



LITERATURE AND PERFORMANCE

Disciplinary rigor with interdisciplinary synthesis

Literature and performance is a course that brings together literary analysis, based on close reading, critical writing and discussion, with the practical, aesthetic and symbolic elements of theatre. In 2022, the IB Diploma Programme will release a new iteration of the course.

The course is grounded in knowledge, skills and processes associated with the study of literature and theatre, while developing interdisciplinary understandings generated from the interactions between the two disciplines. In this course, students read and analyze literary texts, read and perform dramatic (play) texts, and, in an act of synthesis, transform a non-dramatic literary text into performance.

As an interdisciplinary course, literature and performance offers students the opportunity to take a course in two Diploma Programme groups: studies in language and literature and the arts, in a single offering. The course asks students to integrate literature and performance to develop understandings and skills that would not be possible through the single disciplines alone.

Alignment with studies and language and literature courses

Literature and performance is one of three “studies in language and literature” courses offered by the IB Diploma Programme (alongside language A: literature and language A: language and literature). All Diploma Programme candidates must complete at least one of these courses. **All three courses share identical expectations of language usage, literary analysis, and critical reflection, though with three different focuses. Also, All three courses share a common, externally assessed exam paper: a comparative literary essay.**

LITERATURE AND PERFORMANCE (SL ONLY)

Students study essential elements of literature and performance and explore their dynamic relationship.

LANGUAGE A: LITERATURE (SL AND HL)

Students focus exclusively on literary texts, adopting a variety of approaches to textual criticism.

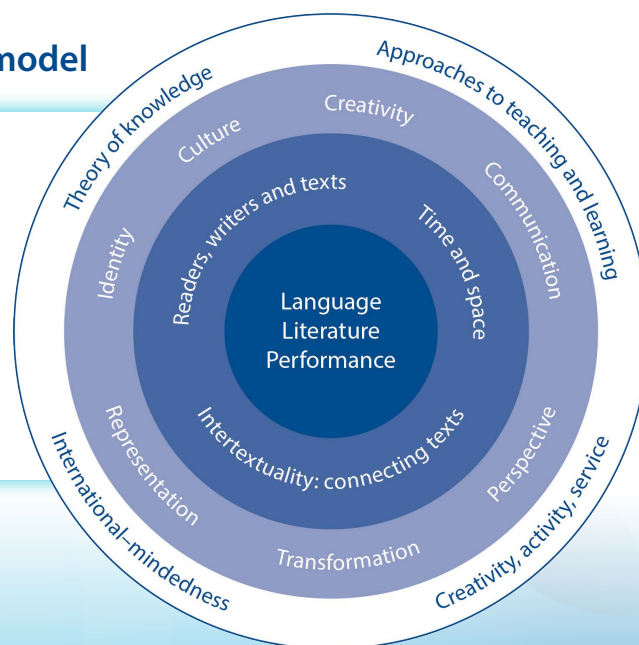
LANGUAGE A: LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (SL AND HL)

Students study a wide range of literary and non-literary texts in a variety of media.

Studies in language and literature curriculum model

All three courses share the same conceptual model and assessment objectives. They ask students to:

1. Know, understand and interpret texts
2. Analyze and evaluate literature and language
3. Communicate ideas in a range of styles





What do students do in a literature and performance classroom?

In the 150-hour course, literature and performance students:



Read and analyze a minimum of five literary works



Perform scenes from dramatic (play) texts



Transform a non-dramatic work into performance

How are literature and performance students assessed?

A comparative essay: Taken under exam conditions, students write a comparative essay based on two works studied in the course. **This is a common component for all three language and literature courses.**

Written coursework: In a written assignment of no more than 2,000 words, students critically examine a scene or excerpt of a play. They analyze how their own performance choices communicated dramatic features of the text.

Transformative performance and individual oral: Students transform a non-dramatic, literary text into a piece of theatre and perform it to a live audience. Afterwards, students complete an individual oral that explains the process of transformation of the text into performance.

The advantage of an interdisciplinary approach

While students will acquire factual, conceptual and methodological knowledge of language, literature and the arts as separate disciplines, they will also synthesize them together to create something entirely new. Investigating literature through performance provides students with a unique perspective of the work; likewise, grounding theatrical performance in literary understanding provides students with a deeper sensitivity to the process of theatre making.

Valuing interdisciplinary skills

The ability to draw on different disciplinary knowledge, skills, and methodologies to engage with complex global challenges has become essential for success in higher education and beyond. Unsurprisingly, interdisciplinary courses, projects, and majors have become prevalent in higher education.

Furthermore, the interpersonal, collaborative, and communicative skills developed through the literature and performance approach are emerging as the indispensable skills of the twenty-first century.

This course is ideal for students who...

- respond to a more creative and physical approach to examining literary texts
- value collaboration
- wish to experience a DP arts course
- plan to study literature, theatre, language or rhetoric in university or college

A new literature and performance guide will be published in early 2022. To learn more about the current course, visit the programme resource center at resources.ibo.org.

