

DP literature and performance: Alignment with studies and language and literature

Literature and performance is one of three Diploma Programme (DP) studies in language and literature courses offered by the IB. The other two are language A: literature and language A: language and literature. All DP candidates must complete at least one of these courses. *All three courses maintain the same expectations of language usage, literary analysis, and critical reflection, though with three different focuses.*

Literature and performance (standard level only)	Language A: literature (standard level and higher level)	Language A: language and literature (standard level and higher level)
Students study essential elements of literature and performance and explore their dynamic relationship.	Students focus exclusively on literary texts, adopting a variety of approaches to textual criticism.	Students study a wide range of literary and non-literary texts in a variety of media.

Recognized equality

The IB commissioned the National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC) to undertake an independent comparative study of DP language and literature courses and the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (CEFR). The purpose of the study was to establish how the level of English language competency of non-native English speakers demonstrated by different DP course grades compared to levels on the CEFR.

The study showed that a mark of “5” in literature and performance SL represented the same level of achievement when measured against the CEFR framework as the equivalent mark in language A: language and literature SL. A summary of the results of the study can be found [here](#).

A common framework

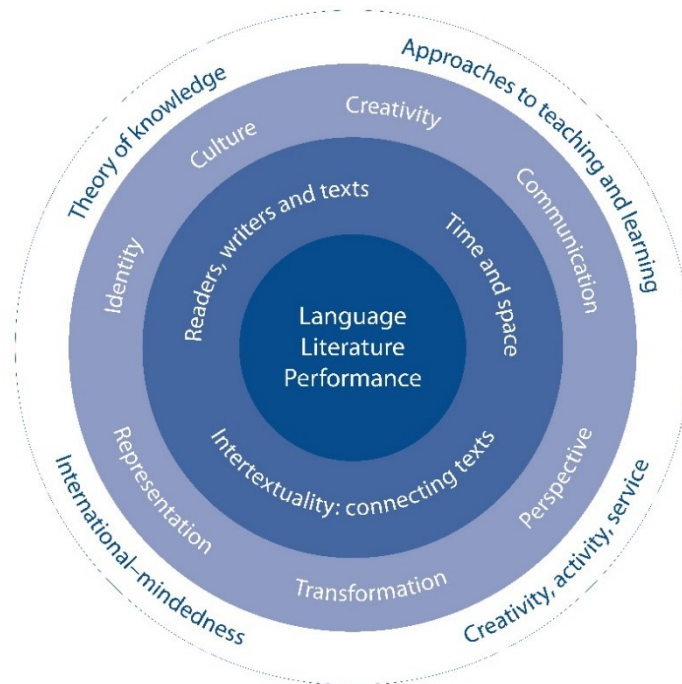


Figure 1: The studies in language and literature curriculum model

All three courses now share common features including

- Course aims
- Assessment objectives
- Areas of exploration
- Concepts
- The learner portfolio
- Prescribed reading list

A common assessment component

The new literature and performance course includes a comparative literary essay that will be used in assessment for all three studies in language and literature courses. This component will help demonstrate the absolute parity of the literature and performance with its peer courses, language A: literature and language A: language and literature.

Essay writing in literature and performance

The literature and performance course requires more substantive essay writing in its assessment model than either standard level (SL) language A: literature or language A: language and literature. In addition to the shared comparative essay, literature and performance students must complete the written assignment: an externally assessed essay of no more than 2,000 words critically examining a scene or excerpt of a play. In the essay, students analyze how their own performance choices communicated dramatic features of the text.