

English A: Language and Literature

Assessment Description

Type: Exam Paper 2: Comparative Essay (SL & HL)

Number: 1

Length: 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Weight: 35%

Assessed: Externally by IB examiners at the end of Year 2.

Description: There will be four questions of a general nature. Students will pick **one** question to answer using two works studied in the course.

- Written under examination conditions without access to studied works
- Students will compare and contrast the two works in relation to their chosen question.
- Students are expected to make detailed reference to the works, but they are not expected to include quotations.
- The two works will be selected by the instructor early in the 2nd year.
- Works used for Paper 2 cannot be used for another assessment, such as the HL Essay or the Individual Oral
- The paper is assessed according to the criteria in the IB guide. [Click here to view them.](#)

The learner portfolio and Paper 2

The learner portfolio is an important tool in helping students prepare for formal assessment. In relation to the preparation of paper 2, the learner portfolio provides an opportunity for students to:

- group the works studied according to a common theme or issue and explore their similarities and differences
- develop an awareness of the differences between literary forms, and of the bearing these differences may have on how different works approach one theme or issue
- consider which combinations of works might be the most productive ones to address the variety of questions they might encounter in the actual paper
- inquire into the connections between the works studied, the areas of exploration and the central concepts of the course to gain an awareness of the multiplicity of lenses that can be used when studying a work and the essay questions that these might potentially lead to
- compare their successive practices of paper 2 to the first one they have done and monitor the evolution of their overall performance in the paper.