



Blanche de Castille

BILINGUAL SECTION

From collège to lycée

The Blanche de Castille Bilingual Section:

- ▶ open to bilingual pupils from Year 7 (6ème) to Year 13 (Terminale).

B2C: an official Cambridge International School:

- ▶ offering 3 stages of education for pupils from 11 to 18 years old:

11 to 14 year olds

Cambridge Checkpoint

14 to 16 year olds

Cambridge IGCSE®

16 to 19 year olds

Cambridge International
AS and A Level

Subjects studied

▶ **Three subjects studied from Year 7 to Year 11:**

- English Language
- English Literature
- History

▶ **Two subjects studied in Years 11 to 13:**

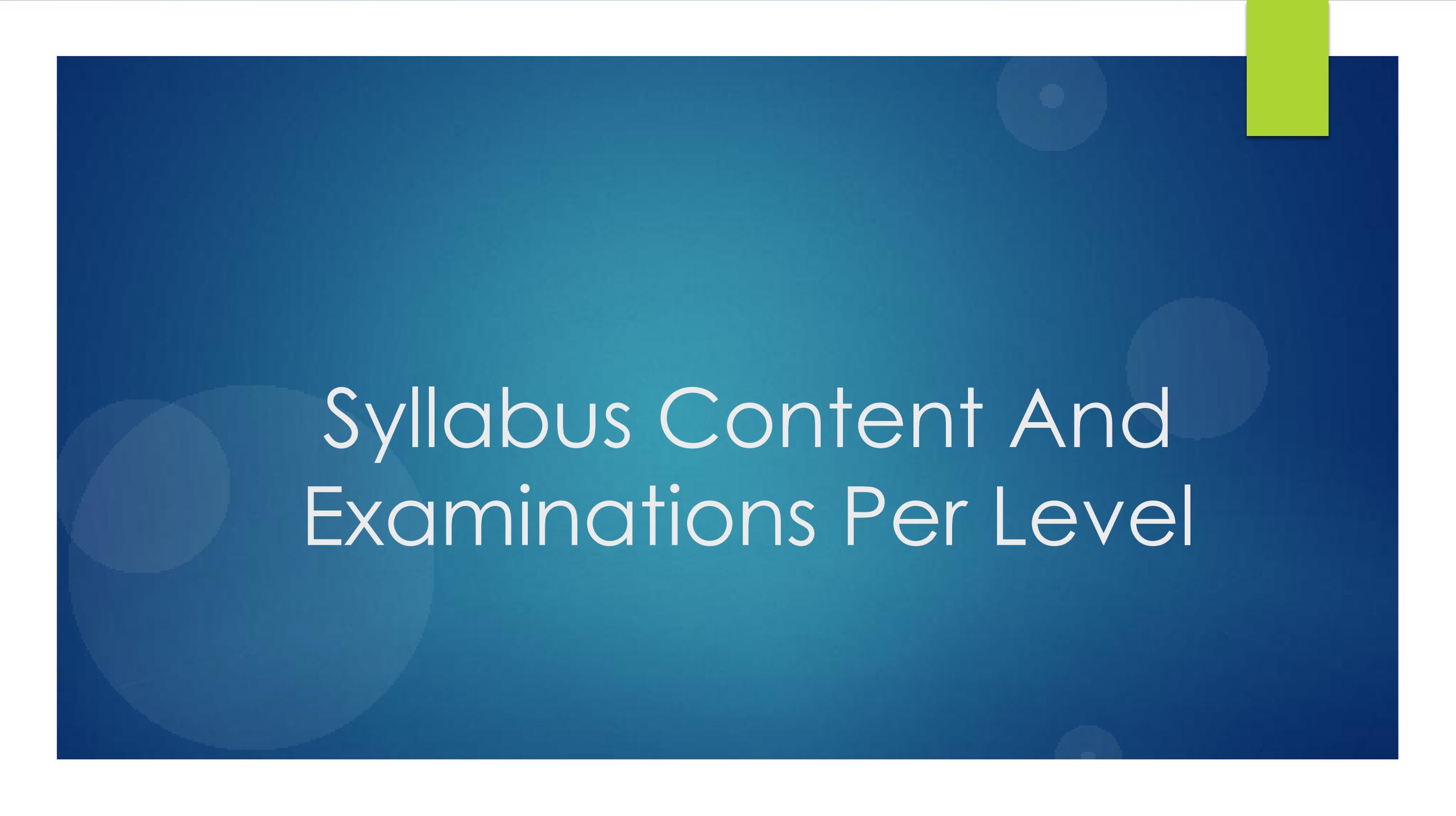
- English Language
- English Literature

Examinations

- ▶ Year 9: Cambridge **Checkpoint Test** in **English Language**
- ▶ Year 11: Cambridge **IGCSE** in **English Language, English Literature** and **History**
- ▶ Year 12: International **AS-Level** (first half of the International A-Level) in **English Language** and **English Literature**
- ▶ Year 13: International **A-Level** (second half of the International A-Level) in **English Language** and **English Literature**

Number of hours per class and per year in the B2C Bilingual Section

Year 7	(6ème):	5.5 hours per week
Year 8	(5ème):	5.5 hours per week
Year 9	(4ème):	7 hours per week
Year 10	(3ème):	7 hours per week
Year 11	(2nde):	7 hours per week
Year 12	(1ère):	7 hours per week
Year 13	(Terminal):	7 hours per week



Syllabus Content And Examinations Per Level

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Year 7

The pupils will use the stage 7 of the Cambridge Checkpoint English coursebook series which covers the Cambridge Secondary 1 English framework, looking at certain extracts and activities which are relevant to literature (other sections of the coursebook will be covered in their language class).

Specific to literature classes, the pupils will see a range of texts covering the **THREE** genres: **poetry, prose** and **drama**.

The pupils will also read and analyse a novel in class (*Skellig* by David Almond) as well as be introduced to a play by Shakespeare in the form of a comic book. The pupils will read and their understanding will be checked in relation to Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

There will be individual and group work with some opportunities for acting and reciting poetry occurring during the year in class.

In addition to the above, pupils will have to read **at least one book**, their knowledge and understanding of the novel will be tested in class.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Years 8 and 9

The pupils will use stages 8 and 9 respectively of the Cambridge Checkpoint English coursebook series , looking at certain extracts and activities which are relevant to literature (other sections of the coursebook will be covered in their language class). Specific to literature classes, the pupils will see a range of texts covering the **THREE** genres: **poetry**, **prose** and **drama**. They will learn more literary devices and techniques preparing them for the two-year IGCSE programme as of Year 10.

The pupils will also:

- read and analyse a novel in class: **Year 8** – *Waiting for Anya* by Michael Morpurgo / **Year 9** – *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyne.
- read and analyse a play in class: **Year 8** – *Midsummer Night's Dream* by Shakespeare / **Year 9** – *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde.

There will be individual and group work with some opportunities for acting and reciting poetry occurring during the year in class.

In addition to the above, pupils will have to read **at least three books** as personal reading, their knowledge and understanding of the novels will be tested in class.

ENGLISH LITERATURE: IGCSE

Years 10 and 11

The pupils will use the IGCSE Literature in English textbook and workbook. The pupils will see a range of texts covering the **THREE** genres: **poetry**, **prose** and **drama**. They will learn some more literary devices and perfect their writing and analysing techniques in preparation for the IGCSE exams which occur at the end of Year 11 (in May).

This year the pupils will work on the following:

- **Year 10:** *An Inspector Calls* by J. B. Priestly (**drama**) as well as the literature textbook and workbook in relation to **poetry** and **prose**.
- **Year 11:** *A View from the Bridge* by Arthur Miller (**drama**), *Spies* by Michael Frayn (**prose**) and an anthology of **15 poems** from *Songs of Ourselves*.

In addition to the above, pupils in **Year 10** will have to read **at least three books** as personal reading, their knowledge and understanding of the novels will be tested in class.

ENGLISH LITERATURE: AS Level

Year 12

The pupils will sit two AS Level exam papers. The first paper is on **poetry** and **prose** and the second paper is on the **two drama** texts.

For 2017-2018, the pupils will study the following texts from the syllabus:

- *Twelfth Night* by Shakespeare and *Philadelphia, Here I come* by Brian Friel (**drama**)
- 12 short stories from *Stories of Ourselves* (**prose**)
- 27 poems from *Songs of Ourselves* (**poetry**)

EXAMS: The current students will take Paper 3 and Paper 4 in May 2018 to obtain their AS-Level qualification

ENGLISH LITERATURE: A-Level

Year 13

The pupils will sit two A Level papers. One is based on the texts mentioned below and one is an unseen paper.

For 2017-2018, the pupils will study the following texts from the syllabus:

- *Measure for Measure* by Shakespeare (**drama**)
- *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens (**prose**)

EXAMS: The current students will take Paper 5 and Paper 7 in May/June 2018 to obtain their A-Level qualification

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Year 7

This year we use the stage 7 of the Cambridge Checkpoint English coursebooks series which covers the Cambridge Secondary 1 English framework.

There will be **2 Progression tests**, one in **January** and one in **May**. These tests help the pupils to find out how well they have progressed throughout the year.

The focus this year is on **Narration and reflection**. Based on fiction and non-fiction texts, different skills will be developed:

- **Language** which includes spelling and vocabulary, grammar and punctuation.
- **Reading** closely to:
 - notice the details of the content and of the language
 - select important facts and then summarise.
- **Writing**
 - autobiographies, short stories, speeches, diaries and playscripts.

In addition to the above, pupils will have to read **at least three books**, borrowed from the CDI and write a book report.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Year 8

We use the stage 8 of the Cambridge Checkpoint English coursebook

As for the year 7 pupils, there will be **2 Progression tests**, one in **January** and one in **May**.

The focus this year is on **Description and information**, and the study of accounts and short stories.

During the year, we will first revise and apply the skills learnt and practiced in stage 7 and continue developing the following:

Language which includes

difficult spelling and vocabulary extension
deducing meaning,
grammar and punctuation

Reading closely :

to identify powerful language, writer's effects
Explicit and implicit comprehension

Writing concisely

using complex sentences, descriptive devices, adopting viewpoints

It is strongly recommended that pupils read **at least three books of different genres**, borrowed from the CDI.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Year 9

The year 9 pupils have an extra hour every two weeks. This time slot will be used to train pupils to the Checkpoint Test in April.

We use the stage 9 of the Cambridge Checkpoint English coursebook, the last of the series. The focus this year is on **Argument and discussion**, and the study of persuasive and informative texts.

Language: includes looking for synonyms, definitions and idiomatic phrases
grammar and punctuation.

Reading closely to: Identify views, identify and explain figurative language, paraphrase, select specific information, inferences, distinguish facts from opinions, recognize genres and voice

Writing concisely: Using rhetorical devices, complex sentences, constructing arguments and counter-arguments.

Planning, sequencing, creating atmospheres.

This year, there will be **1 Progression tests** in **January**, as in **April 2018**, pupils will be offered to sit the **Checkpoint Test**. This test is to assess learning at the end of the Cambridge Secondary 1. It is marked by Cambridge and parents receive a feedback report, showing how the pupil has performed in relation to the curriculum, and a statement of achievement.

The test is organized and held at Blanche, generally on a Wednesday afternoon and consists in 2 papers, one hour and 10mins each.

It is highly recommended that pupils read **at least three/four books of different genres**, borrowed from the CDI.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE: IGCSE

Year 10

We use the Cambridge IGCSE First Language English coursebook, which is designed as a two- year course.

The focus this year will be on the first part of the programme and will consist in revisiting and reinforcing the basics and generic skills of **selecting, planning, checking, note-taking, paraphrasing** as well as guidance on **essential skills, syllabus requirements and exam techniques**.

There are three key assessment areas:

- Reading and Comprehension
- Response writing
- Continuous writing

There will also be specific teaching of sentence building, vocabulary extension, punctuation and spelling.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE: IGCSE

Year 11

During the first term, we focus on the second part of the Cambridge IGCSE First Language English coursebook.

The second term, we will work on past IGCSE papers, insisting on

- how to tackle each question by thinking about language,
- handling and responding to texts,
- approaching and fulfilling tasks,
- expanding vocabulary and increasing the pupils' accuracy.

IGCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXAM

The **IGCSE English First Language exam** is held at Blanche **early May**. The exact dates will be available in November.

The language syllabus is divided into 2 components:

Paper 1 Reading Passage (Core which gives grades C to G)

OR

Paper 2 Reading Passage (Extended which gives grades A* to E)

AND

Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition.

Each paper weighs **50%** of the total grade.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE: AS Level

Year 12

Based on the **Cambridge International Examinations Board syllabus** for the preparation of International AS Level:

- ▶ Passages for commentary: characteristics of written and spoken texts, structure, context and language features.
- ▶ Writing: Imaginative writing and linguistic skills in the creative process; persuasive and argumentative writing and the techniques and devices employed.

EXAMS: The current students will take Paper 1 Passages and Paper 2 Writing in May 2018 to obtain their AS-Level qualification

ENGLISH LANGUAGE: A-Level

Year 13

Based on the **Cambridge International Examinations Board syllabus** for the preparation of International A-Level:

- ▶ Features of spontaneous and scripted speech
- ▶ Language acquisition
- ▶ Spoken language and social groups
- ▶ English as a global language

EXAMS: The current students will take Paper 3 Text Analysis and Paper 4 Language Topics in May 2018 to complete their A-Level qualification

HISTORY

Based on the **British National Curriculum Key Stage 3** for students aged 11 to 14:

- ▶ **Year 7: Development of state and society from the Romans to Alfred the Great (899AD).**
- ▶ **Year 8: Development of Church, state and society in Medieval Britain from 1066 to 1500.**
- ▶ **Year 9: Industry, empires and challenges for Britain and Europe up to 1918.**

HISTORY: IGCSE

Year 10 and Year 11: Preparation over 2 years for the IGCSE exam based on the

Cambridge International syllabus:

- ▶ • **Sequence 1:** Were the peace treaties of 1919–23 fair?
- ▶ • **Sequence 2:** To what extent was the League of Nations a success?
- ▶ • **Sequence 3:** Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?
- ▶ • **Sequence 4:** Who was to blame for the Cold War?
- ▶ • **Sequence 5:** How effectively did the USA contain the spread of Communism?
- ▶ • **Sequence 6:** How secure was the USSR's control over Eastern Europe, 1948–c.1989?
- ▶ • **Sequence 7:** Why did events in the Gulf matter, c.1970–2000?
- ▶ • **Depth Study:** Germany, 1918–45

IGCSE History Exam

▶ **Component 1 (40% of total grade)**

- 2 hours, written paper

Candidates answer **two questions from Section A (Core Content)** and **one question from Section B (Depth Study)**. All questions are in the form of structured essays, split into three parts: (a), (b) and (c).

▶ **Component 2 (33% of total grade)**

- 2 hours, written paper

Candidates answer six questions on one prescribed topic taken from the Core Content.

For the examination in 2018, the prescribed topic is:

20th century Core Content (Option B):

- ***To what extent was the League of Nations a success? (May/June examination)***

▶ **Component 4 (27% of total grade)**

- 1 hour, written paper

- Candidates answer one question on the **Depth Study**.

Examination Grades: IGCSE

▶ IGCSE grading:

- **A* A B C D E F G** are all valid grades with a numerical score, G being the minimum required performance level.
- **U (unclassified)** indicates that the minimum required performance has not been achieved.
- **UK schools only** will apply the new grading system from **9 (A*) to 1 (G)**.

Examination Grades: AS and A-Levels

▶ AS Level grading:

- **a b c d e** are all valid grades with a numerical score, **e** being the minimum required performance level.
- **U (unclassified)** indicates that the minimum required performance has not been achieved.

▶ A-Level grading:

- **A* B C D E** are all valid grades with a numerical score, **E** being the minimum required performance level.
- **U (unclassified)** indicates that the minimum required performance has not been achieved.

NB: a separate certificate is issued for the AS and A-Level qualifications obtained

Baccalauréat Preparation

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Help in applying to international universities

The International A-Level qualifications combined with the Baccalauréat offer a host of opportunities to our students.

The team at Blanche will help and advise students to the best of our ability with:

- ▶ **UCAS registration and applications for British universities**
- ▶ **Applications to American and Canadian universities**

NB: We also strongly advise students who wish to apply to universities abroad to contact these universities in case they have any specific requirements for international applicants.

Why A-Levels and not OIB?

The choice of IGCSE / A-Levels over the French *Education Nationale*-backed OIB was made following extensive research and analysis by the Blanche de Castille Management and Bilingual Team.

Indeed, the difference in terms of the opportunities offered by each option is insignificant in that European and American universities recognize both systems and **operate equivalences in terms of grades obtained**.

Moreover, the **workload for OIB as a whole is estimated at up to 40 hours per week** for students whereas our students at Blanche preparing the baccalauréat and 2 A-Levels have an extra **7 hours of class** on top of the normal timetable.

Finally, the OIB option is an integral part of the Baccalauréat average grade, whereas **A-Levels are separate exams with separate results, so do not impact the Baccalauréat average**.