

MYP Language & Literature

A Conceptual Scope and Sequence

Each **specified concept** is set out across the three phases of the MYP, showing how conceptual understanding *deepens*. The micro-concepts beneath each specified concept are intended as disciplinary lenses that help teachers and students approach each concept from multiple angles. They are not discrete content points to be “covered”, but possible entry points for inquiry, interpretation and analysis.

The phase labels pair the programme's structure (MYP 1/3/5) with depth of understanding, so teachers can plan for the year while differentiating for where learners actually are. Progression is not strictly linear, and students may demonstrate understanding across phases depending on the text, task and context. The descriptors are intended to support curriculum planning, differentiation and professional dialogue rather than function as fixed achievement benchmarks.

For **individual teachers**, this resource can support unit planning, differentiation and reflection on conceptual depth in your existing units.

For **departments**, it can anchor conversations about vertical alignment, shared conceptual language across MYP 1–5, and the conceptual demands of assessment tasks.

This resource is illustrative, not exhaustive — a starting point for thinking, not a prescription. Schools should adapt it for their own context, learners and texts.

Specified Concept and Disciplinary Lenses	MYP 1 / Foundational	MYP 3 / Developing	MYP 5 / Sophisticated
Aesthetics <i>beauty · craft · form · literary value · taste</i>	What pleases in a text; sound and rhythm; personal preference	Authorial craft and deliberate choices; form and effect; the reader's aesthetic response	Aesthetic judgments as shaped by culture, ideology and context; competing ideas about literary value and artistic merit
Audience imperatives <i>target audience · audience expectations · audience engagement · accessibility · impact on audience</i>	Clear target audiences; obvious audience expectations; basic accessibility and engagement	Language and register tailored to specific audiences; targeted impact across distinct text types	Diverse, fragmented or global audiences; complex and competing expectations; texts adapted for multi-layered engagement
Change <i>transformation · turning points · cause and effect · gradual vs. sudden · revision</i>	Visible transformations in characters, settings or plot	Internal and external drivers of transformation; structural, emotional and tonal shifts within a text	Gradual, ideological or linguistic evolution over time; change as a historical or cultural force
Character <i>character arcs · character development · character voice · character types · character relationships</i>	Character traits, descriptions and surface motivations	Dynamic and static characters; evolving relationships; distinct voices and growth across a text	Layered character arcs; archetypes and their functions; psychological and moral complexity
Communication <i>message · medium · the implicit and explicit · clarity · miscommunication</i>	Direct messages, facts and emotions communicated through standard forms	Implicit and subtextual meaning; non-verbal cues; register and medium shaping what is said	Power, ideology and representation shaping who is heard, valued or marginalised

<p>Communities</p> <p><i>shared language · belonging · inclusion and exclusion · group identity · readership</i></p>	<p>Groups, families and communities represented in a text, and who belongs</p>	<p>Language that marks belonging; tensions between the individual and the group; the values a community shares</p>	<p>Texts that include or exclude particular readers; the shared language of a group and what it assumes; community values shaping what gets written and read</p>
<p>Connections</p> <p><i>allusion · parallels · influence · patterns across texts · text and world</i></p>	<p>Links between a text and familiar stories or personal experience</p>	<p>Parallels across genres, eras and cultures; texts that draw on or echo one another</p>	<p>Connections that change how a text is read; influence, borrowing and the line between them</p>
<p>Context</p> <p><i>historical context · social context · cultural context</i></p>	<p>Cultural, historical and social markers on the surface of a text</p>	<p>Context shaping a text's themes, characters and concerns; texts read against the moment they were written</p>	<p>Competing contexts pulling a text in different directions; the reader's own context shaping interpretation alongside the writer's</p>
<p>Creativity</p> <p><i>originality · invention · imagination · convention and risk · experimentation</i></p>	<p>Imaginative language, descriptive detail and familiar creative conventions</p>	<p>Adaptation and manipulation of genre conventions, structure and style for effect</p>	<p>Purposeful experimentation with language, structure and form to challenge expectations and create new meaning</p>
<p>Culture</p> <p><i>values · traditions · beliefs · representation · cultural identity</i></p>	<p>Cultural markers in a text: traditions, customs, idioms, and symbols</p>	<p>Cultural values and beliefs in tension; identity negotiated across generations or between cultures</p>	<p>Whose culture a text treats as central and whose as marginal; texts that reinforce or challenge dominant cultural values</p>
<p>Development</p> <p><i>progression · elaboration · sequencing · subplots · sustained argument</i></p>	<p>Linear progression of plot or a clear, step-by-step line of reasoning</p>	<p>Interwoven subplots; an argument built and extended across a text</p>	<p>Non-linear and multi-stranded development; reasoning sustained and layered across a whole work</p>

