

IB themes...

1. Identities
 - o Health and lifestyle
 - o Personal expression
 - o How do language and culture form our identity?
2. Experiences
 - o How does our past shape us?
 - o What cultural experiences have affected our world view?
 - o How does travel broaden our experience?
3. Human Ingenuity
 - o How have recent scientific advances improved our lives?
 - o How has technological innovation changed the way we shop/eat/travel?
 - o What does cultural expression tell us about a culture?
4. Social Organisation
 - o What role does language play in society?
 - o How do rules and regulations influence social behaviour?
 - o How is your school or community organised?
5. Sharing the planet
 - o What environmental issues are currently affecting the world?
 - o How does sustainability affect our daily life?
 - o What challenges does globalisation bring?

The 3 types of text in the IB exam

You could be asked to explore these themes in 3 different types of text:

- Personal - casual style of writing, e.g. emails, texts, diary entries
- Professional - more formal communication such as business letters, proposals, instructions
- Mass media - speeches to a wide audience e.g., podcasts, adverts, web pages.

They may not necessarily be written down - you could be reading them but you could also be listening to them or discussing them orally.

How the IB assessments work

The IB examiners are looking for the way you demonstrate your knowledge of the **'what of language'** i.e. your vocabulary and grammar.

But you also need to show you understand the **'why and how of language'**, in terms of the audience, context, purpose, meaning and variations.

And underpinning all of that they're looking for evidence of **international-mindedness** and awareness of other cultures.

What criteria will be used to mark your IB exam?

There are 3 aspects to bear in mind as to how your work will be marked.

Language

First, you need to show a good command of the language. Build up a wide [vocabulary](#) on all of the themes so you can demonstrate variety. Show that you understand the rules of [grammar](#) as that will enhance what you're trying to say. You will also set yourself apart if you use idioms and expressions.

Message

The examiners will be looking to see that you are conveying a clear message. Stay relevant and don't go off topic. Develop your arguments fully in a logical structure with relevant examples.

Conceptual understanding

Finally, show that you've chosen the right tone for the specific type of text. You'll be assessed as to how well you've considered the audience, the purpose and the context of the piece.

IB Spanish Paper 1

Paper 1 of the IB is an external assessment that lasts 1 hour and 15 minutes for SL and 1.5 hours for HL. It will test your written or productive skills and will make up 25% of your overall marks.

There will be 3 different tasks, each based on a different theme but you only need to answer one. You'll need to write about 450-600 words on the topic so it's a good idea to have a few facts ready on various subjects and be prepared to express your opinions.

You might be asked to write a personal diary entry about your holidays, for example. Or an essay outlining the pros and cons of an environmental issue, such as pollution or climate change. Or you might decide to tackle a mass media type of task such as a speech representing a government spokesperson.

You can see how you will need to give careful consideration to the tone required depending on the type of communication. Some pieces of writing will be much more formal in style than others.

IB Spanish Paper 2

Paper 2 of the IB Language B is also an external assessment and is 1 hr 45 at SL and 2 hours at HL. It will test your reading and listening skills and will make up 50% of your total result.

You'll need to demonstrate your receptive skills by listening and showing your understanding of 3 audio passages. And your reading skills by demonstrating your understanding of 3 written passages.

As you'll already have shown you can do long written answers in Paper 1, the questions in Paper 2 will be asking for much shorter answers. They will be multiple choice type questions, looking for antonyms or synonyms of words, true/false statements or mix and match responses.

Everything will be based on what you read and hear in the assessment so you don't need any prior knowledge. The questions will all be linked to the course themes and the 3 text types.