

Explanation of the IB Diploma Program Curriculum and Exams

IB has created a curriculum framework based on a liberal arts model, to emphasize a well-rounded course of study. The model contains six subject areas as well as the course Theory of Knowledge. In addition to the course work, students must complete the Extended Essay and CAS requirements for the IB Diploma.

Studies in Language and Literature

- English HL (11 and 12)

This is a two-year course of study and an HL course.



Language Acquisition

- Spanish or French Year 1 (11)
- Spanish or French Year 2 SL or HL (12)

IB requires students have at least 5 years of language study by the senior year before they sit for the exam. Seniors in year 5 are recommended to sit for the SL exam. As seniors in year 6, students may sit for either the SL or the HL exam as needed to fulfill their IB diploma requirements.

Individuals and Societies

- History of the Americas (11)
- World History Topics SL or HL (12)

This is a two-year course of study. Students have the option of either the SL or HL exam in senior year, depending on what is needed to fulfill the students' IB diploma requirements.

Sciences

- Biology SL or HL (11 and 12)
- Chemistry SL or HL (11 and 12)

Biology and Chemistry are a two-year course of study and students have the option of either the SL or HL exam in the senior year, depending on what is needed to fulfill the students' IB diploma requirements. Students may select the discipline they would like to study or can take both sciences and one counts as an elective.

Mathematics

- (MYP) Extended Math (10 or 11)
- IB Math Analysis & Approaches SL
- IB Math Applications & Interpretation SL

The math courses are only offered at the SL level. Students who take Math AA/Math AI as juniors are required to take the SL exam at the end of their junior year. Students who take their math course as a senior may only take one IB exam as a junior.

The Arts and IB electives

- Psychology SL (11)
- Theatre Arts SL or HL (11 and 12)
- Visual Arts HL (11 and 12)
- Chemistry SL or HL (11 and 12)
- Biology SL or HL (11 and 12)

Juniors enrolled in Psychology will sit for the SL exam at the end of that year. Students may take a second science as an elective. Theatre Arts and Visual Arts are two-year courses. Theatre is only offered at either the standard or higher level and Visual Art is only offered at the higher level. Students enrolled in Theatre and Art do not sit for an exam, instead the external assessments are performance and portfolio based. There is a studio exhibition for the Visual Arts course.

Theory of Knowledge

TOK is a two-year course. The TOK essay and presentation replace an IB exam.