



**Ecole Internationale de Genève**  
**International School of Geneva**

*Campus des Nations*

# INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME CURRICULUM GUIDE

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## Foreword

Campus des Nations is the most recent campus of the International School of Geneva. With modern buildings in the heart of Geneva's international quarter, this campus has quickly established itself as an educationally pioneering school committed to putting student learning at the centre of all its activities. Campus des Nations is proud to be an International Baccalaureate World School. Our programmes are based on the IB's "Learner Profile", a set of ideals that inspire, motivate and focus the work of the school and help students to become more thoughtful, moral, cultured and caring. Fostering these qualities is at the heart of all we do.

Campus des Nations is the smallest of the three campuses of the International School of Geneva. It opened in September 2005 and now has over 900 students representing more than 90 nationalities. Campus des Nations has two sites near the United Nations Office: Pregny (opposite the US Mission) and Saconnex (between the World Council of Churches, the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organisation).

This is the only International School of Geneva campus that offers all four International Baccalaureate programmes. It provides a wholly integrated educational experience in which key themes are constantly reinforced. Beginning with an innovative inquiry-based Primary Years Programme (PYP), students move on to the Middle Years Programme (MYP), and then into the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (DP) at age 16. The IB Career-related Certificate (IBCC) is available as an alternative to the IB Diploma for students who wish to follow a more career-related education.

At Campus des Nations, students in years 12 and 13 can choose between two different International Baccalaureate courses; the Diploma Programme (IBDP) and the Career-related Certificate (IBCC).

The subjects offered in the Diploma Programme are also part of the Career-related Certificate programme and the information contained in the IBDP Curriculum Guide has been repeated in the IBCC Curriculum Guide.

This booklet is intended to give you information on the subjects offered at Nations as well as the nature of assessment in the IBDP.

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## The Diploma Programme

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) is both a two year curriculum and, for those who gain sufficient marks in the examinations and other forms of assessment, a university admissions qualification. The DP represents a balance between a broad curriculum, requiring the candidate to study a range of subjects drawn from a variety of disciplines, and the possibility of some degree of specialisation in the choice of subjects.

The IBDP is an academically demanding course and when choosing courses students should not only be asking questions about their strongest and favourite subjects, but also what they want to study later and where they want these studies to take them. Our guidance counsellors, academic principal and DP and IBCC coordinators are available to help students make these important choices.

Students are permitted to change subjects until November of year 12, and changes from Higher to Standard can be considered after this point, but the earlier the right package is chosen the easier it will be to consolidate the knowledge gained.

These are the subjects (at Higher and Standard level) available at Campus des Nations:

- GROUP 1:** English A; French A; self-taught A Standard level (please see Ms Juniper if you are considering a self-taught language).
- GROUP 2:** French B; Spanish B; French ab-initio; Spanish ab-initio.
- GROUP 3:** Geography; History; History in French; Psychology; Economics
- GROUP 4:** Biology; Chemistry; Physics; Design Technology (Standard)
- GROUP 5:** Mathematics Higher; Standard or Studies (Standard)
- GROUP 6:** Visual Arts; Film

To complete the IB Diploma Programme students take 6 subjects, with at least one subject from groups 1-5 and they may select two subjects in groups 1, 2, 3 or 4 and none in group 6.

For the Diploma students take three subjects at **Higher** level. These subjects should be subjects they feel strong in, and the ones that will lead directly to their university choices.

Students take three subjects at **Standard** level. These are subjects that are studied at a less intensive level although that does not mean that they are easy or unimportant.

One of the crucial factors determining the Diploma is that it is holistic (in other words, students have to study a bit of everything).

Please note that courses can only run with a minimal enrollment number and some subject combinations may need to be revised due to timetabling constraints: students may need to review their initial choices.

On this campus, year 12 students enrolled in the Diploma Programme must take two courses in line with the International School of Geneva's mission statement:

1. Preparing students "for membership of world community based on mutual understanding, tolerance and shared humanitarian values": Global Affairs
2. Pupils are encouraged to become independent learners who are curious and knowledgeable: the Theory of Knowledge course

Campus des Nations encourages students to take ownership of their learning so that they feel equipped to take on the responsibility and organisation needed for higher education. One part of this is the extended essay, which provides the opportunity for students to refine the methodology of scholarship, to undertake a substantial goal, to follow it through to its conclusion and to engage in independent research.

Another integral part of the student's life in years 12 and 13 is the Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) programme, which is but one example of many opportunities students have to exercise creativity, take physical action and to give service. Also, students can take part in the International Award alongside CAS

For further information, please contact the IBDP Coordinator, Alexandra Juniper at [alexandra.juniper@ecolint.ch](mailto:alexandra.juniper@ecolint.ch)

## The Diploma Programme curriculum

The Diploma Programme (IBDP) is a two-year course of study for students aged 16 to 19. It offers a broad and balanced curriculum, which is a deliberate compromise between the early specialization preferred in some national systems and the breadth favoured in others. Subjects are studied concurrently and students are required to follow a range of subjects representing all the major disciplines.



