

Diplomacy and International Communication in English



What you study:

This elective prepares you to participate in the 21st century world. We focus on learning about cultural diversity, media literacy and knowledge of global issues. In addition, our course of study is designed to allow you develop the skills which are specifically required in today's workforce, namely: making presentations, teamwork, critical and innovative thinking skills, and consensus-building.

The elective is studied in English because English is the language of business, science and diplomacy today. It is also the international language that offers access to understanding other cultures.

Who can study it: This elective subject is only open to students studying English at the five-point level. The elective is studied in addition to, and separate from, general English Studies.

How you study it:

- ✓ You do NOT sit back, listen, and write down what is on the board so you can memorize it and rewrite it in a test.
- ✓ Instead, you become part of a community of learners in both the classroom setting and through experiential participation in various “real-life” situations outside of the classroom.
- ✓ You learn to cooperate and work towards consensus-building, while simultaneously representing a specific position or role within the class.
- ✓ Every class involves doing activities that exercise acquired skills which are applied to the content learned. We start with familiar content and gradually introduce more complex subjects. So, we start with learning about culture, the media and then move on to international relations and negotiating skills.
- ✓ During classes you will have guest speakers, simulations, debates and work with other schools in Israel and abroad.
- ✓ Each lesson involves critical thinking and creativity, while also building social communication skills. These are assets you will take with you into your careers and personal lives.

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Don't leave your future to chance: Choose “D.I.C.E.” It's a Win-Win

Units of Study

- 1) Interpersonal Communication
- 2) Intercultural Competence
- 3) Messages from the Media
- 4) Ethics in Citizen Journalism and Social Media
- 5) Global Issues Today
- 6) International Diplomacy
- 7) Debating and public speaking
- 8) Innovative and Critical Thinking in Decision Making
- 9) Achieving Multicultural Understanding
- 10) Using in Social Platforms Effectively

The list below details the things students will be able to do when they complete their studies in Diplomacy and International Communication across four 21st Century “Literacies”:

1. Information Literacy

Students will be able to:

- a. understand the economic, legal, environmental and social issues surrounding the use of information
- b. access and use information ethically and legally;
- c. access, analyze and evaluate critically the usefulness of information, synthesize information to support a position;
- d. cite or credit sources in a form appropriate for presentation or publication;
- e. use tables, graphs, maps and statistics to challenge arguments, defend conclusions and persuade others;
- e. research, design and write a position paper.

2. Communication Literacy

Students will be able to:

- a. conduct dialogues, debates and negotiations, both in face to face situations and when using contemporary technology;
- b. apply active listening skills as individuals and members of a group in a variety of settings;
- c. use verbal and nonverbal strategies to maintain communication and to resolve individual and group conflict;
- d. participate in and/or lead group discussion;
- e. effectively maintain a role in a simulation to cooperatively reach a solution with others;
- f. give oral presentations on prepared specific issue.

3. Multicultural Literacy and Global Competence

Students will be able to:

- a. identify and respect a variety of cultural norms;
- b. examine and appreciate cultural similarities and differences;
- c. function in situations interacting with people from different cultures;
- d. be aware of their own culture, as seen through the eyes of others;
- e. develop sensitivity that will enable them to participate in a culture of inquiry.

4. Critical Literacy and Creativity

Students will be able to:

- a. identify a range of possible responses/solutions to complex problems and evaluate their short and long term consequences.
- b. explore issues from multiple perspectives.
- c. generate creative and innovative ideas on the basis of critical thinking

The elective will be taught in 2015-16 to 10th grade students.

Students will study the primary (בסיס) subject, Communication Skills, for three hours a week from grade 10 through grade 12, with an external Bagrut exam (three points) at the end of grade 12.

The extension (הרחבה) subject will be studied for an additional three hours a week in grades 11 and 12. At the end of grade 12, students will be assessed internally (two points). Students can choose between two options - Translation Skills **or** Conflict Management & Resolution.

Primary (בסיס)	Extension (הרחבה)	
Communication Skills	Translation Skills	Conflict Management and Resolution
3 points	2 points	2 points
3 weekly hours in grades 10-12	3 weekly hours in grades 11-12	3 weekly hours in grades 11-12
60% External assessment	40% School assessment	40% School assessment

In the primary course, Communication Skills, students will develop their interpersonal, intercultural and cognitive abilities through meaningful learning in which they:

- analyze and evaluate media texts and construct media texts adapted to audience and purpose;
- structure, present and respond to arguments about multifaceted and controversial topics, accommodating the norms and conventions of public discourse in oral and written modes;
- maintain international forums for cross-cultural communication using digital media and technologies;
- acquire effective collaborative strategies to negotiate and make decisions through role play and simulation;
- apply thinking skills and creativity exercises to explore solutions to current issues of global concern.

At the extension level, students will choose **one** of the two options below:

- Students who study Translation Skills will translate from English to their mother tongue (Hebrew, Arabic), will be able to properly translate non-fiction and literary texts, edit the translation, and discuss the process and the decision-making using professional terminology. This process will develop higher-order thinking skills as well as skills and tools which will enable them to function effectively in academic studies, international business, diplomacy and communication. With meta-linguistic and multi-cultural awareness, students will be better equipped to use language (English, their mother-tongue and any other languages they know) effectively. Through the study of the Translation Skills, students will learn to be flexible when using language, adjusting the style to the situation/context.
- Students who study Conflict Management and Resolution will learn to analyze, manage, resolve and prevent conflicts. They will discover the many factors underlying a dispute and learn to re-frame the issues so that options for resolving a dispute can be discussed and chosen. Applying social and psychological theories, students will engage in group decision-making built on trust, transparency and shared interests. In addition to studying theory and case studies, students will participate in various public forums with "audiences" outside of their own classrooms. They will apply the knowledge gained to interpersonal, social, environmental, international relations and business contexts.

