

## **Language and Literature (Language A)**

### **IB English and Literature**

This course will introduce students to the critical study and interpretation of written and spoken texts from a wide range of literary and non-literary genres. Students will formally analyse texts, and in doing so, will increase their awareness of the fluidity of meaning within a text, and how this changes depending on the producer and the consumer. Students will explore the use and development of the English language, through an examination of its different forms, such as its media forms and functions, and its literature. Students will develop key skills in critical literacy and textual analysis, as well as the ability to present their ideas effectively.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE English Language/ Literature at Grade 4 and above**

**Entry Requirement HL - GCSE English Language/ Literature at Grade 6 and above**

### **IB English Literature**

The Literature course develops students' critical understanding of a wide range of texts as well as honing their power of expression in both the written and verbal form. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to become more independent, from selecting their own coursework titles, to the wider reading and critical approaches from which they can explore the texts. Students explore texts from a range of places, time periods, and genres to allow them to get a breadth of experience of literature, as well as the depth that arises from close study.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE English Language/ Literature at Grade 4 and above**

**Entry Requirement HL - GCSE English Language/ Literature at Grade 6 and above**

### **IB Self Study (SL only)**

School-supported self-taught (SSST) students may study their native language as their **Group 1 option**. They can choose to do Language A: literature in their native language and they will be expected to meet the same syllabus requirements as for taught SL students. Students will only be able to choose this if we have the in-house expertise to support the student.

**Entry Requirement SL - The language must be the native first language of the student**

## **Language Acquisition (Language B)**

### **IB French/IB German/IB Spanish**

These Language B courses are suitable for those who have studied the language to GCSE level.

They give you the opportunity to progress to a level recognised as B2 on the Common European Framework Reference and you will be competent to converse at a high level for a range of purposes and audiences. You will become a truly excellent linguist, able to compete with students from the rest of Europe and able to consider either a languages degree (from HL) or a combined degree (even from SL). If you choose to study a language at Higher Level, you will engage in the study of native literature. The Literature course develops students' critical understanding of a wide range of texts as well as honing their power of

expression in both the written and verbal form. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to become more independent, from selecting their own coursework titles, to the wider reading and critical approaches from which they can explore the texts. Students explore texts from a range of places, time periods, and genres to allow them to acquire a breadth of experience of literature, as well as the depth that arises from close study.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE in your chosen language at Grade 4 and above**

**Entry Requirement HL - GCSE in your chosen language at Grade 6 and above**

### **IB Ab initio Italian/Russian (SL only)**

The Language B ab initio courses allow fervent linguists to broaden their repertoire of languages, either pursuing an additional 'romance' language (Italian) or taking on the new challenge of learning (Russian), with its Cyrillic alphabet and complex grammar. The ab initio courses allow students a fresh start at embracing language-learning. In particular, the Italian course can build on French or Spanish vocabulary knowledge whilst offering a new perspective on grammar and culture.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE in a foreign language at Grade 4 and above**

### **Individuals and Societies**

#### **IB Economics**

Economics is a dynamic, applied social science which helps you to understand what is happening in the UK and world economy. It deals with questions such as: Why should we put a tax on sugar? How can we achieve economic growth without damaging the environment? Economics uses scientific methodologies which are applied to real-world problems facing consumers, producers and governments.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE in Mathematics at Grade 4 and above**

**Entry Requirement HL - GCSE in Mathematics at Grade 6 and above**

### **Individuals and Societies**

#### **IB Geography**

The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before.

Geography explains why and helps to prepare you for those changes. Geography is a dynamic and rigorous subject that is firmly grounded in the real world. The transferable skills which Geography fosters are an asset in the complex world of employment today.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE in Geography at Grade 4 and above**

**Entry Requirement HL - GCSE in Geography at Grade 6 and above**

### **IB Psychology**

The IB Psychology course involves the study of the human mind and behaviour. It will give you a better understanding of yourself and other people and the ability to apply that

understanding to your everyday life. Psychology complements a wide range of subjects across the Arts and Sciences spectrums.

**Entry Requirement SL & HL - GCSE in English Language/ Literature at Grade 4 and above**

### **IB Social and Cultural Anthropology**

Anthropologists grapple with the fundamental issues of what makes us truly human – how are all people, regardless of cultural differences or location, similar? In what ways are we unique? How do we as human beings understand the world around us, both now and across time? What is the role and function of culture? How do societies and individuals use culture to understand and make meaning in the world? This course is intended to challenge your own assumptions and cultural belief systems, as well as prepare you with the critical thinking and research skills necessary to succeed in a wide range of university programs.

