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My MYP English Portfolio

My MYP English Portfolio contains 330 questions and answer options that cover the topics of the MYP syllabus. It helps students understand the questions that can be asked about these topics and prepare and practise their personal responses to these questions. The various answer tables are presented in a way that allows the students to pick and choose the parts of the answers that best reflect their own situation.

The Portfolio also encourages the students to review the relevant vocabulary and grammar prior to answering the questions, thus providing a great revision tool in preparation for the different assessment components.

About the author

Ronny Mintjens is a practising IB Language teacher, examiner and workshop leader for the International Baccalaureate. He is the author and publisher of the "Language Ab Initio Student Workbook" and a wide range of related language acquisition resources in various languages. He is also an IB workshop developer, a language acquisition and mother tongue consultant, a moderator for the IB Programme Communities, the Head of Languages at a world-renowned IB school and a tireless advocate for mother tongue entitlement in international education. Beyond his life as a linguist, Ronny is a world traveller, a published novelist and photographer, a former professional football coach, a serial writer and an avid reader.

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MYP English Portfolio

Welcome to your English Portfolio. This resource will help you turn your English course into a personal journey and prepare you fully for the final assessments. The English portfolio is designed to be used on a daily basis as you develop your English language proficiency.

What is the MYP English Portfolio ?

The MYP English course is an organic course. You will learn vocabulary, grammar, syntax, skills and cultural facts throughout the various units that your teacher presents. While the course is open-ended, there are a wide range of themes and topics that *must* be covered and that are the same for all languages.

The following are the MYP Language Acquisition themes and topics presented in this Portfolio :

Identities and relationships	Orientation in space and time	Personal and cultural expression	Scientific and technical innovation	Globalization and sustainability	Fairness and development
Personal attributes	Daily routine	Leisure	Transport	Education	Social issues
Personal relationships	Neighbourhood	Holidays and tourism	Media	The workplace	Climate
Eating and drinking	Physical geography	Festivals and celebrations	Technology	Environment	
Physical well-being		Entertainment		Global issues	

Since the acquisition of a new language is an ongoing and organic process, you are encouraged to develop your personalized English **Portfolio**. The development of a Portfolio is *not* an MYP requirement but will help you a great deal as you expand your knowledge and understanding of spoken and written English and as you undertake progressively more complex readings, writings and oral presentations.

In this Portfolio, your course has been divided up into six themes and twenty topics. For each topic a number of questions have been suggested. The questions range from basic to complex and you are encouraged to answer each one of these questions whilst using the vocabulary and grammar that you learn in your lessons.

This process of answering many questions allows you to familiarize yourself with the topic-specific vocabulary, to revise and practise the grammatical concepts learned and to provide personalized answers in writing and speaking. The creative nature of the Portfolio also allows for differentiation, where you can challenge yourself to provide detailed answers, to explore grammatical variations (eg tenses) and to set minimum requirements for yourself (eg “use at least three adjectives”).

The table on page 4 shows you the various applications of this Portfolio.

Applications of the Portfolio	Writing	Listening	Read	Oral
Coverage of all the course topics	√	√	√	√
Vocabulary practice	√	√	√	√
Grammar practice	√	√	√	√
Writing practice	√		√	
Speaking practice				√
Listening practice		√		
Combining Portfolio paragraphs will lead to almost complete responses	√			√
Cultural understanding	√	√	√	√

By the time you reach the end of the course, you will have a complete set of questions and answers that will, in various forms, be tested in the various assessments.

How do I use my MYP English Portfolio ?

This Portfolio contains a comprehensive list of questions and answer options that have been grouped by theme and by topic.

Your task is to :

- find the questions that you cover as you progress through the course. For example, once you have covered part or all of the topic of “Eating and Drinking”, you should consult the Portfolio section on this topic;
- study the vocabulary and the grammar related to the topic in question before attempting to answer all the relevant questions;
- study the many answer options that have been given and select the ones that apply to your personal situation. From these options, construct your answers in a personalized manner. For example, when you describe yourself, simply select the features that correspond with what you look like. Of course, you are free to add more features or to change what needs to be changed;
- practise your writing but also your speaking : read the questions and the answer options out loud, draft your answer paragraph and learn how to say that paragraph;
- keep up to date with your course. As soon as you have covered a certain topic, or parts thereof, you should work on the corresponding questions. This will prevent your independent work from building up beyond manageable levels. Always remember that a new language is learned on a daily basis, not on the eve of the examination ...
- add your own additional questions at the end of each section. We do not claim to have produced an exhaustive list of questions.

