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**IB English A Language and Literature (SL and HL)**

**Course Overview**

**Ms. Nelson**

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**Introduction: Welcome to IB DP English!**

IB DP Language and Literature involves the study of fiction texts of varying genres (**6 for HL** and **4 for SL**), as well as many other texts; it covers not only the classic analysis of literature and “literary” texts, but also examines a wide variety of non-fiction and visual texts from a range of sources.

Students will focus closely on the language of the texts they study, and become aware of the role of each text’s wider context in shaping its meaning. This is an **inquiry based course**, and students will be encouraged to question the meaning generated by language and texts, which can be argued, and are rarely straightforward and unambiguous.

**Course Aims:**

The aims of Group 1 courses are to:

1. introduce students to a range of texts from different periods, styles and genres

2. develop in students the ability to engage in close, detailed analysis of individual texts and make

relevant connections

3. develop the students’ powers of expression, both in oral and written communication

4. encourage students to recognize the importance of the contexts in which texts are written and

received

5. encourage, through the study of texts, an appreciation of the different perspectives of people from

other cultures, and how these perspectives construct meaning

6. encourage students to appreciate the formal, stylistic and aesthetic qualities of texts

7. promote in students an enjoyment of, and lifelong interest in, language and literature.

In addition, the aims of the language A: language and literature course at SL and at HL are to:

8. develop in students an understanding of how language, culture and context determine the ways in

which meaning is constructed in texts

9. encourage students to think critically about the different interactions between text, audience and

purpose.

**Objectives**

There are four assessment objectives at SL and at HL for the language A: language and literature course.

**1. Knowledge and understanding**

– Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of texts

– Demonstrate an understanding of the use of language, structure, technique and style

– Demonstrate a critical understanding of the various ways in which the reader constructs

meaning and of how context influences this constructed meaning

– Demonstrate an understanding of how different perspectives influence the reading of a text

**2. Application and analysis**

– Demonstrate an ability to choose a text type appropriate to the purpose required

– Demonstrate an ability to use terminology relevant to the various text types studied

– Demonstrate an ability to analyze the effects of language, structure, technique and style on the

reader

– Demonstrate an awareness of the ways in which the production and reception of texts contribute

to their meanings

– Demonstrate an ability to substantiate and justify ideas with relevant examples

**3. Synthesis and evaluation**

– Demonstrate an ability to compare and contrast the formal elements, content and context of texts

– Discuss the different ways in which language and image may be used in a range of texts

– Demonstrate an ability to evaluate conflicting viewpoints within and about a text

– At HL only: Produce a critical response evaluating some aspects of text, context and meaning

**4. Selection and use of appropriate presentation and language skills**

– Demonstrate an ability to express ideas clearly and with fluency in both written and oral

communication

– Demonstrate an ability to use the oral and written forms of the language, in a range of styles,

registers and situations

– Demonstrate an ability to discuss and analyze texts in a focused and logical manner

– At HL only: Demonstrate an ability to write a balanced, comparative analysis

**Course Content:**

The **four parts** to the course develop different skills. The IB has named these parts of the course, but they are NOT done in order. In grade 11, we will focus on Parts 2 & 4, and in grade 12, we will focus on parts 1 & 3. Each part of the course has related assessment tasks, which are outlined in more detail following the table, below.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Part 1** | **Part 2** | **Part 3** | **Part 4** |
| ***Title*** | **Language in cultural context** | **Language and mass communication** | **Literature: texts & contexts** | **Literature: critical study** |
| ***Focus*** | **Language & culture, identity, community, power, and gender.**  **Text & image analysis, close reading skills** | **The media, journalism, propaganda, rhetoric, advertising techniques, bias, sensationalism** | **Understanding literary texts through various contexts (historical, social, political, etc.).**  **Approaches to literature and traditions of literary criticism.** | **Appreciating language and how literary and stylistic devices are used to convey meaning.** |
| ***Texts*** | **Miscellaneous non-fiction texts based on 3-5 topics** | **Miscellaneous non-fiction texts based on 3-5 topics** | ***Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe**  ***A Doll’s House* by Henrik Ibsen**  ***Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez OR Alternate Text (TBD)**  **(HL only)** | ***The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien (HL only)**  ***The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald**  **Selected Poetry of Langston Hughes** |
| ***Assessments*** | **Written Task Further oral Activities**  **Paper 1: Exam** | **Written Task Further Oral Activities**  **Paper 1: Exam** | **Written Task**  **Paper 2: Exam** | **Written Task**  **Individual Oral Commentary** |

