

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma programme is a highly valued two-year programme of study and a qualification for University entry. It is designed to be accessible for anyone aged 16-19 who has A*-Cs in their GCSEs.

It has been around for a long time and is now becoming more popular in the UK. It is accepted by all UK Universities and UCAS give you points for it just as they do for any other type of qualification.

The aim of the IB Diploma Programme is to give you a broad range of subjects while also allowing you to specialise in the areas you want.

First you need to choose six subjects, one from each group (see diagram below) and study three of them at High Level and three of them at Standard Level. You get the same number of points for High and Standard Level subjects and you do not take exams in anything until the end of the two-year course. As there are no real exams until your final year, this gives you the chance to develop and mature as learners.

Groups	General subject	Example
Group 1	1 st Language	English
Group 2	2 nd Language	Spanish/Urdu/Japanese/...
Group 3	Individuals & Society	Business & Management/History/ Psychology/...
Group 4	Experimental Sciences	Biology/chemistry/Design & Technology
Group 5	Maths & Computer Science	Mathematical Studies
Group 6	The Arts	Visual Arts/Music/theatre

In addition all students study the Core, it is compulsory for every student. This is made up of three parts: Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay and Creativity, Action and Service (CAS). The aim of the Core is to widen your experience and skills, especially outside the classroom.

[The Core = Theory of knowledge + Extended Essay + Creativity, Action and Service](#)

Theory of Knowledge (ToK) - is a taught course in '*how do we know?*'. It covers the main ways of knowing, i.e. perception, reasoning, language, emotion, and considers how knowledge is developed in different subject areas. The focus of the course is on inquiry and learning through discussion. You are encouraged to challenge your assumptions and question how you learn. The subject supports the kinds of creative and critical thinking, which Universities are looking for.

- Can a machine know?
- Can literature tell the truth better than science?
- Can feelings have a rational basis?

- Does living a moral life matter?
- Can we think without language?

Assessment is by presentation and one coursework essay.

Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) - Students' learning should take place inside and outside the classroom. Students carry out 150 hours of CAS over the two years. They are encouraged to develop their creative skills by undertaking activities which are not part of their everyday lessons; they take part in sports for Action and show their care for the community by Service. Some examples of CAS activities are:

- Taking a dance class and then teaching younger students
- Organising a fashion show of students' work to benefit a charity
- Running a school newspaper or radio station
- Coaching a junior sports team

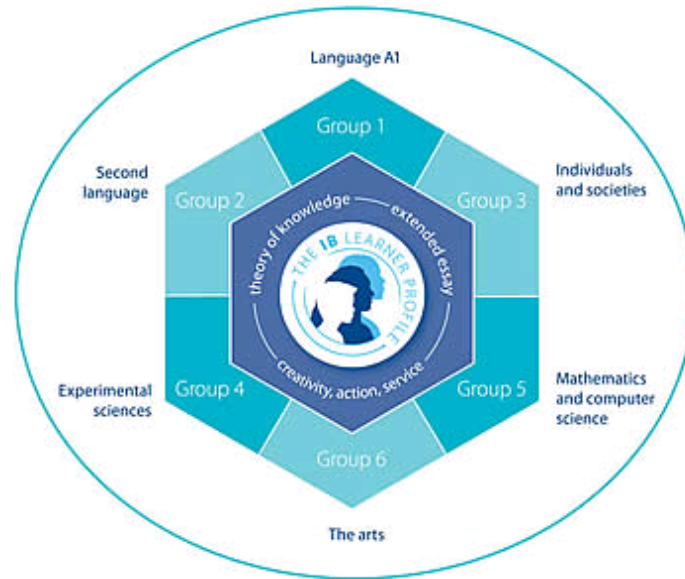
Extended Essay - You carry out a piece of original research, usually in a subject you are studying at Higher Level, developing the independent research study skills which Universities are eager for. It is also a great thing to discuss at interview. You will have a Supervisor who helps you and meets regularly while you are working on your essay. Some examples of essays are:

- Is artificial intelligence real intelligence? An analysis of internet systems and algorithms behind them.
- Does the amount of limonene found in an orange peel vary between the Valencia oranges grown in different countries?
- Can there be any moral justification for the recent war in Iraq?

In the Diploma Programme you learn more than a collection of facts. The Diploma Programme prepares you for University and encourages you to:

- ask challenging questions
- learn how to learn
- develop a strong sense of your own identity and culture
- widen your inter-cultural understanding and exposure to a variety of points of view
- develop your ability to communicate with and understand people from other countries and cultures.

The Diploma Programme values the development of your language and communication skills, both written and spoken. It sees this as key to your maturing confidence and ability to handle complex arguments and thinking.



For more information you can go to: <http://www.ibo.org/diploma/>