Portfolio example

When you are being asked : « *Can you describe your house/flat ?* » (Question 14), you must not simply say that your house is big or small or that your flat has five rooms. In order to fully exploit this question and show how much you have learned in English, you should differentiate between :

- whether your home is a house, an apartment, a chalet, a mansion
- whether your home is big or small
- whether your home is modern or not
- whether your home is near the city centre, in the suburbs or in the countryside
- whether there is one floor or more than one floor
- whether there is a garden or not
- whether there is a view of the mountains or of the town
- how many rooms there are in your home
- which rooms there are in your home
- etc.

When describing your home, why not include a photo in your write-up, Powerpoint presentation or blog entry ? Be as creative and artistic as you can when working on your Portfolio – it is there for you to enjoy !

Possible formats of your Portfolio

Eventually your Portfolio will become a summary and a record of your language-learning experience. It is something you should celebrate and be proud of, so think of a way in which you can fully express yourself and revise best for your assessments.

Some options include :

- using an exercise book to prepare your answers in writing;
- working on a word-processed Portfolio;
- developing a blog;
- creating Powerpoint presentations;
- producing short video clips;
- etc.

Your teacher may also ask you to produce a combination of the above (and other) options.

The addition of visuals to some of the responses will provide a great creative touch and will, in many cases, also aid recognition and recollection of these responses. Furthermore, you may occasionally present parts of your Portfolio to your classmates, either as practice or as an assessment.

Remember, in order to stand out from the crowd and fully explore your linguistic ability, you must produce answer paragraphs that have a range of vocabulary, grammar and cultural content. Don't be satisfied with one-word answers – they will not earn you good grades and they will limit the communication that you must establish with your audience.

Good luck !



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A. IDENTITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS



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A.1. Personal attributes



Name

Address

City

Phone: Day ()

e-mail address

State

Color Choice

Size

1. How are you ?

I am fine, Fine, I am very well, I feel great, Not bad,	thank you, thanks,	and you ?
So so,		
I am not well I don't feel well today I feel very tired today		

2. What is your name ?

My name is	Anna Christopher Daniela Ibrahim Suh Yoon
------------	---

3. How do you spell your name ? Can you spell your name please ?

A-n-n-a C-h-r-i-s-t-o-p-h-e-r D-a-n-i-e-l-a I-b-r-a-h-i-m S-u-h -Y-o-o-n
--

4. What is your telephone number ?

My telephone number is	1234 5678 876 54 321
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5. What is your email address ?

My email address is	jsmith@yahoo.com lmessi@gmail.com
Note :	« @ » is pronounced « at » in English « . » is pronounced « dot » in English So you say : « jsmith at yahoo dot com »

B. ORIENTATION IN SPACE AND TIME



CONTEN :

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B.1. Daily routine



6. At what time do you ... ?

On weekdays On schooldays On Sundays During the weekend During the holidays	I	(usually) (normally) (always)	wake up get up get dressed ...	at 6 o'clock at 7.30 in the morning just before breakfast as late as possible around noon after lunch at 2 pm in the afternoon in the early evening straight after dinner time late in the evening just before I go to bed
		like to		

7. Which chores do you do at home ?

At home Every morning After dinner Every Saturday Whenever I have time	I	prepare breakfast wash the dishes take the trash out tidy up my room	
		help out by	making the beds taking the dog out washing the car sweeping the floor

8. How many times per week do you prepare dinner ?

I prepare dinner	once a week every evening when I don't have any homework on Tuesdays, because my parents work late on Friday evening, before my favorite TV show on Sundays, so that my parents can rest
I never prepare dinner,	my dad is an awesome cook ! we have a helper at home my family and I eat out every night I always eat take-away in the evenings

C. PERSONAL AND CULTURAL EXPRESSION



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C.1. Leisure



9. What do you like to do in your spare time ?

In my spare time	I like to I often	play football listen to music watch TV go for long walks draw or paint work out in the gym read blogs online
	I enjoy I spend a lot of time	going out with my friends reading detective novels window-shopping hanging out with my friends at a coffee shop sleeping
Because of my studies I don't have a lot of spare time, but whenever I can I talk with my parents and my brother. I also like to take my dogs for a walk and I enjoy doing crosswords or playing computer games. I don't read a lot but I try to watch all the latest movies.		

