DP Language A (English) Literature HL

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**What students will learn in the language A: literature course**

In the language A: literature course, students will learn about the various manifestations of literature as a powerful mode of writing across cultures and throughout history. They will explore and develop an understanding of factors that contribute to the production and reception of literature, such as:

* The creativity of writers and readers
* The nature of the interaction with the writers’ and readers’ respective contexts with literary tradition
* The ways in which language can give rise to meaning and/or effect
* The performative and transformative potential of literary creation and response

Through close analysis of literary texts in a number of forms and from different times and places, students will consider their own interpretations, as well as the critical perspectives of others. In turn, this will encourage the exploration of how viewpoints are shaped by cultural belief systems and how meanings are negotiated within them. Students will be involved in processes of critical response and creative production which will help shape their awareness of how texts work to influence the reader and how readers open up the possibilities of texts. With its focus on literature, this course is particularly concerned with developing sensitivity to aesthetic uses of language and empowering students to consider the ways in which literature represents and constructs the world and social and cultural identities.

**Assessment outline--HL (First assessment 2021)**

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| Assessment component | Weighting |
| **External assessment (4 hours)**  **Paper 1: Guided literary analysis (2 hours 15 minutes)**  The paper consists of two literary passages, from two different literary forms, each accompanied by a question. Students write an analysis of each of the passages. (40 marks) | **80%**  **35%** |
| **Paper 2 Comparative essay (1 hour 45 minutes)**  The paper consists of four general questions. In response to one question, students write a comparative essay based on two works studied in the course. (30 marks) | **25%** |
| **Higher level (HL) essay**  Students submit an essay on one work studied during the course. (20 marks)  The essay must be 1,200-1,500 words in length. | **20%** |
| **Internal assessment**  This component consists of an individual oral that is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.  **Individual oral (15 minutes)**  Supported by an extract from one work written originally in the language studied and one from a work studied in translation, students will offer a prepared response of 10 minutes, followed by 5 minutes of questions by the teacher, to the following prompt:  Examine the ways in which the global issue of your choice is presented through the content and form of two of the works that you have studied. (40 marks). | **20%** |

**List of major works students will read and study (subject to change)**

*The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts* by Maxine Hong Kingston

Selected plays by Susan Glaspell

Selected poems by Tomas Tranströmer

*Beloved* by Toni Morrison

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

*Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

*The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood