

Visual Arts

International School of Beijing Learns through Understanding by Design

Understanding by Design is an approach to teaching and learning that puts the emphasis on acquiring “Essential Understandings”, often guided by inquiry through “Essential Questions”. “Enduring Understandings” are the important, deep and central “big ideas” of learning that stand behind all that we do. “Essential Questions” are probing, open-ended and thought-provoking questions that spark students and teachers to look beyond the basic content of an area of study.

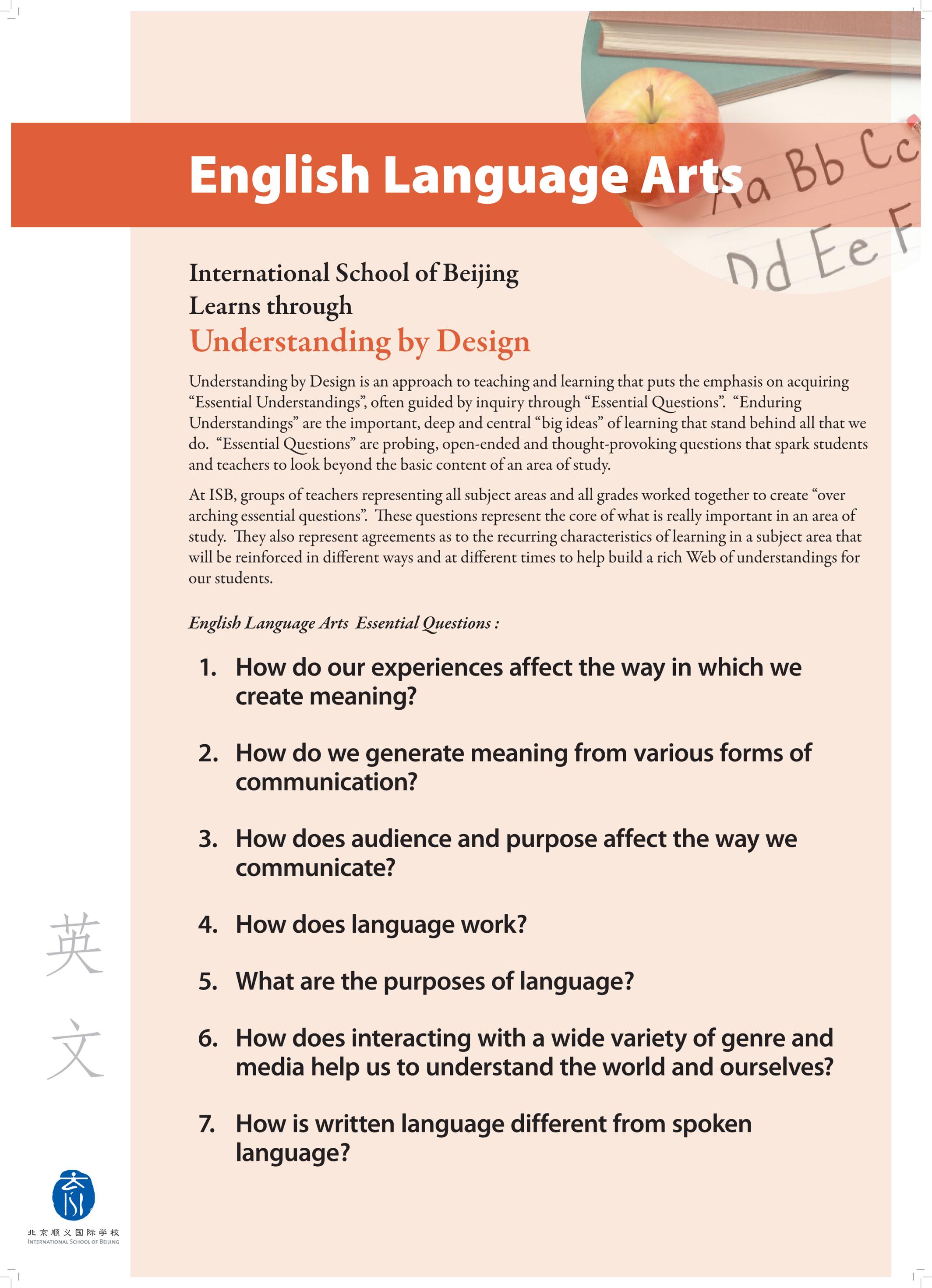
At ISB, groups of teachers representing all subject areas and all grades worked together to create “over arching essential questions”. These questions represent the core of what is really important in an area of study. They also represent agreements as to the recurring characteristics of learning in a subject area that will be reinforced in different ways and at different times to help build a rich Web of understandings for our students.

