

Choice of topic

Students can pursue their interest in the language through research based on texts (spoken or written records of the language) or specific cultural artifacts, a requirement for the category 2(b) essay.

The essay should consist of the study of an issue in one of the three categories: language, culture and society or literature, or a combination of these.

Students must ensure that the materials they require for their choice of topic do not overlap significantly with any other work they are submitting for the Diploma Programme. For example, they must not use:

- a novel in its original form that they studied in translation for language A: literature.
- the same aspects of a film for coursework in film.



Students risk their diploma if academic misconduct is detected.

Clarification on the use of non-fiction in a Language B EE:

Works of fiction and non-fiction can be considered as part of literary investigations provided that the works in question are of literary merit. Candidates should ensure that the work that they wish to investigate has a body of established literary criticism before deciding that the work is worthy of investigation. The availability of secondary sources to support arguments is vital to fulfilling criterion C (Critical thinking).

Examples of topics

These examples are just for guidance. Students must ensure their choice of topic is focused (left-hand column) rather than broad (right-hand column).

Focused topics 	Broad topics 
An analysis of the way in which Swahili is adapting to accommodate the language of technology	A history of Swahili
What does rap music tell us about contemporary German culture? An analysis of the rap lyrics of Bushido and Sookee (alias Nora Hantzsch)	Rap music in Germany
How do we deal with death? An evaluation of the treatment of the theme of death in Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt's novella <i>Oscar et la Dame Rose</i>	An evaluation of Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt's novella <i>Oscar et la Dame Rose</i>