

Ab initio Languages

IB

What will I study and learn?

The *ab initio* course is designed to cover two years as a standard level (SL) qualification for those who have little or no previous experience of a language. It is suitable for those looking to learn a new language to enhance their future overseas opportunities, or those who simply wish to engage with a new language. It is also suitable for those who left a language behind earlier in their school career and now wish to revisit it. We are currently running *ab initio* Italian but can consider offering *ab initio* courses in a range of modern languages based on the choices made by students in each cohort. Such language choices can include French, Spanish, Russian and German.

The course is designed to develop a range of linguistic skills including listening, speaking, reading and writing. A significant level of grammar and vocabulary will also be studied.

You will cover a range of everyday topics to enable you not just to use language confidently to travel but to thrive in a wide range of conversational situations. These include: Individual Identity, Education, Experiences, Town Services, Food and Drink, Leisure and Travel, Social Organisation, The Environment, Sharing the Planet, and Topics around Human ingenuity.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed at a level appropriate to a language being learned with little or no previous experience.

External examination assessment (75%)

- One reading comprehension paper
- One writing paper
- One listening comprehension paper.

Internal assessment Speaking examination (25%)

- Internally assessed and externally moderated.

What skills should I have and what will be developed?

As the course starts from scratch, no specific skills are required, apart from a willingness to engage with language and culture. Your previous knowledge and language-learning skills will, however, be very helpful. By the end of the course, you will be able to interact with native speakers and appreciate the culture of the country or countries studied. This will be achieved through the development of listening, reading, writing and speaking skills.

During the course we will expose you to as much of the language as possible, so you will be expected to play an active role in class discussions.

You will understand and use language to express and respond to a range of ideas, as well as develop an awareness and appreciation of the different perspectives of people from other cultures. By the end of the course, you should be equipped with the skills to communicate on a basic level with clarity in a range of situations, demonstrating linguistic competence and intercultural understanding.

Course entry requirements

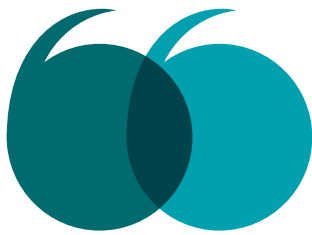
Although there are no set requirements for those wishing to follow this course, you should be at beginner level to study *ab initio*. Your interest in, and commitment to, language learning and culture are the only requirements.

Beyond the classroom

Those following an *ab initio* course may benefit from a number of school trips that visit the countries relevant to their language choice. There will also be scope for the group to engage in a variety of cultural experiences over the course of the two years.

Future opportunities

All language qualifications and experiences help you to develop a more in-depth understanding of another culture. You will also be in a better position to visit, study or work abroad and expand your horizons. An *ab initio* course means that there is a language option that suits your needs/level of expertise on the IB Diploma whatever your linguistic background.



Learning Italian for the IB has reignited my love for languages as it has allowed me to start from scratch with a new language.”

Ben Hawkins, OB 2023

Courses: IB higher level Physics, Geography, and Economics, and standard level *Ab Initio* Italian, English, and Mathematics



Want to know more?

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Exam Board:
www.ibo.org