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BFI: THE OVERVIEW

- The BFI is prepared over 2 years: 1ere and Terminale . It is the international version of the French Baccalaureate.
- The BFI is a bilingual qualification: the subjects and specific exams are equivalent to British A-Levels.
- The BFI is the results of a partnership between French Ministry of Education and **Oxford AQA**, in charge of designing the syllabus and of assessing and moderating the exams.

1ere BFI

ACL

(Language, culture and Literature)

4,5 h

History and Geography

4h

(2h French / 2h English)

*Global Issues

2h

(in English)

Terminale BFI

ACL

(Language, culture and Literature)

4 h

History and Geography

4h

(2h French / 2h English)

*Global Issues

2h

(in English)

BFI: THE OBJECTIVES

- Offering a course of academic excellence, both culturally and linguistically: native level of English (C1/C2).
- Discovering innovative courses, offering a view on contemporary issues (*Global Issues*).
- Promoting greater recognition of students' achievements, commitment and hard work, with higher coefficients and a mention on the baccalaureate diploma.
- Preparing students for higher education in English-speaking countries, (*but not limited to*).

BFI: THE CREDENTIALS

- International agreements for the 18 BFI sections : international collaboration in syllabus design and assessment.
- Enhanced recognition of a course of excellence, with new baccalaureate coefficients (*60 in total*).
- The BFI is flagged on Parcoursup, as well as European and Anglophone higher-education admission platforms.
- More and more, the BFI baccalaureate is accepted as a waiver for language entrance tests.
- UCAS has published a fact sheet on the BFI (QIP: Qualification Information Profile).
- In the UK, recognition of the entire BFI as the equivalent of 4 A-levels.
- Most BFI graduates have no difficulty in gaining admission to UK universities. Admissions officers generally recognize the distinctive assets they bring to the academic community (*thanks to the British pedagogical approach they benefit from, emphasizing dialogue, critical thinking and analysis, and excellent writing skills in English*).

ACL: Language, Culture and Literature

Objectives:

- Broadening and deepening language and literature appreciation.
- Building a literary culture through a collection of works, the discovery of cultural movements as well as literary and artistic currents.
- Acquiring writing and speaking skills, focused on analysis, interpretation and critical thinking.

Principles:

- A specific syllabus and assessment replacing the LVA syllabus and assessment (supported by **Oxford AQA + the French Ministry of Education**)
- A syllabus equivalent to the A-Level program in English literature in the UK.
- Language level expectation for the exam: **C1** minimum

Syllabus:

A specific text list , renewed partially and periodically, including:

- Complete works in prose, drama, poetry
- Literary movements and/or themes
- Shakespeare plays.



Within this syllabus, 6 set texts will be studied over two years: 3 for the written exam, 3 for the oral exam

Examinations:

- A 4 h-long written exam in English: a choice of 2 questions per set text (*Shakespeare question + 2 essays*).
- A 15 min-long oral exam (*20 min preparation time*) on the synoptic topic chosen for the oral exam.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Objectives:

- The syllabus aims to develop the students' skills as historians and geographers, including their abilities to: extract information from a variety of sources; interpret, analyse and assess information; develop document-based arguments; use case studies to illustrate an answer, etc....

Principles:

- The syllabus aims to develop understanding of historical and geographical concepts. Students should be able to use knowledge acquired in one subject to broaden their understanding of the other.

Syllabus:

The syllabus is defined by the **French Ministry of Education** and the specifications of this syllabus are established by **Oxford AQA**:

* Example in History:

Theme 1: Challenges to democracy, totalitarianism, the pre-war years and the Second World War (1930-1945) Theme 2: The multiplication of actors in a bipolar world (from 1945 to the early 1970s)

* Example in geography:

Theme 1: Maritime and geopolitical zones at the heart of a globalized world

Theme 2: Territorial dynamics: an unequal integration and development in a globalized world

Examinations:

- 4-hour-long written exam in English: 2 topics to choose from. Each subject includes an essay and document study and assesses history and geography equally.
- 15 min-long oral exam (*20 min preparation time*) on a thematic list of issues and concepts. The student draws and analyses an issue and a notion.

GLOBAL ISSUES MODULE

Objectives:

- The Global Issues module is based on a syllabus combining the history of ideas and geopolitical issues, knowledge of contemporary global issues, culture and civilization, and a student project with an international partnership.

Principles:

- The Global Issues module aims to provide linguistic and cultural knowledge, and to share knowledge about the contemporary world through the study of current issues. Its purpose is to open students up to the world and help them understand its complexity.
- This module promotes an action-based pedagogy, focused on the construction of a project that the student builds with an international partner.

The program:

- There are three main themes covering the major issues and challenges of the contemporary world:
 - ❖ Thinking about society
 - ❖ Living in the world
 - ❖ Building the future

The examinations:

- A 20 min-long oral exam (*no preparation time*): presentation of the candidate individual project built with an international partner. A 10 min-long presentation, followed by a 10 min-long discussion with the jury, in English. The oral is supported by a presentation (*paper or digital*) prepared by the candidate.

THE BFI: COEFFICIENTS

FRENCH BACCALAUREATE = coefficient 100

Internal assessment = 40

- LVA (6)
- LVB (6)
- History and geography (6)
- Civic Education (2)
- Sciences(6)
- PE (6)
- Major 3 (8) – *dropped in 1ere*

Final exams = 60

- French (10) – **taken in 1ere**
- Mathematics (2 – new from 2026) – **taken in 1ere**
- Philosophy (8)
- Major 1 (16)
- Major 2 (16)
- Final Oral (10 up to 2026, 8 from 2027)

BFI (Bilingual version) = coefficient 148

→ BFI specific exams: 60/148 → 40,5% of the total grade

Internal assessment = 28

- LVB (6)
- Sciences (6)
- **Civic Education (2)**
- PE (6)
- Major 3 (8) – *dropped in 1ere*

Final exams = 120 (60+60)

- French (10) – **taken in 1ere**
- Mathematics (2 – new from 2026) – **taken in 1ere**
- Philosophy (8)
- Major 1 (16)
- Major 2 (16)
- Final Oral (10 up to 2026, 8 from 2027)

→ Coeff.60

ARE ADDED FOR THE BFI:

- ACL in English (coefficient 20: 10 written exam /10 oral exam) *
- Global Issues in English (coefficient 20 – oral exam) **
- History and Geography in English (coefficient 20: 10 written exam /10 oral exam) *

→ Coeff.60

* The subject assessed in the final exam does not appear in the internal assessment but replaces its grades.

** The Global Issues module, prepared in 1ere and Terminale, is assessed internally, at the end of the Terminale year.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- **ASIBA:** association in charge of the British International Sections and the British BFI

<https://www.asiba.fr/>

- General information on the BFI (FR/EN).

<https://www.bficentral.org/home-fr>

www.bficentral.org

- **BFI:** Presentation.

In French: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOJ1ArFIUoo>

In English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HseyqrmPn0c>

- **UCAS – QIP (Qualification Information Profile):**

<https://qips.ucas.com/qip/france-baccalaureat-francais-international-bfi-assessed-from-2024>