**Entry Requirement SL & HL - GCSE in English Language/ Literature at Grade 4 and above**

### **IB History**

Not only is History a fascinating subject, but the skills you will learn as a historian will make you an impressive candidate for a wide range of jobs and degree courses. From Law to Medicine, IB History is a rigorous and exciting preparatory course. You will be encouraged to think for yourself and to understand how we analyse History by engaging with evidence. You will explore how we think about the past by analysing conceptual approaches such as causation, significance, change and continuity, consequences and interpretations as well as the provenance of historical evidence in order to understand historical events from different perspectives, and to see the relevance of what you study to the modern world.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE in History at Grade 4 and above**

**Entry Requirement HL - GCSE in History at Grade 6 and above**

### **Experimental Sciences**

#### **IB Biology**

Sciences have an influence on every part of our lives, so studying Biology can give you an insight into the world around you. The skills you learn as a scientist, like thinking logically, analytical processing of data and problem solving, are very transferable and will allow you to progress onto many different career paths. Biology is a great choice for those interested in Sport as you will learn how, and why your body functions in the way that it does. Students taking the IB Biology course at either Standard or Higher Level will be required to work independently and in small groups, to develop an understanding of how Science influences their lives and how scientific developments can have political, moral and social implications.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE in Biology at Grade 5 and above**

**Entry Requirement HL - GCSE in Biology at Grade 7 and above**

#### **IB Chemistry**

The most obvious result of Chemistry is the manufacture of novel materials with new properties which impact and enhance everyday life. At IB level, Chemistry is still very much an experimental subject. It aims to provide a thorough grounding in the underlying principles necessary to explain Chemistry. By analysing emerging patterns, you will not only be able to describe chemical reactions but explain why and when they happen. These analytical skills are highly respected and transferable to other fields. Chemistry is useful for students who wish to study Science, Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry or Pharmacology.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE in Chemistry at Grade 5 and above**  
**Entry Requirement HL - GCSE in Chemistry at Grade 7 and above;**  
**GCSE in Mathematics at Grade 6 and above**

### **IB Nature of Science (SL only)**

This exciting Standard Level course will cover the key and developing areas in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The big questions in Science, such as 'Where do we come from?' or 'What is everything made of?' lead to Astrophysics, Evolution and Particle Physics. The course also looks at the impacts of technology on the modern world and asks us to consider ethical questions around the applications of science. These topics will all be treated in such a way that they are accessible to students who would not be taking individual Science subjects beyond GCSE.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE in Science at Grade 4 and above**

### **IB Physics**

The predictive power of Physics is the basis of all modern technology from cars, trains and planes to mobile communication, advanced medical imaging and nanotechnology. The wonder of the physical world extends from the behaviour of subatomic particles to the beauty of star formation in far distant nebulae. The IB Physics course offers the opportunity to develop a broad range of valuable skills. You will be applying logical reasoning and mathematical analysis to real world and experimental questions using both classical and modern theories of Physics. You will develop skills in problem solving, investigative practical work, collaborative group work and communication.

**Entry Requirement:**

**SL - GCSE in Physics at Grade 5 and above; GCSE in Mathematics at Grade 5 and above**

**HL - GCSE in Physics at Grade 7 and above; GCSE in Mathematics at Grade 7 and above**

### **Mathematics**

#### **IB Mathematics – Analysis and Approaches**

This course is intended to allow students with an appreciation of Mathematics to study about how it can be applied. The topics covered within Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches include more abstract mathematical concepts and provide a rigorous foundation for further study of all aspects of the subject. It is designed for students who enjoy developing their mathematics to become fluent in the construction of mathematical arguments and develop

strong skills in mathematical thinking. They will explore real and abstract applications, sometimes with technology, and will enjoy the thrill of mathematical problem solving and generalisation. Students who want to go on to study Mathematics, Physics or other subjects with a substantial mathematical element at university level should take Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches course as part of their IB Diploma.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE in Mathematics at Grade 7 and above**

**Entry Requirement HL - GCSE in Mathematics at Grade 8 and above**

### **IB Mathematics – Applications and Interpretation**

Mathematics is a universal language and knowledge of the subject is fundamental to understanding the world in which we live. For many of us, the skills that we learn in Mathematics can be transferred to our chosen professions. It is for these reasons that the study of Mathematics is compulsory within the Diploma Programme. However, Mathematics is much more than the memorisation of methods and processes. The IBO says: “For employers and universities alike, critical thinking in mathematics is becoming an increasingly valued skill, especially as technology advances making some traditional skills redundant.” Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation is focused primarily on ways in which mathematical techniques (both simple and advanced) can be applied in practical contexts. It is for students who are interested in developing their mathematics for describing our world, modelling and solving practical problems using the power of technology. Students who take Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation will be those who enjoy mathematics best when seen in a practical context.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE in Mathematics at Grade 4 and above**

**Entry Requirement HL - GCSE in Mathematics at Grade 7 and above**

### **The Arts**

#### **IB Dance**

All dance is expressive movement with intent, purpose and structure, which communicates through the body and gestures of the dancer. Dance is a vital and integral part of human life. It exists over time in many forms and styles and is practised in all traditions and cultures, taking place in a range of contexts for various purposes. Dance functions as ritual, as artistic endeavour, as social discourse, as recreation and as education. You will study three principal areas of dance: Composition and analysis, Dance Investigation and Performance.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE in Dance at Grade 4 and above**

**Entry Requirement HL - GCSE in Dance at Grade 6 and above**

#### **IB Film**

Film is a powerful art form, and an important communication medium. You will learn how to

read the language of international film, exploring the cultures and ideas behind them, and developing essential skills of critical analysis. You will also make films of your own, learning the professional and technical skills of production, and engaging creatively in the art and craft of film.

