

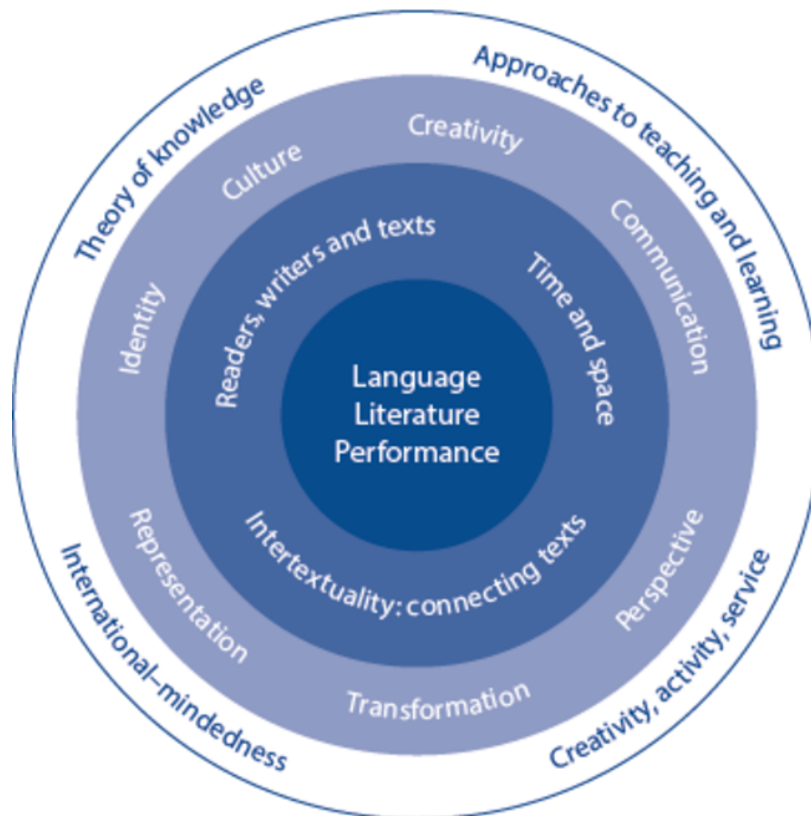
## Syllabus content

### Model for studies in language and literature

Studies in language and literature are built on the notion of conceptual learning in which students engage with central concepts of the discipline in order to become flexible, critical readers of all types of texts. The model below represents the relationship between the three courses in studies of language and literature, their main topics of study, their central concepts, and the way they relate to the principles at the core of the IB DP.

Figure 3

*Studies in language and literature model*



At the heart of the study of all three courses are the domains of language, literature and performance. Each course stresses these elements to a different degree, but all engage with them to some extent.

The study of language, literature and performance, and the development of the relevant skills, is divided into three areas of exploration—the exploration of the nature of the interactions between **readers, writers and texts**; the exploration of how texts interact with **time and space** and the exploration of **intertextuality** and how texts connect with each other. Although these three areas seem to offer an ordered approach to progression through the course, they are, as represented in the diagram, inherently over-lapping, iterative or circular and allow for flexibility in course design.

The entire pursuit of studies in language and literature is tied to core elements of the DP and to the overarching principles of IB learning, theory of knowledge (TOK), creativity, activity and service (CAS), the extended essay, the approaches to teaching and approaches to learning, and international-mindedness.

## What students will learn in the language A: language and literature course

In the language A: language and literature course students will learn about the complex and dynamic nature of language and explore both its practical and aesthetic dimensions. They will explore the crucial role language plays in communication, reflecting experience and shaping the world. Students will also learn about their own roles as producers of language and develop their productive skills. Throughout the course, students will explore the various ways in which language choices, text types, literary forms and contextual elements all effect meaning. Through close analysis of various text types and literary forms, students will consider their own interpretations, as well as the critical perspectives of others, to explore how such positions are shaped by cultural belief systems and to negotiate meanings for texts. Students will engage in activities that involve them in the process of production and help shape their critical awareness of how texts and their associated visual and audio elements work together to influence the audience/reader and how audiences/readers open up the possibilities of texts. With its focus on a wide variety of communicative acts, the course is meant to develop sensitivity to the foundational nature, and pervasive influence, of language in the world at large.

## Course requirements

Across the three areas of exploration at least four works must be studied in the SL course and at least six works must be studied in the HL course.

The IB has created an extensive *Prescribed reading list* of authors in a wide range of languages to accompany studies in language and literature courses. This searchable online list provides teachers with a resource from which they will be able to select a group of authors that guarantees diversity and compliance with course requirements. Six authors have been suggested as a starting point in the exploration of the literature of each language. Teachers can decide whether to follow this recommendation or not.

Each area of exploration must involve the study of both literary works and non-literary texts, with equal time devoted to the study of each. Texts and works must be chosen from a variety of cultures and languages. In selecting them, teachers should attempt to achieve a balance in relation to text-type, literary form, period and place, and endeavor to include a variety of forms the human and artistic experience can take.

## Selection of literary works

### SL students must study at least four works of which:

- a minimum of one must be written originally in the language studied, by an author on the *Prescribed reading list*
- a minimum of one must be a work in translation written by an author on the *Prescribed reading list*
- two can be chosen freely—from the *Prescribed reading list* or elsewhere—and may be in translation.

There must be a minimum of one work for each area of exploration. Works must be selected to cover two literary forms, two periods and two places as defined on the *Prescribed reading list* covering at least two continents.

### HL students must study at least six works of which:

- a minimum of two must be written originally in the language studied, by authors on the *Prescribed reading list*
- a minimum of two must be works in translation written by authors on the *Prescribed reading list*
- two can be chosen freely—from the *Prescribed reading list* or elsewhere—and may be in translation.