

French B

Nature of French B

French B is an additional language-learning course designed for students with some previous learning of the language. It may be studied at either SL or HL. The main focus of the course is on language acquisition and development of language skills. These language skills are developed through the study and use of a range of written and spoken material. Such material will extend from everyday oral exchanges to literary texts, and are related to the French culture. Students will develop mastery of language skills and intercultural understanding.

Teaching Approach

Students are expected to develop skills in several areas, including thinking skills (students reflect on their learning), research skills (students research on their learning and are encouraged to look up on their vocabulary and verify language structures), communication skills through oral assessments, social skills (a CAS activity that may link to French and the French culture) and self-management skills (developing planning strategies for the completion of work). The French B course is based on inquiry learning and focusses on conceptual understanding where discussions are based on how “purpose” shapes our communication. The teaching is based on the local and global contexts and students are expected to work both individually and collaboratively in class. Formative and summative assessments will take place throughout the course.

Students would normally have completed the French language course in Year 10 and progress into this course. There are 5 prescribed themes that need to be covered in the IB program: Identities, Experiences, Human Ingenuity, Social Organization and Sharing the Planet.

Where does it lead to?

Studying a new language is an opening to the discovery and understanding of a new culture. Knowledge of a new language goes hand-in-hand with whatever profession a student chooses to pursue. From international organisations, development agencies, foreign companies, journalism and many more, communicating in another language can no longer be confined to the classroom but is a living language that can be used in any situation.

In terms of global business and international diplomacy the ability to speak another language apart from English is advantageous. The knowledge of French opens doors to French companies in France and other French-speaking parts of the world (Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, the continent of Africa, New Caledonia, Tahiti and Wallis and Futuna). French is both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and international courts. French is also the language of the three cities where the EU institutions are headquartered: Strasbourg, Brussels and Luxembourg. [2]

In addition to becoming a foreign language teacher, the field of interpreting and translating is also an avenue to be explored. Although most interpreters are freelance many International organizations and large companies around the world employ staff interpreters within their organizations. (<http://aiic.net/interpreting-explained>: The International Association of Conference Interpreters).