

## IB Versus AP: IB Makes a Difference

	<b>International Baccalaureate</b>	<b>Advanced Placement</b>
<b>Authorizaton to Offer Program</b>	Schools must undergo an extensive two-year application process in order to be approved to offer an IB program.	Any high school may choose to offer Advance Placement coursework.
<b>Teacher Training</b>	IBO requires that all teachers working in an IB program be trained at authorized training programs that last between three and five days. Re-training occurs approximately every five years due to curriculum development.	Teacher training is available for Advanced Placement courses, but is not required. Teachers must give up summer vacation time in order to undergo any lengthy training; other training sessions are one-day meetings.
<b>Program Format</b>	Students in the preferred Diploma Program are part of a concerted and directed effort involving all their teachers who meet regularly. Theory of Knowledge is a central course that provides an external look at learning in all subjects.	Students pick and choose their AP subjects; their teachers in different subjects do not meet for the purposes of planning to deliver a coherent educational program.
<b>Program Content</b>	One course in each of six areas: English, Foreign Language, History, Experimental Sciences, Mathematics, and an elective. Extra certificate courses possible. IB emphasizes students' facing challenges even in subject areas that are difficult for them (requires perseverance and ability to overcome obstacles.)	Student chooses from among a variety of courses in different subjects. No guidelines or requirements for forming a program. Students are free to pick and choose only those subjects that they feel are areas of strength.
<b>Level of Difficulty</b>	<b>All</b> IB courses carry weighted Honors-level credit. Courses should be considered to be college level. HL courses are more rigorous than AP courses; SL courses are as rigorous and sometimes more rigorous than AP courses.	All AP courses carry weighted Honors-level credit. Courses should be considered to be college level.
<b>Program Accountability</b>	Program must be accredited. Teachers must be trained. Teachers submit samples of their graded assignments for moderation by IB officials yearly to maintain standard.	No outside standard for accountability available
<b>Student Accountability</b>	Diploma is based on external scoring including a series of examination. Standard is international	Grade is awarded based on externally scored examination. Standard is national.

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<b>Feedback from Exams</b>	Each teacher receives two detailed reports following each exam session. One report gives a summary of how students worldwide did on the exam in that subject, including the range of scores and recommendations for improvement. The second report specifically addresses the performance of the students in that school.	Teachers receive a list of the composite scores for the students who took the exams in their subject. IF more than 12 students take a particular exam, then the teacher gets a chart showing what percentage of students scored at what grade level on each of the exam tasks. Nor narrative feedback provided.
<b>Basis for Grade Award</b>	Varies from subject to subject; approximately half the grade is based on a variety of assessments, oral and written, which are done over the course of 2 years and two or more examination sittings (generally on 2 days). A significant portion of the grade includes input from the teacher.	One-shot examination on one day. No input from teacher included
<b>Eligibility</b>	Students must be enrolled in the specific IB course in order to be eligible for examination	Any student may opt to take the AP examination, whether he or she has taken an AP course or not. (Hence, IB students often opt to take AP Exams.)
<b>Cost</b>	Examinations are MANDATORY for all IB Candidates; county pays all fees for those students	Examinations are VOLUNTARY. County covers no fees, since the exams are not required. Exams currently cost \$89 per exam. Financial aid is available for families meeting certain federally-mandated income requirements
<b>Content Focus</b>	IB courses are process oriented, and emphasize critical thinking, interpretation, and analysis rather than memorization of facts and formulas. Examination is primarily by essay (college-like assessment.) Focus is on depth of study; the English exam, for example, includes two 2-hour essays.	Some AP courses include a heavy emphasis on memorization of facts; this is particularly true in mathematics and the sciences. AP exams include a significant Multiple Choice section. Focus can be on breadth rather than depth; the English exam, for example, includes three 40-minute essays.
<b>College Rewards</b>	Significant recognition provided by a large number of colleges worldwide. Credit is awarded on a subject-by-subject basis depending upon subject scores. Typically, IB diploma holders enter with sophomore standing. Other rewards commonly offered: full-ride scholarship; waiver of application fees, and preferential admission for IB Applicants.	Significant recognition provided by a large number of colleges nationwide. Credit is awarded on a subject-by-subject basis depending upon examination scores. Students passing three or more AP exams (with a minimum score of 3 out of 5) qualify for AP Honors status.

