PREPOSITIONS OF TIME AND PLACE — TEACHER'S LESSON PLAN

1. LESSON INFORMATION

Class: 1st Year Baccalaureate — Ticket to English 1, Unit 4: Environment and Ecology
Structure: prepositions of time (at / on / in, since / for, during, until / by, before / after); prepositions of place (in / on / at, under / below, above / over, next to / beside / near, between / among, behind / in front of / opposite)
Time: 45 minutes of teaching (a 55-minute session, minus time for late arrivals and the register)
Materials: the student activity sheet (with the Green Park map for Exercise D), the board
Interaction: whole class, individual, pairs, groups of 4

2. GOALS AND RATIONALE

Students need prepositions to say *when* and *where* environmental action happens: organizing a clean-up, describing a place, setting deadlines. They are also a common source of errors because of L1 transfer: French *depuis* gives *since five years*, and Arabic *fi* leads to overusing *in* (*in Monday*).

3. FOCUS CONTENT AREA

Form, meaning and use of time and place prepositions; contrast of the pairs students mix up (since / for, until / by, under / below, above / over, between / among, next to / near).

4. STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- **Communication:** interpretive (reading the text, reading the map), interpersonal (Exercise D2, sharing announcements), presentational (the written announcement).
- **Communities:** students plan a clean-up day for their own town.
- **Comparisons:** students compare English prepositions with French and Arabic (depuis = since / for; dans deux semaines = in two weeks).

5. OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. state in their own words when to use at / on / in for time and for place (skill level);
2. choose the correct preposition in gap-fill and multiple-choice items, getting at least 8 out of 10 right (capability level);
3. tell the difference between since / for, until / by, under / below, above / over, between / among and next to / near (capability level);
4. write a 5–7 sentence announcement for a clean-up day using at least 3 time and 3 place prepositions correctly (competency level).

6. STAGES AT A GLANCE

Stage 1: Presentation and comprehension check — skill level — 13 min
Stage 2: Practice in new contexts — capability level — 19 min
Stage 3: Use and application — competency level — 9 min
Stage 4: Wrap-up and evaluation — 4 min

I. STAGE 1: PRESENTATION (13 MIN)

Students read a short text, find the prepositions themselves, then work out the rules.

1. **Lead-in (2 min).** Ask: *Has our school ever organized a clean-up day? When? Where?* Write students' answers on the board without correcting yet.
2. **Presentation in context (3 min).** Students read "Green Day at Our School" silently and answer the two quick questions (8 o'clock to noon; at the school gate, next to the library).
3. **Noticing (4 min, pairs).** Students underline every preposition and sort them into the Time / Place table (Task 1). Check together: there are 12 time phrases and 11 place phrases.
4. **Comprehension check: students find the rule (4 min).** Students complete the rule box and the matching table (Task 2). Elicit before you confirm:
   - "since 2020" vs "for four hours": which one gives a starting point? Which one gives a length of time?
   - "until noon" vs "by Friday": does the action continue up to Friday, or must it be finished before Friday?
   - "in the morning" but "at 10 o'clock" and "on 5th June": which is the longest period and which is the most exact?

   Copy two examples on the board: *The clean-up started at 8 o'clock on 5th June.* and *We drank juice under the olive tree.*

> **Contrast with L1 (one line, in passing):** depuis 2020 = since 2020, but depuis quatre heures = for four hours. Arabic uses *fi* for in / on / at, while English uses three different words.

II. STAGE 2: PRACTICE (19 MIN)

Students use the prepositions in new situations, first recognizing them, then producing them.

Pair work: put students in pairs, model the first item, set a time limit, then ask volunteer pairs to read their answers.

EXERCISE A: AT, ON OR IN? (4 MIN, INDIVIDUAL)

Time prepositions only. Students check in pairs, then check together as a class.

EXERCISE B: SINCE, FOR, DURING, UNTIL, BY, BEFORE, AFTER (4 MIN, INDIVIDUAL)

Each sentence has a clue that allows only one answer. Ask students to name the clue (item 5: "the last day" → by, not before).

EXERCISE C: CONFUSING PAIRS (4 MIN, PAIRS)

This is the contrast step for place prepositions. Pairs justify each choice with the meaning from the matching table (*below — it's a measurement*).