**Assessment Overview**

**IBDP Candidates:**

**External Assessment 70%**

**Paper 1: Exam Textual Analysis** (SL students choose one out of two texts to analyze. HL Students write a comparative analysis)    **(25%)**

**Paper 2: Exam** **Essay** (SL & HL students write an essay in response to one of 6 questions based on the 2 - or all 3 at HL - literary texts studied in part 3)          **(25%)**

**Written Tasks:** Completed over the course of two years (SL students produce 3 written tasks based on material studied in the course and submit one of these for external assessment. HL students produce 4 and submit two)  **(20%)**

**Internal Assessment 30%**

**Individual Oral Commentary** – IOC - (Students comment on an extract from a literary text studied in part 4 of the course)                 **(15%)**

**Further Oral Activities** (Students complete two further oral activities – group presentations - one based on part 1 and one based on part 2 of the course. The mark of one further activity is submitted for final assessment.       **(15%)**

**ISB English:**

Your grade is based on the IB scale of 1 to 7 (3/7 SL and 4/7 HL is a passing grade). All in-class assessments, tests and semester exams will be taken into consideration in calculating your final quarter/semester grades. Please see the percentage indicated below.

**ISB Grading Policy**

**Year 1 DP and non DP – Final Semester 1 and 2 grades:**

40% - Quarter 1

40% - Quarter 2

20% - semester exam

**Year 2 DP and non DP: Semester 1 grades:**

40% - Quarter 1

40% - Quarter 2

20% - semester exam

**Year 2 DP - Semester 2 grades: Year 2 non DP ISB – Semester 2 grades**

20% - Mock Exam (March/April) 80% Quarter 3

80% - Quarter 3 20% semester exam (May)

**Classroom Details and Expectations**

**Class Assignments / Tests / Semester Exams**

* Over the course of the next two years, you will be given the opportunity to practice the necessary skills to do well on the final assessments/exams for this course. Your **assignments will include**:
  + Participation in class discussions and activities
  + Written responses to various texts
  + Unit tests and quizzes
  + Formal presentations
* All class work will be assessed using the **published IBDP criteria** that best matches the assignment.
* You will receive **quarterly/semester grades based on your completion of these assignments/tests and semester exams**

**Late assignments** will not be accepted for consideration of your quarter/semester grades; all missing work will be given a zero in the ISB grade book. The required IBDP IAs (internal assessments) **may be** accepted late, but will not be considered when calculating the ISB report card grades.

Please note that completing assignments in a timely manner ensures that you are practicing the skills and receiving the feedback you need to do well on your final assessments and exams. **Time management** and **responsibility** are critical to your success in this course.

**If you are absent** you need to make sure you find out what you have missed (check on the class website, review the assignment sheet, and/or check with a reliable classmate). DO NOT WAIT until the next time we meet to figure out what you are missing. Missing work due to absences must be **made up in a timely manner**; this timetable must be discussed and then established with me.

**Come prepared to class:** Be on time with the related materials, ready to participate and learn.

* **Take your studies seriously** and treat all homework assignments as an opportunity to learn. Engage in class discussions and activities in a positive and meaningful way.
* Be **proactive** **about your learning**: Approach **me** for additional help outside of class – I will be happy to meet with you individually to help you succeed in this course.

**Academic honesty:**

Have in mind that plagiarism will lead to serious consequences, including the possibility of being unable to participate in the IB Diploma Program. Work sent to the IB that is not properly cited or plagiarized in any part with work or ideas that are not your own will result in a 0 and failure in the IB Diploma Program.

Distinguish between correct paraphrasing, direct quotation, and citation formats. Please consult the proper citation and note-taking resources on our class website or ask if you are unsure about how and when to cite. ALL formal assessment tasks MUST include citations and a Works Cited page.

For more information, please see the ISB Assessment and Academic honesty policy document.

Feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns at: jnelson@isb.rs

Our class website can be found at: <http://mszenglishclasses.weebly.com/> and <http://msnelsonenglishclasses.weebly.com/>