



International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

Programme Guide 2019



What is the IBDP?

The IBDP is a programme of study, similar to A-levels, which is designed to prepare you for success at university, or elsewhere. It is taught in nearly 150 countries across the world. The IBDP aims to develop you both educationally and personally, such that you leave school ready to engage with the world as a global citizen.

You will study six different subjects over two years. Three of these subjects you study at standard level (SL), and three at higher level (HL).

Alongside subject studies, you complete a core programme, which includes:

- *an extended essay on a subject of your choice*
- *Theory of Knowledge (ToK), a subject which supports your studies in other lessons. ToK is where we look at the really big questions*

- *Creativity, Action and Service (CAS), which is a series of learning-experiences outside of the classroom. The skills and knowledge you learn here will be just as important to your success when you leave us and go onto the next stage of your future*

What subjects are on offer?

The IBDP divide subjects into 6 groups. The subjects we offer are as follows:

- **Group 1 – Studies in Language & Literature:** *English Literature (SL)*
- **Group 2 – Language Acquisition:** *Spanish ab initio (SL)*
- **Group 3- Individuals and Societies:** *Psychology (HL); Business Management (HL)*
- **Group 4 - Sciences:** *Biology (HL); Sports, Health and Exercise Science (HL)*
- **Group 5 – Mathematics:** *Mathematics (SL); Mathematical Studies (SL)*
- **Group 6 – The Arts:** *Visual Arts (HL); Film Studies (HL)*

How do I decide what subjects to choose?

The IBDP offers you a broad range of subjects to study to a deep level, and offers the perfect preparation for anything you might want to study at university. We suggest that you choose the subjects that most interest you, and you enjoy, or think you might enjoy. However, if you already have specific career aspirations in mind, here are some course combinations that would be suitable:

The Lawyer: English, Psychology, Visual Arts, Mathematical Studies, Biology, Spanish ab initio

The Medic: Biology, Psychology HL, Mathematics, English Literature, Film Studies, Spanish ab initio

The Architect: Visual Arts, Business, English, Mathematics, Sports Health and Exercise Science, Spanish ab initio

IBDP Core

IB DP Core

Extended Essay (EE)

Lessons per week	This is a compulsory component of the IB DP. You will have several meetings with your supervisor, but will complete this piece of work in independent study time
Course content	The extended essay is a key part of the IBDP core, and offers an excellent opportunity to develop the skills you will need to be successful at university. The extended essay requires you to develop a deep understanding of a particular topic that is of special interest to you, related to one of your IBDP subjects. You will research and explore your topic, before writing an extended essay on the subject, with the support and guidance of a supervisor drawn from our teaching team. The extended essay allows you to really personalise your learning.
Assessment	The extended essay is a 4,000 word essay which is sent to an external examiner for marking. You also complete a short interview, called a <i>viva voce</i> , about your essay with your supervisor, which can be excellent practise for university interviews.
Possible careers and further study	The skills in research methods and exploration will stand you in good stead, whatever you choose to do after finishing the IBDP. More importantly, this is your opportunity to explore an area of real interest to you, and receive accreditation for it.

IB DP Core

Theory of Knowledge (ToK)

Lessons per week	This is a compulsory component of the IB DP. You will study 2 lessons per week of ToK
Course content	<p>Theory of Knowledge is a key part of the IBDP. Theory of knowledge explores how we know what we know. We will explore questions like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Can we ever say that one piece of art is better than another?” • “How can scientists claim they have found a gene for psychopathy?” • “Can mathematical models predict what will happen in the real world?”
Assessment	To pass the course you will need to write an essay and make a 10 minute presentation to your class.
Possible careers and further study	The skills and knowledge that you will learn in ToK will support you in studying a wide range of subjects. Maybe more importantly, the ideas we will explore are really fascinating.

IB DP Core

Creativity, Action and Service (CAS)

Lessons per week	This is a compulsory component of the IB DP. Thursday afternoons are reserved for CAS projects, but you will also be expected to work on these at other times, depending on the projects you take part in.
Course content	<p>CAS is an essential part of the IBDP and provides you with opportunities for significant personal and interpersonal development through experiential learning. The lessons learnt in CAS take place out of the classroom, and are personal to you. CAS covers three main areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creativity: this includes engaging with the arts and projects that require creative thinking • Activity: this requires engaging in physical activity, as part of a healthy lifestyle • Service: this involves engaging in meaningful, unpaid voluntary work within our community, for the benefit of others <p>You will be given a wide range of opportunities to engage in different CAS projects over the two years of the IBDP. The learning you will take from it should be as significant as anything you learn in our classrooms</p>
Assessment	You will record and reflect on your CAS experiences and learning over the two years in the form of a diary. The diary will provide the necessary evidence that you have completed this part of the course.
Possible careers and further study	The personal development offered by CAS will be very valuable, whatever you choose to do after completing your IBDP with us.