EXERCISE D: GREEN PARK MAP (5 MIN, PAIRS)

D1 (3 min): students complete the sentences from the map. **D2 (2 min, oral):** "Where am I?" — one student describes their position in two sentences and their partner guesses. Model it first: *I'm next to the door. The car park is behind me. → You're in the café!*

EXERCISE E: ERROR CORRECTION (2 MIN, INDIVIDUAL)

Each mistake is a typical L1 error. Ask students which language "caused" items 1 and 2.

III. STAGE 3: USE AND APPLICATION (9 MIN)

TASK: OUR CLEAN-UP DAY ANNOUNCEMENT

- **Writing (5 min, individual):** students write a 5–7 sentence announcement for the school notice board. It must say when, where to meet, how long, where to put the bags and the photo deadline. It needs at least 3 time and 3 place prepositions and one suggestion from the unit's functions (*Let's… / Why don't we…?*). Students underline every preposition.
- **Peer check (3 min, pairs):** partners swap, tick the checklist on the sheet and circle any doubtful preposition. Don't interrupt; walk around and note common mistakes.
- **Sharing (1 min):** one student reads their announcement aloud.

IV. WRAP-UP, EVALUATION AND HOMEWORK

Wrap-up (2 min). Write 3 common mistakes from Stage 3 on the board without names (e.g. *in Saturday, since two hours, until Friday* used for a deadline). Students correct them together.

Exit ticket (2 min). Each student writes one sentence with a time preposition and one with a place preposition about the school, and hands it in.

ASSESSMENT

Performance indicators: learners choose the right preposition from its meaning, not by guessing; they correct L1-based errors; they use at least 6 prepositions accurately in the announcement.

Checklist (1 = unsatisfactory, 2 = fairly satisfactory, 3 = satisfactory, 4 = very satisfactory). Score a few students each lesson from Exercise D2 and the Stage 3 task.

Criterion	Score
Form: chooses the correct preposition for the noun that follows (day, time, surface, point…)	1 2 3 4
Meaning: distinguishes the pairs (since / for, until / by, under / below, between / among…)	1 2 3 4
Use (writing): uses the prepositions accurately in a contextualized announcement	1 2 3 4
Use (speaking): uses place prepositions fluently in the D2 pair game	1 2 3 4

HOMEWORK (30–40 MIN AT MOST)

- Finish or correct your clean-up announcement.
- Describe your neighborhood in 6 sentences, using at least 4 different place prepositions.
- Write 5 sentences about your week using since, for, during, until and by.

V. ANSWER KEY

Quick questions: 1. It started at 8 o'clock and finished at noon. 2. At the school gate, next to the library.

Task 1 — Time (12): on 5th June, at 8 o'clock, in the morning, until noon, since 2020, for four hours, during the morning, at 10 o'clock, before the campaign, after it, by Friday, in two weeks.
Place (11): at the school gate, next to the library, in the yard, on the football field, between the classrooms and the canteen, on the wall, in front of the main building, under the old olive tree, among its branches, above our heads, behind our school.

Task 2 — Rule box: at / on / in; starting; length; later; in / on / at.
Matching: 1c, 2a, 3h, 4e, 5d, 6f, 7g, 8b, 9j, 10i

Exercise A: 1. at, 2. on, 3. in, 4. at, 5. in, 6. at, 7. on, 8. in, 9. at, 10. in

Exercise B: 1. since, 2. for, 3. during, 4. until, 5. by, 6. before, 7. After, 8. for

Exercise C: 1. below, 2. under, 3. over, 4. above, 5. between, 6. among, 7. next to, 8. near

Exercise D1: 1. over, 2. between, 3. among, 4. between, 5. behind, 6. on, 7. opposite, 8. near

Exercise E: 1. on Monday, 2. for five years, 3. in the morning, 4. under the car, 5. between the school and the park, 6. by Friday

Stage 3 (sample): *Join our clean-up day on Saturday, 12th April! We will meet at 9 a.m. at the park gate, opposite the mosque. The clean-up will last until noon. Put the full bags next to the recycling bins in front of the café. Let's make our town green! Please send your photos by Monday.*