



Classical languages subject outline

First examinations 2010

This document explains the major features of the course, and outlines the syllabus and assessment requirements.

More detailed information about the course can be obtained by referring to the guide for this subject, which is available on the subject page of the IB online curriculum centre (OCC) website (<http://occ.ibo.org>) and can also be purchased from the IB store (<http://store.ibo.org>).

Nature of the subject

Classical languages comprise Latin and Classical Greek and these courses are offered in group 2 of the IB Diploma Programme. The other subjects offered in group 2 cover a broad spectrum of modern language courses, while the two classical language subjects provide an opportunity to study two historically significant languages that are also embedded in many modern languages.

The Diploma Programme courses in classical languages provide an opportunity for students to explore the languages, literatures and cultures of ancient Greece and Rome. These ancient civilizations have played a vital part in shaping many modern societies and cultures. The languages themselves are versatile and finely structured, and have had a major influence on the development of most modern European languages. The rich and varied literatures of Greece and Rome have left their mark on almost every genre of modern writing. The study of classical languages gives important insights into the cultures that produced them, and offers a bridge between the contemporary world and the civilizations of antiquity. Other classical languages such as Sanskrit, Arabic and Hebrew are beyond the scope of this guide but they have all made parallel contributions of incalculable importance to modern societies.

Much contemporary thinking is still informed by the political, religious and legal principles of the Greek and Roman worlds, and the courses include a study of their historical development and wider cultural achievements. The courses may also encompass an examination of their technological and artistic achievements, which remain an inspiration for artists, architects and civil engineers across the world.

In the classical languages it is a fundamental principle that the texts should be studied in the original language. Linguistic skills lie at the heart of the courses, since it is through a visceral understanding of the workings of a language that true intellectual contact can be made with the peoples of the past. In order to broaden students' knowledge of classical literature, students will study some works in translation, but the foundation remains linguistic. It is intended that through studying the classical languages in their cultural context, students will see that culture and language are symbiotic, and that they shape one another. It is hoped that students will also enjoy the intellectual challenge of these languages and appreciate as wide a range of texts and registers within them as possible.

Classical Greek and Latin are separate courses but they share the same syllabus and assessment. Prescribed authors and genre studies for each course are available in the *Handbook of procedures for the Diploma Programme* (formerly the *Vade Mecum*) and on the OCC.

Prior learning

The classical language courses are designed for students who have already been introduced to the language and culture of Rome or Classical Greece and the syllabus requires students to work with authentic Latin or Classical Greek texts. Before undertaking these courses students should have been exposed to some Roman or Classical Greek texts and they should have some familiarity with the grammar and syntax of the chosen language. It is expected that students will consolidate their knowledge of the language over the two-year period of the Diploma Programme course.

Links to the Middle Years Programme

Classical languages are not offered in the IB Middle Years Programme. Students may study Latin or Classical Greek as an additional subject, which they would need to do if they were considering taking either of these subjects at Diploma Programme level.

Aims

Classical languages aims

The aims of the Diploma Programme courses in **classical languages** are to:

1. enable students to understand the language they have studied in a range of contexts and to use their understanding for a variety of purposes
2. encourage, through the study of texts and through interaction with classical culture, an awareness and appreciation of the different perspectives of people from ancient cultures
3. develop students' appreciation of the literary merit of classical texts and an awareness of issues raised in them
4. provide the opportunity for enjoyment, creativity and intellectual stimulation through knowledge of a language
5. provide students with a basis for further study, work and leisure through language.

Assessment objectives

Having followed a course in **classical languages** (Latin or Classical Greek) at either SL or HL, students are expected to demonstrate:

1. ability to understand and translate texts in the original language
2. knowledge and understanding of these texts within their historical, political and cultural contexts
3. ability to appreciate and analyse the techniques and styles of a variety of classical texts in the original language
4. understanding of the implications in the texts
5. ability to construct a clear argument supported by relevant examples.

Syllabus outline

Note: Specific teaching times are not allocated to each part of the syllabus. Teachers are expected to divide their time across the syllabus as appropriate.

Syllabus component	Teaching hours	
	SL	HL
<p>Part 1: Study of the language</p> <p>Latin: The study of one of two prescribed authors in order to develop language skills. Students will be required to translate a passage written by that author.</p> <p>Classical Greek: The study of one prescribed author in order to develop language skills. Students will be required to translate a passage written by that author.</p> <p>Details of prescribed authors for part 1 are given in the <i>Handbook of procedures for the Diploma Programme</i> and on the OCC.</p>		
<p>Part 2: Genre study</p> <p>A detailed study of two genres in the original language (with supplementary reading in translation) chosen from five prescribed genres.</p> <p>Details of prescribed genres, authors and readings for part 2 are given in the <i>Handbook of procedures for the Diploma Programme</i> and on the OCC.</p>		
<p>Part 3: Individual study</p> <p>Option A: Research dossier</p> <p>An annotated collection of source materials relating to a topic in classical history, literature, language, religion, mythology, art, archaeology or some aspect of classical influence.</p> <p>Option B: Oral presentation</p> <p>Reading aloud of one or more passages in Latin/Classical Greek. The reading is accompanied by a written commentary.</p> <p>Option C: Composition</p> <p>A translation into Latin/Classical Greek prose or verse of a short piece of English, French or Spanish prose or verse. The translation is accompanied by a written commentary.</p>		
Total teaching hours	150	240

Assessment outline—SL

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Assessment component	Weighting
External assessment (2 hours 45 minutes)	80%
<p>Paper 1 (1 hour 15 minutes) Translation of a specified part or parts of one unprepared passage from the prescribed author. (35 marks)</p>	35%
<p>Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes) Questions based on ten extracts, two from each genre. Students answer questions on three extracts from two genres. (45 marks)</p>	45%
<p>Internal assessment Individual study, internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB. (30 marks) Students choose one of the following three options. Option A—Research dossier Option B—Oral presentation Option C—Composition</p>	20%

Assessment outline—HL

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Assessment component	Weighting
External assessment (3 hours 30 minutes)	80%
Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes) Translation of a specified part or parts of one unprepared passage from the prescribed author. (35 marks)	35%
Paper 2 (2 hours) Questions based on ten extracts, two from each genre. Students answer questions on four extracts from two genres. (44 marks)	45%
Internal assessment Individual study, internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB. (30 marks) Students choose one of the following three options. Option A—Research dossier Option B—Oral presentation Option C—Composition	20%