

Language Policy

1. Philosophy

- LEMANIA College acknowledges the importance of a balanced mastery of languages for the students' intellectual and emotional development. The school seeks to support teachers' linguistic ability in the language of instruction, when required, so that they can all fully contribute to the language development of their students.

LEMANIA College proposes language courses according to the following principles:

Considerable efforts are made to give students the opportunity to study their mother tongue in Group 1 and to prepare them for their further education destination.

- Languages proposed in Group 2 are defined according to the demands of the remainder of the programme as well as the local languages spoken in the region.

2. School Language Profile and parents' participation in planning their children's language profile and development

- The language of instruction in the IB Diploma Programme at the LEMANIA College is English.
- All subjects are taught in this language, except Languages in Groups 1 and 2 which are taught in the language being studied.
- As for the language of communication at the LEMANIA College and parents' participation in planning their children's language profile, there are the following approaches:

- 1) written communication with parents regarding the IB Diploma matters is conducted in English.
- 2) parents-teachers' meetings can be conducted in English, but also in other languages, in accordance with teacher's and the parents' linguistic background.
- 3) the IB coordinator meets the parents in order to discuss their children's IB subject choice as well as the choice of the languages to be studied in the IB programme.
- 4) during parents-teachers' meetings, there is always a compulsory part dedicated to language studies. Moreover, parents are encouraged to participate in studies in languages and language acquisition discussions in order to help their children to find suitable books or articles for their EEs.

3. Languages offered in the IB Diploma Programme at LEMANIA College according to the school profile and the sociocultural context

- **English & French courses in preparation for entry into the 1st year of the IBDP**

Their English, **reaching a B2 level** by the end of the year. However, the school recognizes the importance of learning at least one foreign language in addition to English and their home/personal language(s). In order to do so, French is taught at all levels in our IB Preparatory class.

Students whose **mother tongue is English**, or who have an advanced level will focus on vocabulary development, literary analysis and essay writing.

Students who **enter the Preparatory class with an A2 level or lower** will require additional support. They should plan to dedicate extra time, every day, to improve their level of English. The main objective of **the Preparatory English course** is to give students the opportunity to improve t

For non-French speaking students and French native speakers, the objectives are different.

The main objectives of the Preparatory French course are as follows:

- for native speakers: to develop their vocabulary, literary analysis and essay writing skills
- for non-native speakers: to improve their comprehension and expression skills in preparation for *French B*. Moreover, some information about French culture is introduced during IB Preparatory French classes.

The above differentiation ensures that students of all levels are challenged, whilst being supported at the same time.

- **Promoting French language as a language of the wider community**

As a school settled in the French speaking region of Switzerland, we recognize and respect the language of the local community. We are promoting French studies in every IB class starting from Prep class of the program where French is taught at all levels according to the students' needs.

Concerning IB1 and IB2 classes, we must underline that the French language is an important part of the program and is taught not only during language classes but also is a part of our CAS program where the French speaking students are teaching French to their classmates. Moreover, many of our CAS activities take place in the Canton Vaud museums, factories, art galleries where students have a great chance to interact in French with the local communities authentically.

We are confident that such an approach will be efficient to promote French language learning and the respect of French culture.

- **German and Italian languages as a part of the IB language teaching at LEMANIA College**

Recognizing multilingualism and multiliteracies as a part of Switzerland's sociocultural and political context, we strive to promote teaching of German and Italian languages in all classes of the IB program. German and Italian Ab Initio are one of the most frequent subject choices in our school.

- **IB 1 and IB 2 Classes**

- **Language Group 1 – Language A Programme** (mother tongue or strongest language):

Recognizing the importance of the development and the maintenance of the students' home/personal language(s), LEMANIA strives to offer a large number of languages taught in Group 1.

