

Option internationale – Section américaine **International Option – American Section**

Core Subjects: Language & Literature – History & Geography

Introduction

The Lycée Français d'Irlande offers students the possibility to study in the American Section of the International Option with the aim that they would prepare and sit the International Option at the Baccalauréat (Option Internationale du Baccalauréat - **OIB**) in Terminale. This OIB exam is designed to highlight the attainment and potential of **bilingual** students. The International Option is highly rated by third level institutions in France, Europe, North America and further afield. It is in fact a highly regarded certificate, which combines the breadth and rigour of the French Baccalauréat with two subjects taught in English to Leaving Certificate, GCE Advanced Level or College Board Advanced Placement standard. Students working towards the International Option follow exactly the same courses as their French peer-group in all but two subjects: Language & Literature and History-Geography.

In the LFI, most of our students preparing for the OIB have come out of our Eurocampus system and are familiar with the dexterity required when working to native-speaking standard in two languages from one hour to the next. They are not only enviably fluent in a language other than their own but are used to balancing in their minds the perspectives of two different cultures. As such they possess the ideal qualities of flexibility, tolerance and independence which make them ready for the challenge of the International Option.

The OIB Examinations during the Year of Terminale

Language & Literature and History-Geography are part of the Tronc Commun Subjects in the newly designed Baccalauréat 2021. However, the organisation of the examinations for the OIB differs from the other Tronc Commun Subjects. One major exam (a written and an oral) is scheduled for the end of the Second Term of Terminale – instead of the three exams with two in Première and one in Terminale. Students are examined on the syllabi of Première and Terminale.

In Language & Literature, candidates to the OIB sit a four-hour written paper and a thirty-minute oral examination. During the year of Première and the two first terms of Terminale, pupils prepare texts in depth, all of which are chosen from an approved grid (one of them being a compulsory Shakespeare play). All classes are in English. Candidates must write three essays and answer both general and detailed questions on their texts in the oral.

In History-Geography, candidates to the OIB sit a four-hour written paper and a fifteen-minute oral examination. Pupils prepare their exam questions during the year of Première and the two first terms of Terminale in a course that is run part in French, part in English. Candidates must write an essay and answer a document based question in History or Geography; for the oral, candidates answer both general and detailed questions on any aspect of the course.

Marking and Subject-weighting

Individual subject marks are always expressed on a 0-20 scale. The coefficients for Language/Literature and for History/Geography in the International Option are particularly high:

- 15 for Language & Literature,
- 15 for History-Geography.

This means that the two OIB subjects amount to over 20% of the overall results of the Baccalauréat. The OIB is also highlighted in many other domains of a student's dossier in preparation for third level studies.

Admission to the Section

The main objective of the admission process is to assess whether a candidate will benefit or not in the International Option. What suits best the needs of the student is at the core of our ethos.

Entrance into the American Section of the International Option takes place at the very beginning of the year of Seconde. It is also possible to join the Section at the beginning of the class of Première for students showing great motivation and great potential both in written and oral English.

In order to enrol the Section all the students applying sit a one-hour written exam (based on works detailed below) and are interviewed by the three teachers in charge of the Section. The interview, held in English, will enable the teachers to assess the level of English of the candidates as well as their ability to follow a course of a high academic standard. The report files (*dossiers scolaires*) of the candidates will also be closely looked at.

- For the class of **Seconde**, the entrance exam will be on ***The Great Gatsby*** by F. Scott Fitzgerald.
- For the class of **Première**, the entrance exam will be ***The Scarlet Letter*** by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Students are expected to have read both works prior to the exam. Students already enrolled in the American Section in Seconde in the LFI will be exempted of the entrance exam in Première.

For both classes, the written test and the interview will take place end of August and early September.

Beginning of classes

American Section classes in Language & Literature and History-Geography will start in Seconde once all the entrance process is over, on September 9th at the latest.

Première classes will start between the 2nd and the 6th of September.

Terminale classes will start from the first day of normal classes for the Terminale students as there is no entrance exam for the class of Terminale.

Books for Curriculum for the class of Seconde in Language & Literature

The Great Gatsby, F.Scott Fitzgerald - Penguin Classics; New Ed edition (24 Feb. 2000) ISBN: 978-0141182636

Macbeth, William Shakespeare - Folens Shakespear Series (Anne Deegan)
ISBN: 9781847418937

Poems and essays by various authors, provided by the teacher.

Books for Curriculum for the class of Première in Language & Literature

A Doll's House, by Henrik Ibsen - Methuen Drama; Revised edition edition (5 Sept. 2008) - ISBN: 978-1408106020

The Scarlet Letter, by Nathaniel Hawthorne – Penguin English Library - ISBN: 978-0-141-19945-0

Death of a Salesman, by Arthur Miller - Penguin Classics; New Ed edition (30 Mar. 2000) - ISBN: 978-0141182742

Intimate Apparel, Lynn Nottage – NHB Modern Plays - ISBN 978-184-842-4371

Annie John, Jamaica Kincaid, vintage, new edition (9 Oct 1997)
ISBN: 978-0-099-77381-8

A selection of poems by Emily Dickinson and Elizabeth Bishop - provided by the teacher

Books for Curriculum for the class of Terminale in Language & Literature

A stranger in the village, James Baldwin - provided by the teacher

A Room of One's Own, Virginia Woolf - provided by the teacher

A selection of poems by Langston Hughes and Rita Dove - provided by the teacher

The Tempest, by William Shakespeare, Oxford School Shakespeare - ISBN: 978-0198325000

The Bluest Eye, by Nathaniel Hawthorne – Vintage International- ISBN: 978-0307278449

The Great Gatsby, F.Scott Fitzgerald - Penguin Classics; New Ed edition (24 Feb. 2000) - ISBN: 978-0141182636 (Same as in Seconde)

A selection of short stories from Lahiri's ***Interpreter of Maladies*** – provided by the teacher

Any book purchased in a different edition will have to be bought again

Books for Curriculum in History/Geography

Seconde: No special textbook for the American Section. French history and geography textbooks have to be bought by the families as students follow the French history and geography course also. Readings, sources and documents will be provided by the teacher.

Première and Terminale:

- ***Mastering Modern World History***, by Norman Lowe, Fourth Edition, Palgrave MacMillan, previous or latest edition.
- French history and geography textbooks as students follow the French history and geography course also.

The school will provide the following textbooks to the students for the year of Terminale (providing students give the books back to the school at the end of the year):

- ***The Unfinished Nation, A Concise History of the American People***, by Alan Brinkley, Sixth Edition, McGraw Hill, latest edition.
- ***The Real State of America Atlas, Mapping the Myths and truths of the United States***, by Cynthia Enloe and Joni Seager, Penguin Books, latest edition.

For Seconde, Première and Terminale, all other books, resources and documents will be provided by the school.