10. Which are your favorite leisure time activities ?

My favorite leisure time activities are		listening to hip hop music and singing swimming and reading skydiving and cooking studying and writing texting my friends and chatting on the phone		
In my free time When I have a few free moments After school	I enjoy	listening to music playing sports watching TV chatting online with my friends reading a good novel going hiking with my family sleeping doing nothing at all	because	it helps me relax it distracts me from the pressures of school it helps me forget my problems I like to be active I love good literature I am too tired to do anything else I don't get much time for myself

D. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INNOVATION



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D.1. Transport



11. Which means of transport do you prefer and why ?

I prefer to travel	by	car	because	it is fast and convenient you don't get wet when it rains you can listen to music
		bicycle		it is very healthy I enjoy the open air I can stop when and where I want
	on foot			I enjoy the exercise I can take photos along the way it allows me to get away from traffic

12. What is your favorite means of transport when you go on holiday ?

I prefer to travel	by	bus	because	we have a good network in my country it is cheaper than the train I find it very comfortable
		train		you have a lot of space for your legs it is relaxing and you can sleep you get to see the countryside
	car			you can stop whenever you want we can share the cost of the fuel there are no strangers all around you

13. To travel to another country, which means of transport do you prefer ?

I prefer to travel	by	plane	because	it is the fastest way to travel you can cover big distances quickly I find it very comfortable
		train		you have a lot of space for your legs it is relaxing and you can sleep you get to see the countryside
		car		you can stop whenever you want it is cheap there are no strangers all around you
		boat		I love the sea you can walk around freely there are usually lots of facilities on board

E. GLOBALIZATION AND SUSTAINABILITY



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E.1. Education



14. Where do you go to school ?

I go to school I am a student	at	the International School of <...> the American School of <...> the British School of <...> the <...> International School a private school in <town/city> a government school in <town/city> an IB school in <town/city> about five kilometres from my home
	in	<town/city>, far from my home
	abroad	across the border, in <town/city>

15. Can you describe your school ?

My school	is	modern quite small very big, with over 500 students one of the oldest in the city/country very traditional a boarding school an international school the only international school in the city a private school/ government school an IB school very expensive well-equipped the best in the region a United World College situated on a beautiful campus on the outskirts of the city located in the city centre
	has	less than 200 students over 1,000 students a lot of beautiful buildings, a football field, a swimming pool, a large library, twelve science laboratories, a gymnasium and administration offices an auditorium, an arts centre and music rooms a primary and a secondary section a kindergarten for the youngest students students from many different countries
	was	founded in 1962 established in 1985
		provides an international education to youngsters from all around the world offers the International Baccalaureate program

E.3. Environment



16. What do you like to do when you go to the beach ?

When I go to the beach	I	like to often usually	relax and read a good book go for long walks play football or badminton sunbathe take photos of the people there help pick up the trash that washes ashore
I go to the beach at least once a month with my school. We spend a whole day doing a big clean-up. We collect all the trash that has landed on the beach and deposit it in large boxes. We get a free lunch from the town council.			

17. What do you like to do when you go to the mountains ?

When I go to the mountains	I	like to often usually	go for a hike with my friends discover new trails go fishing in the streams spend the night camping
When I go to the mountains with my friends, we like to spend most of the day hiking along the narrow trails and collecting leaves from different plants and trees. Some of us also take photos of the scenery and the environment. Along the trail we pick up the litter that other hikers have left behind.			

