

The IB Diploma promotes the study of languages among the young people of today because we live in a world where language skills are of great importance.

When looking for a job, it is important to be able to offer prospective employers as many skills as possible and language learning not only teaches students how to converse in another language but also gives them many other skills which are greatly valued by employers:

- communication skills
- team work
- being flexible
- understanding of other cultures
- negotiation skills
- cognitive skills

## Languages offered at IB at TBGS



**Ab initio**  
(Beginners and false beginners)



**Standard**



**Higher**





## Take the opportunity of continuing with languages at IB!

In a world which is far more interconnected (globalised) than ever before, can you be so sure that you don't need a foreign language? But, you say, everyone that matters will speak English! Again – are you so sure? What about true communication?

Look at it this way: a senior recruitment consultant for the ICT industry spoke to us recently. When she recruits someone for a Chief Executive position who can speak a second language with reasonable fluency they can command 2 or 3 times the salary.

That is something to think about!

Maintaining a second language to age 18 greatly increases your chance of recalling it in the future. Why not therefore take IB where you can continue with your language learning? You could always start something different, you can take an Ab Initio SL route (something new, from scratch to just above GCSE level in 2 years)

## Is the IB harder with 6 subjects?

Nothing at this level that is worth having is going to be easy!

It is easier to get top marks in IB than A Level. Students can get Levels 6 and 7 in IB easier than A or A\* at A Level.

A higher proportion of our IB students gain places at Russell group universities.

IB: 91% 2014

A Level: 70% 2014

## Topics

### AB INITIO

1. **INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY** daily routine, education, food and drink, personal details, appearance and character, physical health, relationships, shopping.
2. **LEISURE AND WORK** employment, entertainment, holidays, media, sport, technology, transport.
3. **URBAN AND RURAL ENVIRONMENT** environmental concerns, global issues, neighbourhood, physical geography, town and services, weather.

### HIGHER AND STANDARD LEVELS

The **CORE**, which is common to both Standard Level and Higher Level, consists of three topics and is a required area of study:

1. **SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS**
2. **COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA**
3. **GLOBAL ISSUES**

In addition, the teacher selects two **OPTIONS** from a choice of five:

1. **HEALTH**
2. **CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS**
3. **LEISURE**
4. **CULTURAL DIVERSITY**
5. **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

At **Higher Level 2** works of **LITERATURE** are studied, including, e.g. a collection of short stories (5-7) and/or a collection of poems (15-20).

## The exams (No Listening Exam!)

At IB the final exams are at the end of Y13, so you will only be doing internal progress tests in Y12, giving you the chance to develop your language skills over the two years before taking the final exams.

- **Speaking exams (30%)**
  - Group oral exams (10%) - done in class over the 2 years (best mark will be put forward for assessment)
  - Individual oral exam (20%) - done in February of Y13 on a topic seen in class. For Standard you choose the topic, for Higher it is one topic out of the two ones studied.
- **Reading Paper 1 exam (25%)**
- **Writing Paper 2 exam (25%)**
- **Written Assignment (20%)** done in Y13 at home with access to all your resources.

## Work Experience abroad

Opportunity to do one-week Work Experience in France, Germany and Spain. The Department also runs exchanges to these three countries as well as a trip to China.