

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Subject Brief

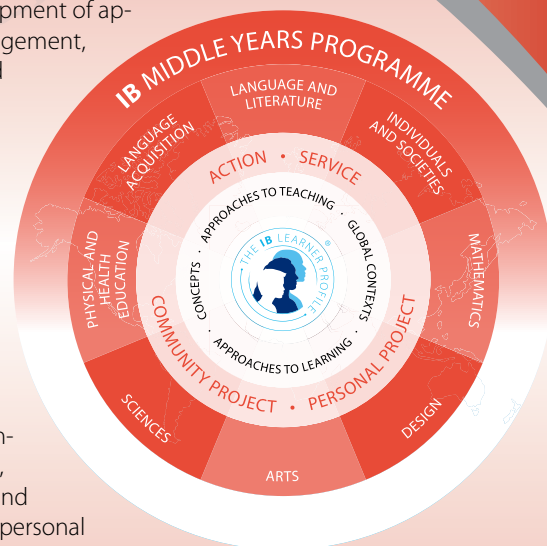
Language acquisition

From 2014

The IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) is designed for students aged 11 to 16. It provides a framework of learning that emphasizes intellectual challenge and encourages connections between studies in traditional subjects and the real world. The MYP focuses on “learning how to learn” through the systematic development of approaches to learning (ATL) skills for communication, collaboration, organization, self-management, reflection, research, informational literacy, media literacy, creative and critical thinking, and transfer of learning. It also fosters intercultural understanding and global engagement—essential qualities for young people today.

Interdisciplinary teaching and learning builds a connected curriculum that addresses the developmental needs of students and prepares them for further academic study and life in an increasingly interconnected world. The MYP uses concepts and contexts as starting points for meaningful integration and transfer of knowledge across eight subject groups.

For students seeking a formal qualification at the end of the programme’s Year 5, the IB offers eAssessments that lead to the IB MYP certificate or course results for individual subject areas. To earn the MYP certificate, students must complete 2 hour on-screen examinations in each of the following: language and literature, individuals and society, sciences, mathematics and interdisciplinary learning; submit an ePortfolio in language acquisition and one of the following: design, arts or physical and health education; complete a moderated personal project; and complete school-based expectations for service as action (community service).



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I. Course description and aims

The ability to communicate in more than one language is essential to the concept of an international education that promotes intercultural understanding, and is central to the IB’s mission. The study of additional languages in the MYP provides students with the opportunity to develop insights into the features, processes and craft of language and the concept of culture, and to realize that there are diverse ways of living, behaving and viewing the world.

Acquiring an additional language and exploring and reflecting on the cultural perspectives of our own and other communities:

- is central to developing critical thinking and international-mindedness
- provides an intellectual framework to support personal development, cultural identity and conceptual understanding
- greatly contributes to the holistic development of students and to the strengthening of lifelong learning skills
- equips students with the necessary multiliteracy skills and attitudes to communicate successfully in various global contexts.

The aims of MYP language acquisition are to encourage and enable students to:

- gain proficiency in an additional language while supporting maintenance of their mother tongue and cultural heritage
- develop a respect for, and understanding of, diverse linguistic and cultural heritages
- develop the communication skills necessary for further language learning, and for study, work and leisure in a range of contexts

- develop multiliteracy skills through the use of a range of learning tools
- develop an appreciation of a variety of literary and non-literary texts and to develop critical and creative techniques for comprehension and construction of meaning
- recognize and use language as a vehicle of thought, reflection, self-expression and learning in other subjects
- understand the nature of language and the process of language learning
- gain insight into the cultural characteristics of the communities where the language is spoken
- gain an awareness and understanding of the perspectives of people from own and other cultures
- develop curiosity, inquiry and a lifelong interest in, and enjoyment of, language learning.

II. Curriculum overview

The MYP promotes **inquiry** in language acquisition by developing **conceptual understanding** within **global contexts**.

Key concepts such as *communication, connections, creativity* and *culture* broadly frame the MYP curriculum.

Related concepts promote deeper learning grounded in specific disciplines. Examples of related concepts in MYP language acquisition include *word choice, conventions* and *idiom*.

Students explore key and related concepts through MYP **global contexts**.

- Identities and relationships
- Orientation in space and time
- Personal and cultural expression
- Scientific and technical innovation
- Globalization and sustainability
- Fairness and development

The MYP curriculum framework offers schools flexibility to determine engaging, relevant, challenging and significant content that meets local and national curriculum requirements. This inquiry-based curriculum explores factual, conceptual and debatable questions in the study of language acquisition.

MYP language acquisition is a compulsory component in every year of the MYP, except for bilingual students who pursue courses of study in multiple languages in the MYP language and literature subject group.

The MYP requires at least 50 hours of teaching time for each subject area in each year of the programme. For students participating in MYP eAssessment, the IB recommends 70 hours of guided learning each year in MYP years 4 and 5.

III. Assessment criteria

Each language acquisition objective corresponds to one of four equally weighted assessment criteria. Each criterion has eight possible achievement levels (1–8), divided into four bands with unique descriptors that teachers use to make judgments about students' work.

Criterion A: Comprehending spoken and visual text

Students interpret and construct meaning from spoken and visual texts to understand how images presented with oral text interplay to convey ideas, values and attitudes.

Criterion B: Comprehending written and visual text

Students construct meaning and interpret written and visual text to understand how images presented with written text interplay to convey ideas, values and attitudes.

Criterion C: Communicating in response to spoken and/or written and/or visual text

Students develop their communication skills by interacting on a range of topics of personal, local and global interest and significance, and responding to spoken, written and visual text in the target language.

Criterion D: Using language in spoken and/or written form

Students recognize and use language suitable to the audience and purpose (for example, home, classroom, formal and informal, social, academic contexts). Students apply their understanding of linguistic and literary concepts to develop a variety of structures, strategies and techniques.

IV. MYP eAssessment

Students seeking IB-validated language acquisition course results or the IB MYP Certificate must demonstrate their achievement of the subject group's objectives by submitting an ePortfolio comprising receptive, productive and interactive summative assessment tasks.

MYP ePortfolios are marked by students' classroom teachers against published criteria for MYP year 5. In each exam session, the IB moderates a sample of ePortfolios from each school, adjusting grades as necessary to ensure the application of rigorous and reliable international standards.

MYP language acquisition ePortfolios consist of:

- an aural comprehension task comprising spoken and visual text
- a written comprehension task comprising written and visual text
- an interactive oral task
- a writing task.

MYP language acquisition courses are formally assessed at one of three proficiency levels: **emergent**, **capable** or **proficient**.

MYP language acquisition ePortfolio tasks are aligned with understanding and skills that prepare students for high levels of achievement in IB Diploma Programme courses in **language acquisition** and **studies in language and literature**.

The IB MYP certificate requires a satisfactory level of achievement in language acquisition.

About the IB: For over 45 years, the IB has built a reputation for high-quality, challenging programmes of education that develop internationally minded young people who are well prepared for the challenges of life in the 21st century and are able to contribute to creating a better, more peaceful world.

For further information on the IB Middle Years Programme, and a complete list of MYP subject briefs, visit: www.ibo.org/myp/.

Complete subject guides can be accessed through the IB online curriculum centre (OCC) or purchased through the IB store: <http://store.ibo.org>.