

SECOND LANGUAGE

Language Ab Initio (Standard Level)

(Currently offered in Italian and Japanese, different languages maybe available)

The Ab Initio programme is a second language learning programme designed to be studied over 2 years at standard level by students who have no previous experience of learning the target language. Currently, the following languages are offered at Ab Initio: Japanese and Italian. It is therefore designed to meet the needs of those IB students who have had no opportunity for foreign language study in their earlier education and therefore are unable to fulfil IB diploma requirements for Group 2.



It is an ideal programme for those students wishing to diversify their already proven linguistic skills and achieve a high level of proficiency in a new language. It can also be tailored to meet the needs of those who would find the depth of a continuation of their GCSE course too challenging and difficult.

Students may choose to study a language at this level if they have studied it for a maximum.

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE COURSE?

- develop students' ability to communicate in speech and in writing in order to enable them to deal adequately with familiar and practical needs
- introduce students to the culture of the country /countries where the language is spoken, through the study of the target language
- provide students with a foundation for further study of the target language
- provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation
- encourage positive attitudes to the learning of other languages and to their speakers and countries

WHO IS THE COURSE SUITABLE FOR?

The course is suitable for those who have had little or no opportunity for second language study in their previous education and are therefore unable to fulfill IB Diploma requirements for Group 2.

WHAT TOPICS WILL BE STUDIED?

Having followed the Ab Initio language programme, students will be expected to demonstrate, through the use of authentic material, the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in everyday situations.

As a standard level subject, students should be aware that the level of work and commitment involved in attaining a high score is equal to that demanded by other standard subjects.

HOW WILL STUDENTS BE ASSESSED?

External assessment SL

Paper 1

Receptive skills

1 hour: questions on four texts

Written assignment

Receptive and written productive skills

200–300 words: guided writing

Paper 2

Written productive skills

1 hour 30 minutes: two short written responses

Internal assessment SL

Individual interview

Interactive skills

12–15 minutes: individual oral presentation followed by questions and interview