18. What do you do to help protect the environment ?

In order to help protect the environment, I	make sure I pick up all my trash became a member of my school's environmental club help create awareness in my town participate in beach/forest clean-ups never use plastic bags recycle newspapers go to school by bicycle
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F. FAIRNESS AND DEVELOPMENT



CONTEN :

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F.1. Social issues



19. What are some of the social issues in your home town / neighbourhood / country ?

In my town/neighbourhood/country	we have there is	an aging population street crime too much unemployment gender inequality a lack of schools a lack of job opportunities
	there are	social tensions between different ethnic groups a lot of homeless people racial tensions

20. What do the authorities do in order to overcome these issues ?

The government The city council	has built has opened plans to build	homes for the elderly a number of shelters soup kitchens four schools in the town centre
New laws are being created that address		the inequalities between males and females the integration of residents from various cultural backgrounds the tensions between different ethnic groups the limited access to education
The authorities have installed cameras in the streets in order to better monitor the gangs and the safety of the residents		

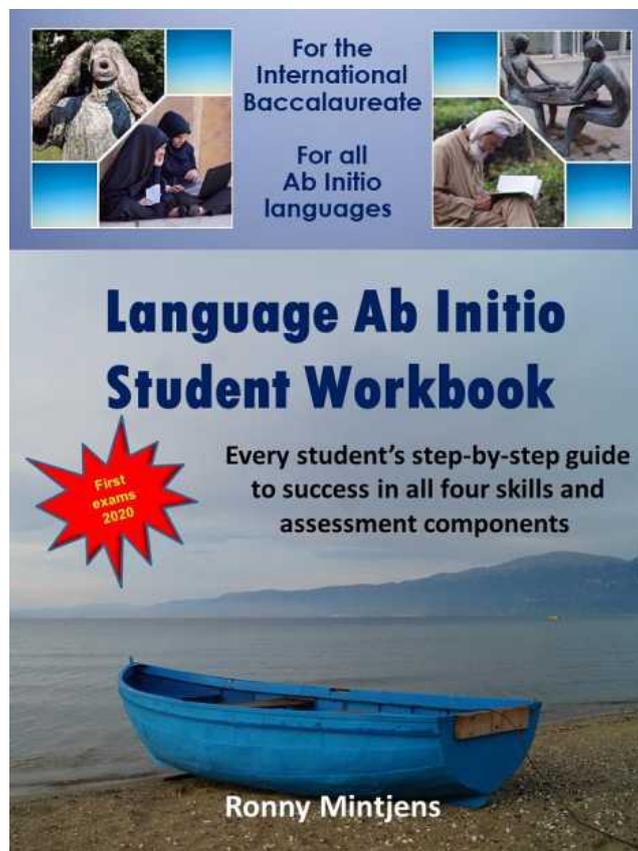
21. What do you do in order to address some of these social issues ?

Once a week Twice a week Every Saturday On Monday evenings From time to time	I	visit a home for the elderly and spend time with the residents there work in a soup kitchen hand out food packets to the needy volunteer in an organization that helps new residents integrate into our community teach <language> to immigrants
When my friends and I go to the home for the elderly we		take walks with the elderly people read stories listen to their stories from when they were young bake cookies or brownies for them help them tidy up their rooms take them on outings to the zoo or to the park

The Language Ab Initio Student Workbook

The Language Ab Initio Student Workbook covers all the components of this language acquisition course and provides a step-by-step guide to the various assessments. Each component is broken down into its various parts and plenty of advice and practice are provided in order to ensure that the student is fully prepared when it matters most. This workbook focuses on reading, writing, listening and speaking and is supported by online resources on the author's website (www.mihunlimited.com).

The introduction of a personal Portfolio helps the student create an ongoing record of their learning and allows them to manipulate the language according to the assessment tasks, the formats and the criteria. By making language learning fun and personal, the Ab Initio student will find a great deal of motivation to create, share and reflect on content and culture in the target language.



For more information, visit www.mihunlimited.com
To place an order, please contact mihabinitio@gmail.com

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Also by Ronny Mintjens

The Language Ab Initio Student Workbook

See description on page 27

More than a Game

An autobiographical novel about the author's life in football and in foreign cultures – his journey from being a footballing toddler in Belgium, then a top division football player in Swaziland and Tanzania, and finally becoming the national youth team coach of Tanzania and Qatar

A Journey through North Korea

A photographic album highlighting the various aspects of life, society, history, nature, culture and food in the world's most fascinating and least understood country. All the photos were taken during the author's twenty visits to North Korea

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For the IB Middle Years Programme