

YIS Academic Year Apr 2023 - Mar 2024: Looking back on D.P.1 Cohort 17
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Overview

This was the teacher’s first experience teaching DP1. It was a journey that spent too much time in backgrounding causing an eventual need for a pace and unfocused study of the literature works. This can be improved next round by prioritizing both the finishing of the literature works earlier and practicing application to future assessment styles of the IA, HL essay, Paper 1 and Paper 2 in a more staged and frequent approach. This class cohort had a rather large group of 9 students that needed significant time for peak evaluation periods of assessment practice. As Chat GPT became available during this time, students experimented at times with using prompts and learning from its feedback. A major change in the introduction of literature was not always using literature circles as they take significant time. Instead, works were studied at a faster pace and sometimes without direct application to assessments.

Year at a glance

Grade ②	2023					1st sem				2024			2nd sem
2023-24	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	
DP		<i>no IB</i>	<i>midterms</i>	Final Paper 1 + IA Practice				Final Paper 1, practice Paper 2		IA Practice	IA Practice	IA Practice	

Curriculum Flow Table 1.1

<p>Note 1: T.T. stands for text type Note 2: HL students have 5 weekly classes and SL classes were reduced to 3. Note 3: AWL stands for the Academic Word List (Coxhead, 570)</p>			
	Month		Target
1	Apr	HL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work on the HL essay Being poetry T.T.
		HLSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study war as a global issue Practice delivering a speech Present war poster analysis Continue vocabulary building of words on AWL
2	May	HL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study T.T. prose to prepare for a Paper Study T.T. news to prepare for a Paper 1
		HLSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver speech Prepare for the full IA. From thesis to outline Paper 1 pre-Mock practice
3	Jun	HL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Issue - War HL extension poetry and HL essay Global issue - HL extension - Femininity
		HLSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare for the full IA - trial introduction presentation Global issue - Femininity and soap ads
4	Jul	HL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HL essay and Global Issue of Femininity

		HLSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Practice IA timing and final IA exam
5	Aug	HL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● T.T. Playscripts and create a resource to be used by the SL's
		HLSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set up next literary work - Things Fall Apart. (T.F.A.) ● T.F.A. Literature circles ● T.T. Short Stories and Novels
6	Sep	HL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● T.T. Playscripts and present a play excerpt
		HLSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to study and do T.F.A. Literature circles ● T.T. Short Stories and Novels ● Global issue - Colonialism ● Paper 2 - feature analysis
7	Oct	HL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Literature lenses ● Set up context for next literature work - Hedda Gabler ● Study literature analysis essay
		HLSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to study and do T.F.A. Literature circles ● Global issue - Colonialism ● Paper 2 - writing practice
8	Nov	HL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to study Hedda Gabler ● Literature-related film clips ● HL essay applied to Hedda Gabler ● Paper 1 exam ● Set up next literary work - Death and The Maiden
		HLSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paper 1 practice with new T.T. ● Paper 1 exam ● Exam discussion and feedback ● Set up context for next literary work - The Crucible ● Reader's theatre allegory study
9	Dec	HL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to study Death and The Maiden and HL essay
		HLSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue with study of The Crucible ● McCarthyism
10	Jan	HL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue work on H.L.Essay preparation ● Utilizing AI with refinement of students global issue for their IA
		HLSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finish the study of The Crucible ● Begin study of the next literary work - The World's Wife. ● Self-study poetry analysis
11	Feb	HL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Begin final work of literature - Pride and Prejudice
		HLSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to work on the full I.A. preparation ● Present World's Wife poem analysis
12	Mar	HL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IA work period. Peer advice ● Finish Pride and Prejudice ● Present HL essay outline
		HLSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to work on the full I.A. preparation ● Present World's Wife poem analysis

Challenge to the Program

It is difficult to professionally improve in this position beyond self-study and taking personal initiative to take free courses. The IB program training courses are typically unaffordable for individual teachers. It would be beneficial to be allowed to take professional development courses that are paid for by the school.

In addition and as before, this program is fully dependent on two foreign teachers. There is no system to recruit future teachers to have a backup plan in case the current teachers need to be replaced in the future. Put simply, it is hard to find instructors for the Language and Literature A program.

Forward Facing

In my coming year, I will have a second chance to teach DP1. I plan to start and finish the works of literature earlier while using them for direct analysis assignments. This will allow more time and better prepare the students for their upcoming assessments. I also plan to not be a slave to textbook. With experience, I can better judge which chapter bits provide essential learning and not cover the rest.

As always, it is a deep pleasure and privilege to work with motivated young people who are stimulated with a worthwhile challenge. I hope this report contributes in some way to the advancement of the IB Program in Japanese schools.

Sincerely, Mike Bagosy