Lycée Français International Marguerite Duras

ÉTABLISSEMENT EN GESTION DIRECTE

aefe Agence pour l'enseignement français à l'étranger

French International School

# Expectations in the British International Section - College Level

From 6e to 3e: what is expected of students, and how to prepare

B2

by the end of 3e

# Reaching level B2 by the end of 3e




CEFR level targeted at the end of 3e

The competencies expected in the SIB at college level are defined by the French Ministry of Education. They cover English language and literature as well as the non-linguistic subject (DNL, usually history-geography).

> *"The reference level of competence in the five language activities at the end of collège is B2. A higher level may be recognised."*
>
> National programme for the British International Sections

THE COMPETENCIES

# What is expected of students

## 1 Read

Understand novels, short stories, poetry and drama in depth: nuances, the author's intentions, literary devices.

## 2 Listen

Follow lessons taught entirely in English and understand authentic materials: presentations, debates, audio and video extracts.

## 3 Write

Produce structured texts (analyses, argumentative essays, summaries, commentaries) with rich, precise vocabulary.

## 4 Speak

Take part in debates and presentations; argue with clarity, spontaneity and precision.

## 5 Culture

Know the English-speaking world in depth and study a complete Shakespeare play at collège.

## 6 DNL History-Geo

Analyse historical documents in English, write structured answers, present analyses orally.

PROGRESSION

# From 6e to 3e

## 6e

**B1**

### Follow the section's lessons in English

Additional teaching in English in literature and history. Students must already be able to follow a lesson entirely in English.

## 5e

**B1 → B1+**

### Develop reading and expression

More refined understanding of literary texts; more fluent speaking, discussions about works.

## 4e

**B1+**

### More advanced literary analysis

More complex texts, structured written work; debates, presentations and work on complete works.

## 3e

**B2 (official)**

### Preparing for the International Section / BFI at lycée

Advanced comprehension and expression; in-depth analysis of literary and historical documents. C1 possible for the strongest students.

*Indicative benchmarks: only level B2 at the end of 3e is officially set.*

# How to prepare?

A student ready for the SIB must be able to follow a lesson in English, read literature, argue orally and write with precision.

## 1 Listen and speak

- Watch series and films in the original English version, without French subtitles (or with English subtitles)
- Listen to podcasts for children and teenagers
- Join debate or drama clubs in English

## 2 Read widely

- **Before 6e:** Roald Dahl, Michael Morpurgo, David Walliams
- **6e–5e:** The Chronicles of Narnia, Holes, Wonder
- **4e–3e:** Animal Farm, The Giver, The Outsiders

*Reading advice: see the SUGGESTED READINGS section of our website.*

## 3 Write

- Summarise a chapter in 5–10 lines
- Describe a character or a place
- Explain a theme or a message
- Write a mini-essay: Do you agree? Why?

# British culture and the DNL

## 1 Develop British cultural knowledge

*The SIB is not only a language section: it is also a cultural section.*

- British festivals and traditions
- Institutions (monarchy, Parliament)
- Major authors: Shakespeare, Dickens, Orwell
- Geography of the United Kingdom

**Resource:** BBC Bitesize YouTube channel

## 2 Prepare for the DNL (history-geography in English)

*Even if a student does not yet have a DNL, they can prepare for it.*

- Read historical documents in English
- Describe a map
- Explain an event

**Specific vocabulary:** cause, consequence, trade, empire…

# What the committee looks for

1. A curious student who reads
2. A student who is comfortable speaking
3. A student able to follow a lesson in English without translation
4. A motivated student, not just “*good at English*”

## Important reminder

A solid command of the French language is an essential requirement for joining the British International Section (SIB).