Currently, LEMANIA College offers the following language courses in their IB Diploma Programme as default subjects:

- *English A Language and Literature HL & SL*
- *French A Literature HL & SL*
- *Italian A Literature HL & SL*
- *Russian A Literature HL & SL*
- *German A Literature HL & SL*
- *Spanish A Literature HL & SL*

Upon request, other languages are offered in the following options:

- *Persian A Literature HL & SL*
- *Chinese A Literature HL & SL*
- *School Supported self-taught language A Literature: Japanese A, Turkish A*

Students are encouraged to study their **mother tongue language** in Group 1. **All Group 1 languages listed above are offered both at HL and SL.**

Students may decide to take a Group 1 class in a language other than their mother tongue. In order to do so, they must speak, read and write that language at a C1 level, and also have the approval from the head of the language department. Language level assessments might be required.

Students who have **more than one mother tongue** may take two Group 1 courses. In this case, they are not required to take a Group 2 course.

Students whose mother tongues are not offered as courses will study their mother tongue as **SSSTL** (School Supported Self-Taught Language). These courses will follow the *Language A Literature* syllabus at SL level.

SSSTL students will be required to meet with a tutor at least twice a month for a total of two periods, and attendance will be monitored by the Head of the Language Department.

The student and tutor can decide to meet more often if they deem it necessary. The school will assist the student in finding a local, qualified tutor.

SSSTL students will be required to attend Group 1 classes (*English A, French A, Other Language A*) during Part 1 of the course which focuses on Literature in translation. The schedule will be decided at the beginning of the year.

Each SSSTL study program must be approved by the Head of the Language Department.

- Group 2 (the choice of the additional language(s) in the IB Diploma Programme):

In terms of the language policy, one of our objectives is to support multilingualism which is required to support multiliteracies.

Currently, LEMANIA College offers *French B (SL-HL), English B (SL-HL), Spanish B (SL-HL), Italian B (SL-HL), German B (SL-HL), French Abinitio SL, Spanish Abinitio SL, German ABinitio SL, Italian ABinitio SL* as default courses for Group 2.

English B (SL or HL) is a required course for students who take French A Lit, or another non-English language in Group 1.

French B (SL-HL) is offered to students who take *English A LL*, or another non-French language in Group 1.

French B SL should be chosen by students entering the course with an A2+/B1 level. The HL level is for students entering the course with a B2 level.

New students will be assessed at the beginning of the year in order to place them in the appropriate classes.

Language differentiation is taken into account by teachers in the “Approaches to teaching and learning strategies” and in formative and summative assessment assignments which they design.

4. Review process

All of our language teachers are constantly improving their teaching and learning skills. They follow IB offered workshops to review the important parts of the IB programme and to gain new skills and teaching methods. A Head of Languages position assures the consistency of teaching processes.

At the LEMANIA College, the teaching review process takes place once per month during the meetings of the Head of Languages and language teachers. In these meetings, the current situation and teaching methods are discussed in order to improve students' results and in order to promote respect towards different cultures and languages.

5. Administrative aspects

Language requirements which help the students to make the right choice of their language courses are established in the Admissions Policy.

Extra costs related to school-supported self-taught language (SSSTL) or to the provision of a teacher for a language which is not regularly taught by the school (see Admission Policy) are charged to the student's family. The cost of tutoring fees is estimated at roughly CHF 7'000.- (seven thousand) per academic year. No discount is granted on the remainder of the programme.

The school takes into account the diversity of students' language needs, and provides language support and differentiation in the preparation for the Diploma programme. Should a student require further support with some aspects of language acquisition, the school can organize private classes for this student. The organization and payment for such classes must be discussed and agreed to both by the parents and the Head of the Languages Department.

5. References

Guidelines for developing a school language policy,
https://resources.ibo.org/data/g_0_iboxx_amo_0804_2_e.pdf

Guidelines for school self-reflection on its language policy,
https://resources.ibo.org/data/g_0_learn_amo_1206_2_e.pdf

Language A: literature school supported self-taught support material,
https://resources.ibo.org/data/g_0_learn_amo_1206_2_e.pdf

Common European Framework for Languages,
https://resources.ibo.org/data/g_0_ibres_sup_1612_1_e.pdf

Lemania Colleges Language Policy
Revision 2023

Please note that according to quality management standards,
our policies are reviewed on a regular basis.