**Entry Requirement SL & HL - GCSE in English Language/ Literature at Grade 4 and above**

### **IB Theatre**

The course provides a broad experience of theatre traditions, roles and practices. All students will perform in a range of practical roles and reflect on theatre they have seen as an audience member or been involved in making. The course looks at Theatre through the three 'lenses' Theatre in Context, Theatre Processes and Presenting Theatre. Texts are approached through workshop sessions and extracts will be presented for performance.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE in Drama/Performing Arts at Grade 4 and above**  
**Entry Requirement HL - GCSE in Drama/Performing Arts at Grade 6 and above**

### **IB Visual Arts**

The visual arts are an integral part of everyday life, permeating all levels of human creativity, expression, communication and understanding. They range from traditional forms embedded in local and wider communities, societies and cultures, to the varied and divergent practices associated with new, emerging and contemporary forms of visual language. They may have socio-political impact as well as ritual, spiritual, decorative and functional value; they can be persuasive and subversive in some instances, enlightening and uplifting in others. This is a thought-provoking course in which students develop analytical skills in problem-solving and divergent thinking, while working towards technical proficiency and confidence as art-makers.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE in Art at Grade 4 and above**  
**Entry Requirement HL - GCSE in Art at Grade 6 and above**

### **IB Music**

Students studying Music will be able to develop their musical skills and understanding, and enrich their appreciation of a huge diversity of musical styles from different times and places. The course offers a mixture of theory and practice and provides excellent preparation for students who wish to study Music beyond Parkside Sixth. This course provides an enjoyable and informative learning experience for students who want to ensure that the Creative Arts form part of their overall IB profile.

**Entry Requirement SL - GCSE in Music at Grade 4 and above**  
**Entry Requirement HL - GCSE in Music at Grade 6 and above**

### **International Baccalaureate Diploma Core**

## **IB Extended Essay**

The Extended Essay offers you the chance to produce a university-style dissertation on a subject of your choosing. Highly valued by both universities and employers, the Extended Essay allows you the chance to experience true independent learning, and to explore a topic that interests you, without the constraints of exams or syllabus content.

### **What will I study?**

With the support of their supervisor, students are able to set their own research questions. This can be on any aspect of any subject offered at IB. (This does not have to be a subject you are taking, or even a subject we are offering at Parkside). Some examples of Extended Essay research questions designed by previous IB students around the world are:

- What level of data compression in music files is acceptable to the human ear?
- Is it possible to determine the presence of a black hole at the centre of the Milky Way?
- How is memory affected by sleep deprivation?
- What factors allowed women in the 20th Century to overcome cultural and social barriers that limited their access to STEM subjects?
- To what extent does the interaction with animals improve social interaction of children?

### **How will I be assessed?**

The final mark is made up of a 4000 word dissertation, written in the style of a paper in an academic journal. You will be marked not just on your final piece, but also on how you approached your investigation, and you will have a 'viva voce' style interview with your supervisor when you have finished your essay. The essay will be marked by the IB Organisation, but this will be based on your teacher's report as well as on the dissertation itself.

## **IB Theory of Knowledge**

Theory of Knowledge is part of what holds the whole IB Diploma together and its goal is to develop you as a more effective and critical learner. The course helps you learn how to evaluate what we know, or think we know, and how we know it. It is an integral part of all of your subject areas and you will achieve a greater understanding of all areas because of it.

### **What will I study?**

You will base your studies around the following themes:

- Ways of knowing
- Knowledge issues
- The Knower

To explore these key concepts, you will undertake modules dealing with all areas of the IB diploma, with emphasis on ways of knowing, such as language, sense perception, reason and emotion, and areas of knowledge such as Mathematics, the Sciences, the Arts and Ethics. You will be encouraged to take your learning beyond the classroom and apply these concepts to your own interests and pursuits.

**How will I be assessed?**

The final mark is made up of an individual or group presentation in class and an essay on a prescribed title, which is marked externally. A pass in Theory of Knowledge is an essential requirement of the IB diploma.

**The two major assessments are:**

Part 1: External Assessment (2/3 of total marks). Essay on a prescribed title (1200 – 1600 words) and a written planning document.

Part 2: Internal Assessment (1/3 of total marks)

The internally assessed presentation (approximately 10 minutes per student), comprises a presentation to the class and a written planning document.