

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I decide if I want my child to enter the SIB/OIB Baccalaureate?

I. The British International section in Middle School (SIB)

What is the level required for students entering their first year of Middle School?

A fluency in understanding and a solid capacity for learning, a great motivation and a special interest in the British language and culture are at the basis of such a choice.

Experience has shown that in a few months young students easily immerse themselves and reach a quasi-fluent speaking level.

Who will test my child's English language level at the end of Primary?

The International section team offers Cambridge approved standard screening tests in written and oral English. A meeting with the family can be scheduled if specific needs arise.

The SIB means extra hours. At what time will my child finish class, in the first year of Middle school?

Once, or twice a week at the most, classes will end at 4.25pm.

Will my child still be able to further his Greek language studies at the same time?

Yes, Modern Greek is mandatory for all the students of the school. SIB students have at least 3 hours of compulsory Modern Greek in their weekly schedule.

What is the OIB Curriculum about and what books should we buy?

The International British Section is a comprehensive and progressive immersion in the British culture through Literature and History-Geography.

Thus the students will come to read various texts and books to that effect; sometimes entire novels will be studied, as well as one Shakespeare a year (at different levels of analysis);

Below is the link to the text regulating the OIB exam issued by the Ministry of Education/French Government official website.

http://www.education.gouv.fr/pid285/bulletin_officiel.html?cid_bo=95341

Literature is taught in French and English, both at first language level, within the patrimony of these two cultures and literary traditions.

II. The British International Section in High School (OIB)

Does the graduation Diploma serve a double Diploma? Is it both a British 'A level' achievement as well as a French Baccalaureate achievement?

Yes, this French Diploma is a real bilingual Baccalaureate.

It stems from a Franco-British agreement comprising 2 areas of proficiency; first, two 'A Levels': one in Literature and the second in History/Geography (instead of 3 'A levels' that students in Britain normally take) and second, a regular French Baccalaureate.

There are 35 OIB centers for the British OIB in France and abroad that have examined 1318 candidates in 2015. Three centers examining at this time are part of the AEFÉ network, but new centers are opening up around the world.

Read here:

http://www.asiba.fr/the_wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/OIB_English_proficiency_FINAL_version_10_-02_20141.pdf

What is the Lycee Test in 2nd - 3 year prior to final exam?

This test is taken if the child is either new to the school, or if the marks are average. It is reading and comprehension of a literary text, and there is no specific preparation needed.

If my child already has a certification should he/she still take the SIB/OIB test?

Yes, because our selection is based on Cambridge International Examination (CIE) academic references specifically designed for the OIB, meaning a first language exam, which takes into account criteria not examined by other second language certifications.

What benefit will my child get from choosing this option based on Literature and HG?

Your child will end up writing and speaking in an extended analytical mode at university entrance level, both in English as well as in French. The demands of this dual curriculum mean that pupils learn to manage

a heavy workload, and acquire different approaches to thinking and methodology through the two languages.

This cultural and intellectual flexibility generally enables them to become highly successful undergraduates. They are manifold at problem solving and they choose the best-suited perspective within the possible responses.

As such, the OIB Baccalaureate is a testimony of excellence (such as Advanced Placement is in the US) and is an asset for high profile, high achieving post-graduate studies. For instance in France it is recognized and appreciated by the ‘Grande Ecoles,’ and in Britain it is sought after by the best Universities.

When should my child decide between a standard Baccalaureate and the OIB baccalaureate?

As soon as they can, from Middle school on. Some Universities in the USA require a minimum of 5 years of courses in English first language classes to get in. The last 2 years are inseparable. They commit the child to the OIB curriculum, which is somewhat different in its History/Geography component to the regular Baccalaureate.

Do students get the same level and skills in the regular English class?

No, because the regular classes are second language classes and the SIB/OIB is a native speaker class.

Nevertheless, in Athens this bilingual curriculum is open to non-natives, meaning that it is not necessary for one of the two parents to be an Anglophone country national.

In the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), regular classes have an official request of B2 for the *first* second Language, and B1 for your *second* second Language.

Students within the OIB programme already have a C1/C2 Level in Language.

Are there British SIB/OIB Centers in all the French Lycées around the world in the AEFÉ network?

To this day there are 111 sections opened in 68 French schools abroad (primary, Middle School and High school) in the following languages: German, English (either British or American Sections), Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese (either Portuguese or Brazilian Section), Russian and Swedish.

<http://www.aefe.fr/pedagogie/dispositifs-linguistiques/les-sections-internationales-dnbi-et-oib>

The SIB/OIB **British** section and final OIB Baccalaureate is offered in the AEFÉ schools, the ‘Lycee Francais’ abroad in London, in Brussels, in Singapour, and Athens.

http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid23092/sections-internationales-%20lycee.html#Sections_britanniques