IBDP Subjects

Group 1: Studies in language and literature

English Literature SL

Lessons per week	Standard Level: 3 lessons per week
Course content	IBDP English Literature teaches you how to critically analyse written English from a variety of cultures, genres and periods. We will study a range of works over the two years, from different times and countries. The IBDP English Literature course explores how we interpret literary works, and teaches you how to analyze and critique them. Throughout the course we will look at the context of the works we study, and examine how our responses to them are shaped by our own cultural background.
Assessment	<p><u>External Assessment</u> Two examinations at the end of the course. One exam is based on the works you have studied</p> <p><u>Internal Assessment</u> A written assignment and two oral assessments</p>
Possible careers and further study	IBDP English Literature is an excellent preparation for a degree in English. However, the critical analysis skills you will develop throughout the course will be invaluable in almost any other area you choose to name.

Group 2: Language acquisition

Spanish *ab initio* SL

Lessons per week	Spanish <i>ab initio</i> is only available as a standard level course. You will study 3 lessons per week of Spanish.
Course content	<p>This is Spanish from scratch! Spanish Ab Initio is for people that have never studied the language before but are interested in learning about other cultures. The course is organized into three themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individual and society • leisure and work • urban and rural environment <p>We will learn about Spanish culture, food, politics and lifestyles.</p>
Assessment	To pass the course you will need to sit 2 exam papers, write a short written assignment and do an individual speaking test with your teacher.
Possible careers and further study	<p>Languages can take you wherever you want to go! Knowledge of a second language is incredibly attractive to employers and universities and can be used in almost any sector. They can lead to an increase in salary, open doors for travel across the world and are incredibly valuable for international business and trade.</p>

Group 3: Individuals and societies

Psychology HL

Lessons per week	This is an option in the IB that comes under the human sciences. You will study 5 lessons a week and require no previous study of psychology
Course content	<p>Psychology is about studying human behaviour,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do we behave as we do? • If we can predict human behaviour can we control it? <p>When studying psychology we start with the social aspect of humans and then move onto how people think and how much of our behaviour is simply biological. We will also be looking at abnormal psychology and research methods.</p>
Assessment	For the exam there are 3 short questions on paper 1 and one essay on paper 2. Paper 3 involves reading a text and answering 3 questions. The Internal Assessment is a report of a simple experiment that you will have conducted in small groups.
Possible careers and further study	Psychology can be useful in many careers as it gives you an understanding of people. Should you continue it onto degree level you can become a psychologist or branch into other areas such as the health service, human resources, teaching or criminal profiling.

Group 3: Individuals and societies

Business and management HL

Lessons per week	There are 5 lessons per week You do not need to have studied business before starting this course.
Course content	<p>IBDP business and management aims to give students an insight and understanding of business activities from a global and local perspective. Students study six key concepts: change, culture, ethics, globalization, innovation and strategy, and the theories and tools that relate to them. The course explores the ethical and human aspects of business, and looks at organizations that are diverse in size, location and sector. Students will complete five units of study across the two years:</p> <p>Unit 1: Business organization and management Unit 2: Human resource management Unit 3: Finance and accounts Unit 4: Marketing Unit 5: Operations management</p>
Assessment	<p><u>External Assessment</u> You will sit two examinations at the end of the course. One paper is based on a case-study which is issued in advance of the exam</p> <p><u>Internal Assessment</u> You submit a commentary on a real-life business organization</p>
Possible careers and further study	IBDP business and management prepares you to study business and management at university. Business graduates can be found in a wider range of industries including retail, banking, accountancy and construction.

Group 4: Sciences

Biology HL

Lessons per week	5 lessons per week
Course content	<p>IB Biology goes beyond just studying the topics below. Being an IB Biologist you will ask questions that challenge what is happening in the world of politics and law, as well as acquiring scientific working skills. So, if you were investigating which plants give off oxygen at a faster rate and why, you might also research what the impact of deforestation has and what international communities are going to do to control the issue. How much money is being spent on TB treatment across the world compared to Malaria? Which is the biggest killer disease and why? These are only some of the questions you will investigate in your IB Biology course; the answers you get might blow you away!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cell Biology</i> • <i>Plant Biology (HL)</i> • <i>Human Physiology</i> • <i>Metabolism (HL)</i> • <i>Molecular Biology</i> • <i>Nucleic Acids (HL)</i> • <i>Molecular Biology</i> • <i>Ecology</i> • <i>Genetics</i> • <i>Evolution and Biodiversity</i> • <i>Animal Physiology (HL)</i> • <i>Practical Investigations</i>
Assessment	<p>Standard Level: Three final exams (totalling 3 hours) and Internal Assessments including various practical activities.</p> <p>Higher Level: Three final exams (totalling 5 hours) and Internal Assessment Activities.</p>
Possible careers and further study	<p>Biology helps develop analytical and data skills so lots of doors are open for careers. Higher studies in healthcare related fields are possible and if coupled with IB Chemistry, then Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Forensic Science are possible. Or you might decide that you want place yourself in a tropical rainforest somewhere and analyse the nutritional content of a droppings of particular species of bird. It's an exciting world out there and the IB Biologist will have lots of options to explore!</p>

