

Villiers School – IBDP Subject Brief

Group 2 Language Acquisition

French ab initio (SL)



Description and Aims

Ab initio French is part of Group 2 Language Acquisition and therefore has common aims with other Group 2 Languages. Ab initio French students will develop international-mindedness through the study of languages, cultures, and ideas and issues of global significance. In the International Baccalaureate 'language acquisition courses are designed to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to communicate successfully in an environment where the language studied is spoken.' (International Baccalaureate Organisation, 2019).

The difference with the Language B course is that ab initio students should have had no prior experience, or a very limited exposure to the language. The ab initio course can thus be considered for beginners. Therefore, it is only offered at Standard Level (SL). The aim of the course is to develop 'receptive, productive and interactive communicative skills [and] learn to communicate in the target language in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.' (IBO, 2019)

COURSE Outline/ Overview

The ab initio course is structured like the Language B course and centered around five themes: identity; experiences; human ingenuity; social organization; and sharing the planet. Students will develop their proficiency in and their conceptual understanding of French by studying these themes which are further divided into four topics each.

The students' receptive, productive and interactive skills are developed through the study and the writing of a selection of texts (personal, professional and mass media) and by considering the audience, context and purpose of the text.

Texts include but are not limited to:

- Personal: blog, email, diary, postcard
- Professional: brochure, formal letter, interview
- Mass media: advertisement, article, review

Resources Required

- Coursebook: Panorama Francophone 1 ISBN:9781108760379 Author(s): Bourdais, D.; Finnie, S.
- Workbook: Panorama Francophone 1 ISBN:9781108467247 Author(s): Bourdais, D.; Finnie, S.



Prior Learning/Pre-requisites

Ab initio is a language acquisition course designed for students with no prior experience or a very limited exposure to the language (IBO, 2019). Students who are able to understand and respond in the target language should consider the Language B course.

Assessment

Throughout the course, students are expected to communicate clearly and effectively in a range of contexts and for a variety of purposes. Students are expected to understand and use language appropriate to a range of interpersonal and/or intercultural contexts and audiences. Students are expected to understand and use language to express and respond to a range of ideas with fluency and accuracy. Students are expected to be able to identify, organize and present ideas on a range of topics. Students are expected to understand, analyse and reflect upon a range of written, audio, visual and audio-visual texts.

External Assessment

Paper 1 (Productive Skills): Writing-1 hour

Two written tasks of 70–150 words each, from a choice of three tasks, choosing a text type for each task from among those listed in the examination instructions.

Weighting 25%

Paper 2 (Receptive Skills- Listening and Reading): Listening comprehension (45 minutes) and reading comprehension (1 hour)

Comprehension exercises on three audio passages and three written texts drawn from all five themes.

Weighting 50%

Internal Assessment

Individual oral 7-10 minutes + 15 minutes of preparation

A conversation with the teacher based on a visual stimulus followed by a discussion on an additional theme.

Weighting 25%