

## Language Selection Guidance

---

This document is intended to provide clear guidelines to students and parents selecting language options throughout their career at West Island School as their selections in Post 16 will rely on selections earlier in their academic studies.

### IB Diploma Students

As West Island School is an English medium school, all students study English. Students at WIS are encouraged to pursue their chosen second language all the way through to Post 16. The IB requires students to study two languages in Groups 1 and 2.

- Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature
  - Group 2: Language Acquisition
- Students who opt to do two languages from Group 1 will be awarded the IB Bilingual Diploma. Students who are capable of achieving this are strongly encouraged to pursue this option.

At West Island School we offer the following options:

#### Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature

- English Literature (HL/SL)
- English Language and Literature (HL/SL)
- English Literature and Performance (SL only)
- Chinese A in Language and Literature (HL/SL)
- Self-Taught Literature\* A (SL only)

\* Students study a self-taught literature course in their heritage language with support from ESF Centre. Taught courses can sometimes be available at ESF, depending on demand across all schools.

#### Group 2: Language Acquisition

- Chinese B (HL/SL)
- French B (HL/SL)
- Spanish B (HL/SL)
- Chinese *Ab Initio* (SL only)
- French *Ab Initio* (SL only)
- Spanish *Ab Initio* (SL only)
- 

**Language B** courses are designed for students who have already been studying their selected language as an academic subject at IGCSE level.

**Ab initio** courses are designed for students who have little or no experience in that language. Students who have studied a language at IGCSE level will not be allowed to take that language as an *ab initio* subject on the IB diploma, due to IB guidelines.

Students who have followed the Chinese First Language pathway should take Chinese Language and Literature A HL or SL **or in some cases** they may opt for Chinese B HL, under the advisement of the Chinese Department and according to the language profile of the individual. Such students will not be allowed to take Chinese B SL.

### IBCP or ID

Students who are completing **the IB Career-Related Programme** or the **International Diploma** do not have to study a second language but they may opt to study an IB course in the language of their choice. Students will be considered on an individual basis depending on their circumstances, language heritage and ability, but here are some guidelines:

- If a student has achieved a C in a language at IGCSE level and they wish to pursue that language further, they should consider the SL language B option. Those with lower than a C will need to consult the Head of Subject and the IB coordinator-a language IB option might not be appropriate

- In rare cases where a student may have exceptional ability, we will consider allowing them to pursue an HL language B option should it complement their chosen courses.
- If a student wishes to learn a brand new language they should choose the *ab initio* course.