The « Option Internationale du Baccalauréat » (OIB) British section - Lycée Condorcet - Sydney

Bilingual students wishing to study at overseas universities may also opt to take the « Option Internationale du Baccalauréat » (OIB) – British section. At the lycée (High school), students have 4h of English classes and 2h of history classes in English added to the mainstream curriculum.

OIB is an additional option to the general baccalaureate which offers more subjects taught from a British perspective and taken in English, and which is totally different from the International Baccalaureate (IB). These additional exams are offered in literature, history and geography allowing a higher grade to be achieved towards the final baccalaureate mark.

The OIB provides students with a university entrance qualification valid in UK, North America and France. It makes academic and linguistic demands on an equal level in English and French. Cambridge University and the French Ministry of Education work in partnership to implement and ensure the quality of the British section of the OIB.

France is the only country in the world to have officially incorporated an optional international component into its established secondary school curriculum: the OIB. The Option Internationale du Baccalauréat is not a separate diploma but rather a specialization within the framework of the French Baccalaureate.

Students prepare for the British section of the OIB during the last two years of the Lycée (classes of Première and Terminale) and final examinations of the OIB cover the curriculum taught in these last two years. The English language and literature segment of the OIB is a rigorous program taught entirely in English in seminar style classes, which include up to five hours of classroom time. The OIB history and geography program includes up to four hours of classroom per week. Both sections culminate in written and oral exams in English.

❖ OIB Courses and Exams
Candidates studying English language and literature follow a curriculum set by the Inspection Générale, which is part of the French Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the subject-level
Inspectors and the teacher-examiners. The curriculum comprises 12 literary works chosen from a variety of genres, representing diversity in the ethnic backgrounds and genders of the authors. In history-geography, the teaching structure is bilingual, as the program of study includes American teachers who teach the history portion and French teachers or French-speaking teachers, who teach geography based on a French pedagogical tradition. Candidates who study history and geography follow a themed-based curriculum established by the French Ministry of Education. At the end of the multiyear course work, OIB students take a 4-hour written examination in each of the two subjects as well as a 30 minute oral examination in language and literature and a 20 minute oral examination in history and geography, in addition to the French Baccalaureate.

**Benefits of the OIB**

- OIB students learn to handle an unusually heavy workload, and to prioritize conflicting commitments.
- OIB students acquire a cultural mobility — the ability to think from a French cultural viewpoint or an English cultural viewpoint — that gives them different perspectives on their university studies, whatever the subject.
- OIB students have learned different approaches to thinking and methodology from two different education systems; this can give them unusual flexibility in problem solving or in adopting a suitable method for a particular task.
- The OIB is a rigorous program devoted to educational excellence and sets high performance standards for students and faculty.
- The OIB involves dedicated and creative teachers committed to their students, their disciplines, and their profession.
- The OIB attracts highly motivated students who wish to excel academically and attend the most selective colleges and universities.
- The OIB program provides for articulation between middle school and high school, terminating with the French Baccalaureate.

- In support of the academic program, the OIB offers professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators worldwide.