Diploma Programme

Language A assessed student work

First assessment 2021

International Baccalaureate®
Baccalauréat International
Bachillerato Internacional

Diploma Programme

Language A assessed student work

First assessment 2021

International Baccalaureate®
Baccalauréat International
Bachillerato Internacional

Diploma Programme
Language A assessed student work

Published May 2019
Updated November 2019, March 2021, April 2022, February 2024, November 2025

Published by the International Baccalaureate Organization, a not-for-profit educational foundation of Rue du Pré-de-la-Bichette 1, 1202 Genève, Switzerland.
Website: ibo.org

© International Baccalaureate Organization 2019

The International Baccalaureate Organization (known as the IB) offers four high-quality and challenging educational programmes for a worldwide community of schools, aiming to create a better, more peaceful world. This publication is one of a range of materials produced to support these programmes.

The IB may use a variety of sources in its work and check information to verify accuracy and authenticity, particularly when using community-based knowledge sources such as Wikipedia. The IB respects the principles of intellectual property and makes strenuous efforts to identify and obtain permission before publication from rights holders of all copyright material used. The IB is grateful for permissions received for material used in this publication and will be pleased to correct any errors or omissions at the earliest opportunity.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the IB's prior written permission, or as expressly permitted by the Rules for use of IB Intellectual Property.

IB merchandise and publications can be purchased through the IB Store (email: sales@ibo.org). Any commercial use of IB publications (whether fee-covered or commercial) by third parties acting in the IB's ecosystem without a formal relationship with the IB (including but not limited to tutoring organizations, professional development providers, educational publishers and operators of curriculum mapping or teacher resource digital platforms, etc.) is prohibited and requires a subsequent written licence from the IB. Licence requests should be sent to copyright@ibo.org. More information can be obtained on the IB public website.

International Baccalaureate, **Baccalauréat International**, **Bachillerato Internacional** and IB logos are registered trademarks of the International Baccalaureate Organization.

IB mission statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

IB learner profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

As IB learners we strive to be:

INQUIRERS
We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

KNOWLEDGEABLE
We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

THINKERS
We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

COMMUNICATORS
We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

PRINCIPLED
We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

OPEN-MINDED
We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

CARING
We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

RISK-TAKERS
We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

BALANCED
We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

REFLECTIVE
We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.

International Baccalaureate®
Baccalauréat International
Bachillerato Internacional

© International Baccalaureate Organization 2017
International Baccalaureate® | Baccalauréat International® | Bachillerato Internacional®

Overview

The examples included in this publication are authentic work created in most cases by students taking language A courses (first assessment 2021) in the corresponding languages. They are presented in their original styles, which may include spelling, grammatical and any other errors. These examples have been anonymized where necessary (names may have been changed or deleted).

The examples are provided to illustrate the application of the criteria of the different assessment components which were first assessed in 2021.

The first three examples included for each component below were produced before the first examination session to provide preliminary guidelines to teachers about how assessment criteria would be applied.

The examples included in the section "Language A additional samples" are examples of student work which were submitted to the IB for assessment in an examination session. They illustrate how assessment criteria were applied in an actual examination session.

Paper 1

Advice from principal examiners about paper 1

This downloadable PDF contains advice for students from examination paper authors.

Advice from principal examiners about paper 1

Example A (HL)

Example A

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Example B (HL)

Example B

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Example C (SL)

Example C

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Specimen papers

Specimen papers SL and HL (PDF)

Example papers

Example paper SL (PDF)

Example paper HL (PDF)

Paper 2

Advice from principal examiners about paper 2

This downloadable PDF contains advice for students from examination paper authors.

Advice from principal examiners about paper 2

Please note the examiner's comments coversheets for examples A, B and C do not reflect the point-value change to criterion A, nor the division of criterion B into B1 and B2. Revised examiner commentaries which do reflect this change can be found in the "Language A additional samples" section of this publication.

