

**Lycée-Collège International Honoré de Balzac**  
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## **School Profile 2009-2010**

- **School Community**

The Lycée-Collège International Honoré de Balzac is a French state coeducational school in the north of Paris with around 1800 students, including students from 6<sup>th</sup> grade through to 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the general or international sections and high school graduates in 2-year post-baccalaureate classes preparing competitive examinations for France's highly selective engineering schools (CPGE Physics, Chemistry & Engineering Studies) or high-profile literary studies (CPGE Literature & Humanities) or national diplomas in the tertiary sector (MUC/CGO).

- **The International Section**

The international classes are open to bilingual students outside the local catchment area. The languages offered are Arabic, English, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. There are no tuition fees but there are selective criteria. Students have to pass an entrance exam in their specific language and need to show a good academic record. All the special-profile staff in the international section are native speakers.

All international students follow the complete French syllabus as well as their specific courses in Language & Literature (5-6 hours a week until 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 4 hours a week in high school) and History & Geography (2 hours a week until 10<sup>th</sup> grade, 3 hours a week in 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades). The school also provides classes in French as a Foreign Language (FLE) to enable students from abroad to quickly acquire the level of French needed to follow the general syllabus.

Students prepare the *Option Internationale du Brevet des Collèges* at the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade and the *Option Internationale du Baccalauréat (OIB)* at the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

- **The OIB Option**

English section students prepare the British version of the OIB supervised by the Cambridge Board of Examinations and coordinated by both Cambridge and French Ministry of Education inspectors.

The OIB requires students to take written and oral examinations in both English Literature and History & Geography. This accounts for a considerable portion of the overall marks as

the OIB is heavily weighted, as much or more than any other honors subject in all three series of the French general baccalaureate, namely S (Sciences), ES (Economics & Social Sciences), L (Literature & Philosophy).

The British OIB enables students with a French baccalaureate to go on to further education in France or abroad and be able to follow either a French-language or an English-language university or college cursus. International section students will have completed the most demanding academic program available within the frame of the French educational system and have proven their bilingual bicultural proficiency as well as their ability to take on such a considerable workload.

- **The French Baccalaureate**

Following the national academic curriculum established by the French Ministry of Education, this exam has been in existence since the creation of French national state education. It serves a double purpose, namely as the graduation diploma for a successfully completed cursus in secondary education and as the required entrance qualification for admission into higher education.

The French general baccalaureate has three series of specializations compatible with the OIB. All weighted courses in a student's chosen concentration can be designated as Honors courses.

**Literary series (L):**

Literature, Philosophy, Modern Languages, Latin or Greek, Arts (Cinema)

**Economics & Social Sciences (ES) :**

Economics, Social & Political Sciences, Mathematics, History & Geography, Modern Languages

**Scientific series (S) :**

Mathematics, Physics & Chemistry, Biology & Geology, Engineering Studies

The following categories of overall pass mark for the French Baccalaureate are awarded. The first is simply a pass; the others are distinctions (*mentions*); the *mention Très Bien* with *Félicitations du jury* is quite exceptional:

<b>Passable</b>	<b>from 10 to 11.99 out of 20</b>
<b>Assez Bien</b>	<b>from 12 to 13.99 out of 20</b>
<b>Bien</b>	<b>from 14 to 15.99 out of 20</b>
<b>Très Bien</b>	<b>from 16 to 20 out of 20</b>
<b>Félicitations du Jury</b>	<b>from 17 to 20 out of 20</b>

- **The French Grading System**

The French grading system is numerical and ranges from 0 to 20. However, at high school level, where evaluations are usually based on the essay format, a score of 20 is considered practically unattainable as it would imply perfection. Even 19 and 18 are extremely rare. Hence grades of 17 or 16 out of 20 are considered quite outstanding.

The Franco-American (Fulbright) Commission for Educational Exchange, Paris, states that one may currently interpret the French 0 - 20 scale in terms of U.S. grading standards as follows:

<u>French High School Grades :</u>	<u>6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>American Equivalent</u>
	19-20	18-20	A+
	16-18	15-17	A
	14-15	13-14	A-
	13	12	B+
	12	11	B
	11	10	B-
	10	09	C+
	09	08	C
	08	07	C-
	07	06	D+
	06	05	D
	05	04	D-
	04	03	F

- **Class Rank**

We do not rank our students except for applications to CPGE (preparatory classes for the competitive entrance exams to highly-selective high-profile French colleges). This is not done until February or March in the second term of 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

- **The Anglophone Terminale Class 2008-2009**  
**(12<sup>th</sup> grade English Section OIB Honors class)**

**Baccalaureate Results 2009:**

**100% overall pass; 71% passed with a distinction ('mention')**

28 students from the three series:

9 S Honors 2 mention B / 6 mention AB / 1 passable

11 L Honors 1 mention TB / 3 mention B / 2 mention AB / 5 passable

8 ES Honors 1 mention B / 5 mention AB / 2 passable

**Studies Overseas 2009/2010:**

USA	6 students	Assumption, Brown (2010), CalArts, Georgetown, Haverford, NYU (Italy, Florence campus)
UK	13 students	Cambridge (grad. 2008), Edinburgh, Essex, Farnham University of Creative Arts, Glasgow, Imperial (grad.2008), Leith College of Art, Northampton (deferred 2010), Southampton, Sussex (grad. 2008), UWE, Warwick
Canada	1 student	McGill (2010)

- **Accreditation**

The French Ministry of Education  
The Cambridge Board of Examinations for the British OIB