Visual Arts Essential Questions:

- 1. What is art?**
- 2. Where can we find art?**
- 3. How do we create art?**
- 4. Why do we create art?**
- 5. How does art communicate?**
- 6. How does art reflect history, culture and society?**
- 7. What factors influence artists and artistic expression?**
- 8. How do people express themselves through art?**

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English Language Arts

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English Language Arts Essential Questions :

- 1. How do our experiences affect the way in which we create meaning?**
- 2. How do we generate meaning from various forms of communication?**
- 3. How does audience and purpose affect the way we communicate?**
- 4. How does language work?**
- 5. What are the purposes of language?**
- 6. How does interacting with a wide variety of genre and media help us to understand the world and ourselves?**
- 7. How is written language different from spoken language?**

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ICT

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ICT Essential Questions :

- 1. How does ICT impact my life?**
- 2. When is it appropriate to use ICT?**
- 3. How can I apply ICT to communicate, collaborate and learn?**
- 4. How do I apply ICT to express creativity and foster innovation?**
- 5. How do I effectively manage information to guide my thinking and actions?**
- 6. What are my responsibilities regarding the ethical and legal issues associated with the use of ICT?**
- 7. How do I adapt and develop my ICT abilities to succeed in a rapidly changing world?**



Science

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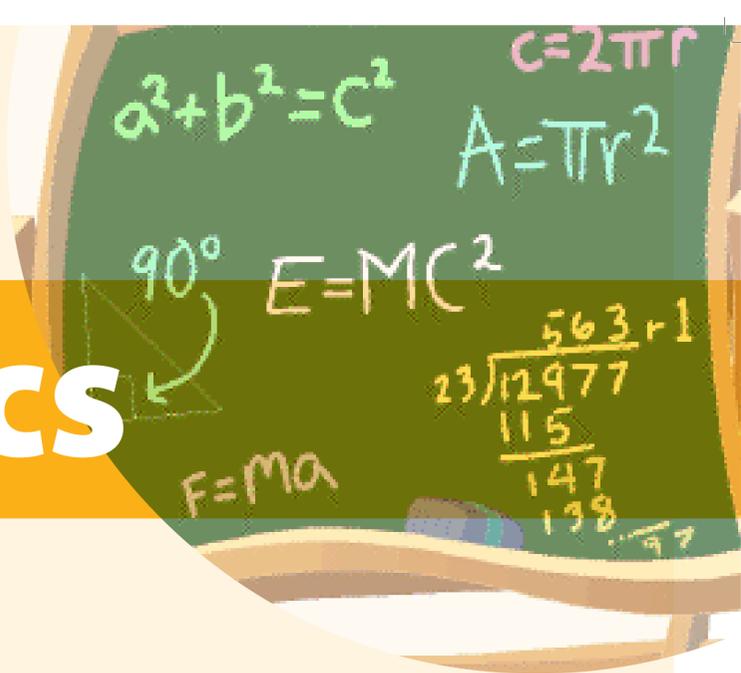
Science Essential Questions:

- 1. How and why do we learn, practice and apply science?**
- 2. How do matter and energy make up our world?**
- 3. What are living things and how do they relate to one another and their surroundings?**
- 4. What systems make up the earth and the universe?**
- 5. How are living and nonliving things affected by change?**
- 6. How do developments in science and technology affect our lives?**

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Mathematics



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Mathematics Essential Questions:

1. How could I solve this problem?
2. What numerical patterns & relationships do I recognize?
3. What spatial patterns & relationships do I recognize?
4. How could I model patterns & relationships?
5. How do I know that my answer is reasonable?
6. How do we communicate mathematically?
7. How do I prove my mathematical thinking is correct?
8. How is math connected to the world?

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Performing Arts

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Performing Arts Essential Questions:

1. How do the arts enhance our lives?
2. What is theatre? Where can we find theatre?
3. What is music? Where can we find music?
4. What is dance? Where can we find dance?
5. What is creativity in the performing arts?
6. Why and how do people create theatre? Why study theatre?
7. Why and how do people create music? Why study music?
8. Why and how do people create dance? Why study dance?
9. What is performance?
10. What factors influence artistic expression?
11. How does feedback affect the creative process?
12. What qualities make a great practitioner in the performing arts?
13. How do the performing arts reflect, as well as shape culture?
14. How do the arts connect us to the past?
15. How has technology changed the arts over time?

表演艺术



World Languages



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World Languages Essential Questions:

1. **How can we use our existing communication skills to learn a new language?**
2. **How does learning a foreign language help us better understand our native language?**
3. **How do good readers make meaning?**
4. **How can we communicate effectively in writing?**
5. **How do good speakers express meaning?**
6. **How do listening skills affect language acquisition and production?**
7. **How does learning a foreign language broaden your perspective of the world?**
8. **How does language shape culture and how does culture shape language?**
9. **How does language connect people?**
10. **What role does grammar play in effective communication?**

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Physical Education/Health



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Physical Education/Health Essential Questions:

- 1. How do I perform at my best?**
- 2. Why is it important to improve?**
- 3. How can I use space?**
- 4. How can I influence the outcome of a game/activity?**
- 5. Why do we have rules?**
- 6. How can physical activity influence health?**
- 7. Why lead a healthy lifestyle?**
- 8. What makes a good team player?**
- 9. How can decisions impact my well-being?**
- 10. Why is active participation beneficial?**

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Social Studies

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Social Studies Essential Questions:

- 1. Why do some things change over time while others remain the same?**
- 2. How does the past influence the present and future?**
- 3. How do we know what happened in the past?**
- 4. Why is “where” important?**
- 5. How does culture develop?**
- 6. How do cultures interact?**
- 7. How are societies organized?**
- 8. How do individuals influence society and how are individuals influenced by society?**
- 9. How is the problem of scarcity solved in society?**

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