



Main Agreement Regarding Principles

of the organization of the French-American baccalaureate

By the French Ministry of National Education, party of the first part, and the College Board, 45 Columbus Avenue, New York, New York, 10023-6992 (United States), represented by its President as follows:

Article 1

In accordance with the declaration of intent signed on April 26, 2005, the two parties intend to establish a French-American Baccalaureate (hereafter designated BFA) based upon the principles stated herein.

This undertaking applies to examination centers located on United States federal territory and concerns the three sections of the French general Baccalaureate: the literary section (L), the economic and social section (ES) and the scientific section (S).

The students concerned are the students of the French schools located in the United-States who followed in their junior and senior years the courses leading to the BFA.

Article 2

The BFA is regulated by the provisions of the general baccalaureate with the exception of those relating to the following subjects, which are the subject of the present main agreement regarding principles of organization of the French-American baccalaureate:

-For the three sections, L, ES and S

- la littérature
- l'histoire

-Depending on the section

- la langue anglaise (section L) ;
- les sciences économiques et sociales ou les mathématiques (section ES) ;
- les mathématiques ou les sciences de la vie et de la terre (section S).

For these examinations, College Board Advanced Placement units (AP units) selected by the French education ministry take the place of general baccalaureate examination papers, on the basis of three units per section, i.e. :

1) épreuve de langue vivante 1 :

- *English Language* (section L)
- *English Literature* (all sections)

(Section L students take the “additional English” oral examination. For this examination, the French Education ministry decides on a list of literary texts chosen for all schools preparing the BFA.)

2) épreuve d'histoire :

- *European History or World History or US History* (all sections)

3) épreuve de sciences économiques et sociales :

- *Microeconomics and Macroeconomics* (section ES)

4) épreuve de mathématiques :

- *Calculus-AB* (section S)
- *Statistics* (section ES)

5) épreuve de sciences de la vie et de la terre :

- *Biology* (section S)

AP units are inserted in the three general sections as follows (three units per section) :

Section L

- *English Language* (taken at the end of the *classe de première* - junior year)
- *English Literature*
- *European History or World History or US History* (taken at the end of the *classe de première* - junior year)

Section ES

- *European History or World History or US History* (taken at the end of the *classe de première* - junior year)
- *English Literature*
- *Microeconomics and Macroeconomics* (or *AP Statistics*)

Section S

- *AP European History or World History or US History* (taken at the end of the *classe de première* - junior year)
- *AP English Literature*
- *AP Calculus AB (or AP Biology)*

Article 3

Participating French schools offer at no charge the AP courses chosen under the usual conditions approved by the College Board: AP examination fees include the cost of evaluating the tests.

The teaching of these courses is carried out by teachers chosen by school heads. If necessary, these may receive training organized by the College Board.

Except as otherwise agreed by the two parties, students in French schools take their tests during the session organized by the College Board in May of their senior year, or in their junior year for the following units: AP English Language (junior year L), AP European History or World History or US History (junior year S and ES). Grades obtained for AP senior-year tests cannot be retained for the BFA session the following year.

Test papers are sent to the College Board according to current arrangements for AP examinations. AP test evaluators are those of the College Board. Members of staff of the College Board are also members of the baccalaureate board of examiners.

The grading of AP tests is carried out according to the current grading scale used in the United States. These grades are conveyed by the College Board to the French examination center for the U.S. on a date compatible with that of the meeting of the French baccalaureate board of examiners. They are then transcribed according to a French grading scale for the calculation of points used to obtain the baccalaureate.

Article 4

Students who pass with success the BFA are awarded the French baccalaureate certificate together with a copy of their AP test results. In addition they receive a document written in English and French giving details of their BFA results. This document is signed and jointly delivered by the French Ambassador in Washington, or his representative, and by the Vice president of the College Board Advanced Placement Program.

Article 5

Representatives of the French education ministry and of the College Board intend to meet once a year for an assessment and follow-up meeting on the implementation of this undertaking alternating between France and the United States. A representative of the French Embassy will attend this meeting. Each of the parties will bear the costs incurred by this meeting.

Article 6

All necessary steps must be taken to ensure that students with special needs are able to take the AP tests.

Article 7

The first session of the French-American baccalaureate will take place in June 2011. The courses leading to the BFA are implemented in the junior year at the beginning of the 2009 school year and in the senior year at the beginning of the 2010 school year.

Article 8

A complementary agreement which will be signed by the two parties within 30 days of the date hereof will be added to this main agreement regarding principles of the organization of French-American baccalaureate.

The main agreement and the complementary agreement will take effect on the date the complementary agreement is signed by the two parties.

The agreements will be tacitly renewed each year, and may be terminated in writing by either party with six months notice before students begin their junior year.

New-York, September 22nd, 2008

For the French Ministry of Education,

For the College Board,

*On behalf of the President
of the College Board*

Xavier DARCOS
Education Minister

Peter NEGRONI
Senior Vice-President