<p>Form</p> <p><i>text type · conventions · shape and layout · form and meaning · hybrid forms</i></p>	<p>Recognisable forms with identifiable features and conventions</p>	<p>Structural and visual choices shaping meaning, mood and audience engagement</p>	<p>Deliberate blending, disruption or reinvention of forms to create layered or unconventional meanings</p>
<p>Genre</p> <p><i>fiction subgenres · non-fiction subgenres · hybrid genres · genre conventions</i></p>	<p>Familiar genre conventions, patterns and audience expectations</p>	<p>Genre conventions shaping tone, characterisation, meaning and audience response</p>	<p>Genres evolving, merging and reshaped by cultural, historical and artistic contexts</p>
<p>Global interactions</p> <p><i>cross-cultural contact · translation · migration · world literature · the local and global</i></p>	<p>International settings, global issues or characters from diverse geographic backgrounds</p>	<p>Human and societal consequences of migration, globalisation, cross-border contact, and cultural exchange</p>	<p>Post-colonial perspectives; translation and what it gains or loses; how texts move across borders and are received</p>
<p>Identity</p> <p><i>selfhood · belonging · social roles · intersecting identities · construction of self</i></p>	<p>External definitions of self; explicit traits; social roles; family and peer associations</p>	<p>Internal conflict; negotiation of cultural or societal expectations; personal and collective values in tension</p>	<p>Identity as shifting and layered; intersections of culture, gender, class, and race; identity shaped by social systems and representation</p>
<p>Intertextuality</p> <p><i>allusion · parody · pastiche · subtext</i></p>	<p>Simple references, callbacks or shared plot frames between known texts</p>	<p>Structural connections, authorial influences and shared themes across works</p>	<p>Intertextuality used to critique, reinterpret or comment on social, political and cultural ideas</p>
<p>Logic</p> <p><i>reasoning · evidence · inference · coherence · fallacy</i></p>	<p>Cause-and-effect pathways; clear, sequential connections within arguments or plots</p>	<p>Reasoning, evidence and rhetorical positioning shaping arguments and interpretations</p>	<p>Complex reasoning and rhetoric; underlying assumptions shaping arguments and interpretations</p>

<p>Perspective</p> <p><i>viewpoint · stance · bias · positioning · voice</i></p>	Viewpoints, attitudes and biases within texts	Perspectives shaped by personal, cultural and historical contexts	Ideological, political and cultural perspectives shaping both the construction and interpretation of texts
<p>Point of view</p> <p><i>first-person · second-person · third-person · omniscient · limited omniscient</i></p>	Narrative positions and perspectives within a text	Narrative distance, reliability and focalisation shaping audience understanding	Shifting and complex narrative perspectives shaping interpretation, bias and meaning
<p>Purpose</p> <p><i>entertainment · information · persuasion · expression · provocation</i></p>	Single, overt authorial intentions: to inform, persuade, entertain	Multiple or interwoven purposes within a single text	Conflicting, hidden or subversive agendas within complex works
<p>Relationships</p> <p><i>power · dynamics · interdependence · conflict · connection</i></p>	Character connections (family, friends) and surface interactions	Shifting power dynamics, interdependencies and tensions within relational webs	Relationships reflecting personal, social or institutional power and tension
<p>Self-expression</p> <p><i>voice · emotion · personal experience · creativity · authenticity</i></p>	Personal feelings, emotions, individual experiences and creative voice	Self-expression shaped by cultural, societal and historical context	Voice and expression as ways of shaping, revealing or challenging identity
<p>Setting</p> <p><i>time period · location · atmosphere · symbolism</i></p>	Physical locations, time periods and atmosphere	Setting shaping mood; setting as a catalyst for narrative movement or tension	Setting as a symbolic vehicle; interplay between place and a text's thematic concerns

<p>Structure</p> <p><i>plot · pacing · chronology · framing · climax</i></p>	<p>Clear sequencing and organisational patterns supporting meaning</p>	<p>Pacing, framing and shifts in chronology shaping tension, meaning and interpretation</p>	<p>Complex or fragmented structures shaping perspective, interpretation and thematic meaning</p>
<p>Style</p> <p><i>diction · syntax · figurative language · tone · voice</i></p>	<p>Word choices, imagery and tone in prose or verse</p>	<p>Aesthetic and thematic impact of stylistic devices like metaphor and symbolism</p>	<p>Complex stylistic choices, layered registers and experimental voices shaping interpretation and meaning</p>
<p>Systems</p> <p><i>grammar · register · convention · genre as system · rules and patterns</i></p>	<p>Shared linguistic and textual conventions supporting communication</p>	<p>Patterns of language, style and convention shaping meaning and audience response</p>	<p>Manipulation or disruption of linguistic, symbolic and cultural systems shaping interpretation and representation</p>
<p>Theme</p> <p><i>social issues · the human condition · moral dilemmas · existential concerns</i></p>	<p>Explicit moral lessons, direct messages, social issues and central topics</p>	<p>Implicit themes, subtexts, underlying social dynamics, and explorations of the human condition</p>	<p>Universal themes across historical, regional and generic boundaries; cross-textual thematic critique</p>
<p>Time, place and space</p> <p><i>temporal setting · spatial setting · displacement · boundaries · symbolic space</i></p>	<p>Spatial boundaries, historical settings and temporal markers</p>	<p>Physical and geographic displacement; environments and eras shaping character psychology and mood</p>	<p>Social, political and psychological dimensions of space, including displacement, belonging and contested environments</p>