



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE ORGANIZATION

The Diploma Programme

Founded in 1968 the International Baccalaureate Organization currently works with over 1,600 schools in 122 countries to offer three challenging programmes to over 200,00 students aged 3 to 19 years. The IBO is a recognized leader in the field of international education.

The IBO's Diploma Programme is a two year curriculum, intended for students aged 16 to 19. It leads to a qualification that is widely recognized by universities for the high standards it represents.

Students who satisfy the rigorous demands of the Diploma Programme demonstrate a strong commitment to learning, both in terms of the mastery of subject content and in the development of the skills and discipline necessary for post secondary success.

The Diploma Programme encourages students to:

- Ask challenging questions
- Learn how to learn
- Develop a strong sense of their own identity and culture
- Develop the ability to communicate with and understand people from other countries and cultures.

As a result, students become active learners, well rounded individuals and engaged world citizens.

IB Diploma Curriculum: Six Subject Groups

Group 1	Language A1	First language, including the study of selections from world literature
Group 2	Language A2	A language and literature course for fluent or bilingual students
	Language B	A foreign language course for students with two to four years previous experience with the language
	Language <i>ab initio</i>	A foreign language course for beginners
	Classical Languages	Classical Greek, Latin
Group 3	Individuals and Societies	Business and management, economics, geography, history, Islamic history, information technology in a global society, philosophy, psychology, social and cultural anthropology,
Group 4	Experimental Sciences	Biology, chemistry, physics, design technology, environmental systems
Group 5	Mathematics and Computer Science	Mathematics HL, mathematics SL, mathematical studies SL, further mathematics SL, computer science (elective only)
Group 6	The Arts	Film studies, music, theatre arts, visual arts

The Diploma

Diploma Programme candidates are required to study six subjects: one subject each from groups one to five, and a sixth subject from group six or an elective. The electives include a second subject from groups one to four, further mathematics SL, computer science and a school-based syllabus approved by the IBO. At least three and not more than four of the six subjects are taken at a higher level (HL), the others at a standard level (SL). Each subject is graded on a scale of 1 point (minimum) to 7 points (maximum). The awarding of a diploma requires candidates to meet defined standards and conditions. These include a minimum total of 24 points, and the satisfactory completion of three additional components. The extended essay (EE) of some 4,000 words provides

a first experience in preparing an independent research paper. The theory of knowledge (TOK) is an interdisciplinary requirement intended to stimulate critical reflection on knowledge and experience gained outside the classroom. Finally, the CAS component involves compulsory participation in three areas: creativity, action, and service.

The Certificate

A candidate who does not satisfy all requirements of the Diploma Programme, or who has elected to take fewer than six subjects is awarded a certificate for the examinations completed. Diploma candidates who successfully complete more than six subjects receive an extra certificate for the additional subjects.

Grading Schemes and Results

A candidate's examination performance for individual subjects is graded according to the following scale:

1. Very poor 2. Poor 3. Mediocre 4. Satisfactory 5. Good 6. Very good 7. Excellent N. No grade

IB scores are criterion referenced rather than norm referenced. Criteria are set out in course guides by subject and year and are available to download through the IB secure site for those with valid accounts. Full details can also be found in "Diploma Programme Assessment: Principles and Practice" available on the IBO website.

The theory of knowledge (TOK) and extended essay (EE) are graded according to this scale:

A. Excellent B. Good C. Satisfactory D. Mediocre E. Elementary N. No grade

Diploma Programme subjects can yield up to 42 points. Three further points can be awarded for the combination of the EE and the TOK. Therefore, the maximum possible score is 45 points. Achievement of less than 24 points will result in a certificate for courses successfully completed, but a full diploma is not awarded.

Results are available in mid-July for May examination session candidates, and mid-January for November examination session candidates. If requested, an official transcript of results will be sent electronically to universities. The transcript will indicate the level of each subject, the grade awarded in each, the total points scored, and the completion of the additional components. It is typically marked *diploma awarded* or *certificate awarded*. A transcript indicating *bilingual diploma awarded* means that the candidate has either studied two A1 language courses, or has studied one A1 language course and an A2 language course, or has taken an examination in at least one subject from group 3 or group 4 in a language other than his or her A1 language.

Approximately 76% of candidates in the United States are awarded a full diploma. In Canada, 92% of candidates receive a full diploma. Throughout the world the average is 83%.

Authorization of Schools and Administration

Only schools officially authorized by the IBO may offer the Diploma Programme and present candidates for examination. About 40% of authorized worldwide schools are located in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean (IBNA).

The IBO head office is located in Geneva, Switzerland. The curriculum and assessment center (IBCA) is located in Cardiff, Wales (UK) and oversees two examination sessions per year. The May session serves the majority of candidates who are from schools in the northern hemisphere, and the November session serves schools in the southern hemisphere. Over 6,000 examiners worldwide are involved in the assessment of candidate work under the supervision of chief examiners in their respective fields.

Universities and governments in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean are encouraged to contact the IBNA regional offices in New York or Vancouver for further information.

New York	475 Riverside Drive, 16 th Floor, New York, NY 10115 USA	Phone: 212.696.4464 Email: ibna@ibo.org
Vancouver	202-1661 West 2 nd Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 1H3 Canada	Toll free: 866.826.4262 Phone: 604.733.8980
	Bob Poole - head of Vancouver office & recognition division Sandra Wade Pauly - university and government liaison	bob.poole@ibo.org sandra.wadepauly@ibo.org