Year 8 - Selection of Language B

Introduction

All students in Years 6 to 10 at Scotch College follow the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP). This academic programme, which complements the Western Australian Curriculum Framework, gives equal value to all curriculum areas. In Year 8, boys follow a common programme in all curriculum areas except Language B (Language other than English) where they can choose between a study of French or Indonesian.

The School is aware that students arriving in Year 8 will have different experiences and knowledge of a foreign language. Therefore, separate classes with different programmes will be provided to cater for the individual needs of students.

Students learn to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable them to communicate effectively in oral and written form in everyday situations. A communicative and student-centred method of learning is used. Therefore, students have opportunities to express their thoughts and ideas and develop their own method of language learning.

Language B Studies in French and Indonesian can be continued through to Year 12. Language camps, school tours to France and Indonesia, and an exchange with French speaking students in Réunion Island are only a few of the language experiences offered to boys throughout their Language B study at Scotch College.

Selection Details

1. Essentially the choice being made now is for the study of the language through to the completion of Year 10.
2. The attached form should be completed and returned to the Academic Services Officer, at school by post or fax (08 9383 6910), by Monday 17th September 2007.
3. Questions relating to the Language B selection should be addressed to Mme Rule, Head of Language B, on 08 9383 6850 or AJRule@scotch.wa.edu.au. Attached is a list of frequently asked questions and answers, which may answer any query you have about the Language B programme at Scotch College.

Course details

French Stage 2

This course is designed for boys who have had the advantage of starting French in Primary School. It will be presumed that they will have covered topics such as: greetings, self-identification, numbers, classroom vocabulary, home description, the family, days of the week and months of the year, animals, clothes, the weather, places around town and basic directions and the time. In grammar they will have covered the verbs avoir, être, aller and some common `er verbs to express their hobbies, the concept of gender and adjectival agreement. Of course these topics will be reviewed in the course of the year as they will be building new knowledge on past knowledge. In French Stage 2 they will learn the new vocabulary, grammar and cultural behaviours associated with the topics of travel, school and daily routine, survival language when staying with a French family and eating out. The text they will need is Encore Tricolore 2.

French Stage 1

This course is designed for boys who have little or no prior knowledge of the language or who wish to start afresh. They will learn the vocabulary, grammar and cultural behaviours associated with the topics of greetings, self-identification, numbers, the classroom, home description, the family, days of the week and months of the year, animals, clothes and the weather. In grammar specifically they will learn how to use the verbs avoir, être and some common er verbs to express their hobbies. The text they will need is Encore Tricolore 1.
French Alternative
This modified French course is designed for boys who may experience difficulties in English as well as in learning a second language. The topics covered are: numbers to 12, greetings and self-introductions, school vocabulary, going out with friends, celebrations and the family. The text they will need is *Voilà 1.*

Indonesian
This is essentially a beginners’ course and assumes no prior knowledge of the language or country. However, boys who have some knowledge of Indonesian will work on appropriate extension tasks and will, therefore, find this course rewarding. The topics covered in Indonesian are classroom instructions, self-introductions, the family, pets, table etiquette, numbers, time and daily routine, school, shopping and transport. In grammar they will be introduced to Indonesian verbs and how to sequence events. The text they need is *Keren 1.*

The Curriculum Leader for Language B will check the forms at the start of Term 4. Should an anomaly occur, or the form be incorrectly filled in, the Curriculum Leader will contact the families concerned.

*Please complete the separate selection form and return to*  
*Petra Turner, Academic Services Officer, by Monday 17th September 2007 by post,*  
*fax 08 9383 6910 or*  
*email PJTurner@scotch.wa.edu.au.*
Language B Selection - The 10 Most Frequently Asked Questions

**QUESTION 1:** My son has learned French in a primary school other than Scotch Junior School and he has not covered the exact topics mentioned in this document. Will he cope in the Stage 2 class?

ANSWER: If your son coped well with his French study in his primary school and covered most of the topics, he will cope well in a French Stage 2 class. Old vocabulary is constantly reviewed.

**QUESTION 2:** My son studied another language in Primary school. Should he choose Stage 1 or Stage 2 French?

ANSWER: My advice is to either take up Indonesian or French Stage 1. If his Primary School language was Italian, he will find French vocabulary easier to memorise. In any case the skills he will have acquired through the learning of a second language in his primary school will help him in the study of either language.

**QUESTION 3:** I would like my son to learn Chinese. Can he do it at Scotch? OR: My son started Japanese in his primary school, can he continue learning it at Scotch?

ANSWER: Unfortunately at his stage we can only offer French and Indonesian as Language B options at Scotch.

**QUESTION 4:** Is Indonesian easier to learn than French?

ANSWER: Grammar and pronunciation in Indonesian are easier than in French. However more links can be made with English when learning new vocabulary in French. Both languages have their difficulties. In the end the choice of a second language is a very personal and emotional one and cannot be based on the ease of the study of the language.

**QUESTION 5:** Can my son start in one level in French and move to a higher or lower one in the course of the year?

ANSWER: Our French classes are timetabled in a parallel fashion, therefore potentially a boy could move from one level to another during the year. However, you need to take into consideration the content expectations of our programme. A boy who started French at the beginning of the year would have a large amount of material to catch up if he was to move to Stage 2. Similarly a boy who was in Stage 2 and decides to go to Stage 1 will have to be aware that some of the material will be repeated and he might find this a little tiresome. At the beginning of the year we operate some ‘fine-tuning’ and if we find that a boy has been misplaced we advise parents of the better programme for their son.

**QUESTION 6:** My son learned French in primary school. Is it preferable that he continues with French or start a new language afresh and take up Indonesian?

ANSWER: If your son enjoyed his French in primary school and did well, he will be advised to continue with it, because he will have an advantage over other boys in our programme. However if he did not enjoy it and wants to learn Indonesian, he should be encouraged to do so. In the end your son will be doing the work and enjoyment is a great motivating factor in learning. If he enjoyed his French but struggled with it, he could start from the beginning again and select Stage 1 or French Alternative if need be.

**QUESTION 7:** My son struggles with English. Does he have to learn a second language?

ANSWER: Yes, all boys at Scotch have to learn a second language, or Language B, up to Year 10 to be eligible for their IB certificate. For boys who struggle with English we have designed a French course to cater for their needs. These classes are very small and boys are given strong support. We ensure that all boys are given the opportunities to receive an International Baccalaureate certificate at the end of Year 10.

**QUESTION 8:** Can my son take up Indonesian Alternative?

ANSWER: No, we only offer a French Alternative course at this stage.

**QUESTION 9:** Can my son change languages or ‘drop’ his language B at the end of year 8?

ANSWER: No, once he has started a course, he must continue it till the end of Year 10, hence the importance of making the right choice at the beginning of Year 8.

**QUESTION 10:** My son has had difficulties in learning a language in primary school, but he is doing well in English. Which course is more appropriate for him?

ANSWER: If your son has no specific language difficulties he is not to choose the Alternative course. He should select Stage 1