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 — lycée level

Première and Terminale: what is expected of students, and how to prepare for the BFI

C1 / C2

target English level

by the end of the pathway

THE GOAL

The BFI: three exams to prepare

In Première and Terminale, students prepare the international version of the baccalauréat (BFI), equivalent to British A-Levels and prepared in partnership with Oxford AQA. Expectations below all come from these three components.

ACL

Literature: Approfondissement Culturel et Linguistique

A set programme of 6 complete works (prose, drama, poetry, including Shakespeare): 3 for the written exam, 3 for the oral.

Written 4h | **Oral 15 min**

HISTORY-GEOGRAPHY

CLIL: Content and Language Integrated Learning

Ministry / Oxford AQA programme: essay writing and document study, plus an oral on a problem question.

Written 4h | **Oral 15 min**

GLOBAL ISSUES

CdM: Connaissance du Monde

An individual project developed with an international partner, presented and discussed with the examiners.

Oral 20 min | **10 + 10 min**

THE COMPETENCIES

What is expected of students

1 Read closely

Analyse complete works in depth: language, structure, imagery, viewpoint and the author's choices, and compare them across texts.

2 Write under time

Build 3 structured, argued literary essays in a 4-hour written exam, 1 essay per set text.

3 Speak with confidence

Present and defend an analysis orally, after 20 minutes of preparation, then answer the examiner's questions.

4 Analyse documents

Study historical and geographical documents in English and write structured essays and document studies.

5 Lead a project

Develop an individual project with an international partner and discuss it for 10 minutes with the examiners.

6 Work independently

Read the set works in full, revise regularly and manage the workload of a demanding double pathway.

PROGRESSION

From Première to Terminale

Première

Building the toolkit

- ACL: 4h30 per week
- DNL History-Geography: 2h in English + 2h in French
- Connaissance du Monde module: 2h
- Close reading of the set works
- Choosing and starting the Connaissance du Monde project

Terminale

Exam year

- ACL: 4h per week
- DNL History-Geography: 2h in English + 2h in French
- Connaissance du Monde module: 2h
- Timed essays and oral practice under exam conditions
- Presenting the project to examiners

How to prepare?

A student ready for the BFI reads whole books independently, writes precisely under time pressure, and speaks about ideas in English without hesitation.

1 Read widely

- Read the set works in full, not summaries
- Add classic and contemporary novels, plays and poetry beyond the programme
- Keep a reading notebook: themes, key quotations, questions

2 Write and speak

- Practise commentary on short unseen texts
- Plan an essay in 10 minutes, then write it in full
- Explain a text aloud for 5 minutes without notes

3 Follow the world

- Read and watch news and documentaries in English
- Discuss current affairs to prepare for History-Geography and Connaissance du Monde
- Look for a project topic that genuinely interests you

ADMISSION

Joining the BFI in Première

The entrance test

1. Written critical analysis
of an unseen text: 90 minutes.

2. Individual oral interview
in English: 10 minutes.

The test assesses written literary analysis, spoken expression and argumentation. The text changes every year, and dates are published by the school.

What we look for

- A student who reads for pleasure
- Confident in speaking and arguing in English
- Able to analyse a text independently
- Motivated and ready for a demanding workload, with the support of the family

Important reminder: a solid command of the French language is essential to join the section.