Example A

Example A

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Example B

Example B

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Example C

Example C

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Specimen paper

Specimen paper (PDF)

Example paper

Example paper (PDF)

HL essay

Advice from principal examiners about the HL essay

This downloadable PDF contains advice for students from examination paper authors.

Advice from principal examiners about the HL essay

Example A

Example A

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Example B

Example B

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Example C

Example C

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Internal assessment

Advice from principal examiners on the individual oral

This downloadable PDF contains advice for students from examination paper authors.

Advice from principal examiners on the individual oral

Example A

Example A

Extracts (PDF)

Individual oral (MP3)

Examiner's comments (PDF)

Example B

Example B

Extracts (PDF)

Individual oral (MP4)

Examiner's comments (PDF)

Example C

Example C

Extracts (PDF)

Individual oral (M4A)

Examiner's comments (PDF)

Paper 1

Advice from principal examiners about paper 1

This downloadable PDF contains advice for students from examination paper authors.

Advice from principal examiners about paper 1

Example A (HL)

Example A

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Example B (HL)

Example B

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Example C (SL)

Example C

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Specimen papers

Specimen papers SL and HL (PDF)

Example papers

Example paper SL (PDF)

Example paper HL (PDF)

Paper 2

Advice from principal examiners about paper 2

This downloadable PDF contains advice for students from examination paper authors.

Advice from principal examiners about paper 2

Please note the examiner's comments coversheets for examples A, B and C do not reflect the point-value change to criterion A, nor the division of criterion B into B1 and B2. Revised examiner commentaries which do reflect this change can be found in the "Language A additional samples" section of this publication.

Example A

Example A

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Example B

Example B

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Example C

Example C

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Specimen paper

Specimen paper (PDF)

Example paper

Example paper (PDF)

HL essay

Advice from principal examiners about the HL essay

This downloadable PDF contains advice for students from examination paper authors.

Advice from principal examiners about the HL essay

Example A

Example A

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Example B

Example B

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Example C

Example C

Student work (PDF)

Examiner's comments coversheet (PDF)

Internal assessment

Advice from principal examiners about the individual oral

This downloadable PDF contains advice for students from examination paper authors.

Advice from principal examiners about the individual oral

Example A

Example A

Extracts (PDF)

Individual oral (M4A)

Examiner's comments (PDF)

Example B

Example B

Extracts (PDF)

Individual oral (MP3)

Examiner's comments (PDF)

Example C

Example C

Extracts (PDF)

Individual oral (MP3)

Examiner's comments (PDF)

Language A additional samples

Language and literature

Higher level essay

Higher level essay examples A to F (zipped folder)

Individual oral

Individual oral examples A to F (zipped folder)

Paper 1

Paper 1 examples A to F (zipped folder)

Paper 2

Paper 2 examples A to F (zipped folder)

Literature

Higher level essay

Higher level essay examples A to F (zipped folder)

Individual oral

Individual oral examples A to F (zipped folder)

Paper 1

Paper 1 examples A to F (zipped folder)

Paper 2

Paper 2 examples A to F (zipped folder)

Updates to the publication

This section outlines the updates made to this publication over the past two years. The changes are ordered from the most recent to the oldest updates. Minor spelling and typographical corrections are not listed.

Changes for November 2025

Language A additional samples

"Language and literature"

Introduction of revised or improved content.

The files contained within the zipped folder "Paper 2 examples A to F" have been updated to include revised examiner commentaries which reflect the changes to criteria A and B for first assessment 2026.

Language A additional samples

"Literature"

Introduction of revised or improved content.

The files contained within the zipped folder "Paper 2 examples A to F" have been updated to include revised examiner commentaries which reflect the changes to criteria A and B for first assessment 2026.

Changes for February 2024

Language A additional samples

"Language A additional samples"

Introduction of revised or improved content.

Paper 2 examples have been added to the "Language and literature" and "Literature" sections.