Group 4: Sciences

Sports, exercise & health science HL

Lessons per week	You will study 3 lessons per week in this subject.
Course content	<p>SEHS aims to encourage and enable students to appreciate and understand the value of physical education and to develop an interest in the promotion of health and wellness.</p> <p><u>Core</u> There are six compulsory topics in the core: anatomy, exercise physiology, energy systems, movement analysis, skill in sport, measurement and evaluation of human performance.</p> <p><u>Options</u> There are four options. Students are only required to study any two options. Optimising physiological performance, Psychology of sport, Physical activity and health, Nutrition for sport, Exercise and health.</p> <p>A total of 110 hours is spent on theory and 40 hours on practical work.</p>
Assessment	<p>In addition to completing the course objectives, internal assessments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1: 30 multiple choice questions on the core syllabus • Paper 2: Section A – one data based question & short answer questions; Section B – one extended question. • Paper 3: Short answer questions.
Possible careers and further study	The comprehensive curriculum provides excellent preparation for university courses including those specifically related to Sport, Sports Science or Physical Education.

Group 5: Mathematics



Mathematical Studies SL

Lessons per week	You will study 3 lessons of mathematical studies per week.
Course content	The mathematical studies course provides an important key to understanding the world you live in. It has an emphasis on applications of mathematics, and the largest section is on statistical techniques. It prepares you to be able to solve problems in a variety of settings, to develop more sophisticated mathematical reasoning and to enhance your critical thinking.
Assessment	To pass the course you will need to pass 2 exam papers and do a project on the topic of your choice. This project is an extended piece of work based on personal research involving the collection, analysis and evaluation of data.
Possible careers and further study	Mathematical studies will support you if you want to follow a career in social sciences, humanities, languages or art

Group 5: Mathematics



Mathematics SL

Lessons per week	This course is only available at standard level, which means you will study 3 lessons per week.
Course content	<p>Mathematics is a key part of the IBDP. The standard level course explores areas of mathematics such as algebra, functions, equations, circular functions, trigonometry, vectors, probability, statistics, and calculus.</p> <p>An integral part of the course is a mathematical exploration project. This is a piece of written work that involves investigating an area of mathematics.</p> <p>The course at standard level requires solid prior knowledge of mathematical concepts at GCSE level.</p>
Assessment	<p>You will need to sit two 90-minute exams and complete 2 papers (calculator and non-calculator) based on the whole syllabus. The papers will be externally assessed. Each paper constitutes 40% of the final grade.</p> <p>The exploration project will be internally assessed by your teacher and then externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course. It bears 20% of the final grade.</p>
Possible careers and further study	The course equips students with a sound mathematical background and prepares for careers requiring strong numerical and analytical skills as well as future studies in subjects such as (but not limited to) chemistry, economics, psychology and business administration.

Group 6: The Arts

Art HL

Lessons per week	Higher Level: 5 lessons per week
Course content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Comparative study of two or more artists in relation to your work. • Presentation portfolio of sketchbooks and final pieces. • Exhibition and curatorial rationale. • A visual journal documenting all of the above process.
Assessment	All aspects of the course are assessed by sending evidence from each of the four parts documented in PowerPoint form with pictures and supporting text.
Possible careers and further study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Design • Architecture • Fashion • Retail • Photography • Film

Group 6: The Arts

Film Studies HL

Lessons per week	Higher Level: 5 lessons per week
Course content	Through the study and analysis of film texts and exercises in film-making, the course explores film history, theory and socio-economic background. The course develops students' critical abilities, enabling them to appreciate the multiplicity of cultural and historical perspectives in film. To achieve an international understanding within the world of film, students are taught to consider film texts, theories and ideas from the points of view of different individuals, nations and cultures.
Assessment	<p>Every student will complete an Independent Study including a rationale, script and list of sources for a short documentary production of 12–15 pages on an aspect of film theory and/or film history, based on a study of a minimum of four films.</p> <p>A presentation of a detailed critical analysis of a continuous extract from a prescribed film. A Production portfolio including one completed film project with an associated trailer and written documentation encompassing and connecting both - length of film project: 6-7 minutes.</p>
Possible careers and further study	A degree in film studies provides you with a combination of theoretical and technical skills that you can apply to a wide range of jobs in the creative industries.