Active citizenship and global perspectives are encouraged in each area of the curriculum. Distribution requirements ensure that the science oriented student is challenged to learn a second modern language and that the natural linguist becomes familiar with science laboratory procedures. Flexibility in choosing higher-level subjects allows the student to pursue areas of personal interest and to meet special requirements for university entrance within a balanced overall programme.

The subjects are continually reviewed and revised to meet contemporary needs. The list that follows serves as a current guide only. Students have several language options: all must take a first language course (group 1) as well as a second language (group 1 or 2). There are three levels for the second languages: bilingual or highly competent, foreign language, or little or no experience with the language (ab initio).

Students studying for the full diploma are required to select one subject from each of groups 1 to 5 (although it is possible to study 2 group 1 subjects instead of a group 1 and group 2). A sixth subject is chosen either from group 6, or as a second subject from one of the other groups. Three subjects are taken at higher level (HL) and three subjects are taken at standard level (SL).

The recommended teaching time is 240 hours for an HL course and 150 hours for an SL course. This allows students to go into more depth in their preferred subject areas, while requiring them to continue to study in other areas. SL courses are often subsets of HL courses in the same subject.

The IBDP's curricular structure defines the framework in which assessment must operate.

Individual assessment models are constructed for each subject at both HL and SL, for theory of knowledge (TOK) and for the extended essay. Two examination sessions are held each year, in May and November, with results being released in early July and early January respectively. The published results are made up of subject grades, which equate to diploma points, in the range

from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest) at HL and at SL, and grades from E (lowest) to A (highest) for TOK and the extended essay.

A matrix table converts the combined letter grades for Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and the extended essay into a points score from 0 to 3.

Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) does not contribute to the points total, but authenticated participation in CAS is a requirement without which the diploma cannot be awarded.

The maximum possible points total for a IBDP student is 45 (6 x 7, plus 3). A student gaining 24 points or more, subject to certain conditions relating to the distribution of points across subjects, will be awarded the Diploma. The policy of making the same number of points available for both HL and SL courses, despite the difference in workload and achievement at the two levels, is a deliberate one, encouraging students to regard their SL courses as equally important to their HL courses. Students are encouraged to achieve their best across all disciplines and are appropriately rewarded for doing so.

The minimum score of 24 is based on the notion that a grade 4 represents a passing level in each of the six subjects. Specific rules apply to overall performance and are listed in the regulations that schools agree to observe. Excellent performance in all of the six subject areas results in a total of 42 points (7 points for each subject). The maximum diploma point score is 45, is achieved by very few candidates worldwide, with less than 5% of all full diploma candidates gaining more than 40 points. The diploma pass rate worldwide has remained fairly stable at approximately 80% in recent years.

Candidates for the diploma normally take all examinations in a single session at the end of the two-year period of preparation. All students are encouraged to follow the full Diploma Programme. Those who fail to satisfy the entire set of requirements or who elect to take fewer than six subjects are awarded a certificate for examinations completed.

### **Criterion-based grading**

The grading system used by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) is criterion based. Validity, reliability and fairness are the watchwords of the IBO's international assessment strategy. Senior examiners convene after each session to oversee assessment in their subjects and to award grades. When all of the data has been assembled, the IBO takes a second look at the performance of students reported to have suffered some form of adverse circumstances, such as an illness, a death in the family or other factors, such as civil unrest during the exam period. Case histories are prepared and evaluated to see if any degree of compensation should be applied to make sure that candidates' results are fair. This compassionate review ensures that students are not unfairly disadvantaged by situations beyond their control.

With classroom teachers, international examiners and the IBO's professional staff working in partnership, the emphasis is on ensuring that students have ample opportunity to demonstrate what they know and are able to communicate. The system is complex and involves a great deal of work by all parties, but it is one that results in fair treatment of students whose futures depend on the assessment of their academic work.

### **The examinations**

The examinations for each session take place over a period of approximately three weeks in May and November. Given the number of subjects to be examined, this can only be done if two or three different subjects are sometimes examined in the same slot in the schedule. The choice of subjects to be blocked together in this way is made so as to reduce to a minimum the number of clashes that are likely to occur for individual candidates. However, a small number of such clashes are inevitable and procedures for dealing with these are described in the Vade Mecum (the procedures manual for Diploma Programme coordinators and teachers).

Examinations are scheduled to avoid more than six hours of examining in a single day where possible, under normal circumstances. Friday afternoons are kept free from examinations as a means of extending at least some consideration to those schools whose working week is not Monday to Friday. The normal pattern for the examinations relating to a particular course is to schedule the two or three papers consecutively, starting one afternoon and finishing the next morning.

To complete the schedule over three weeks, without using Friday afternoons, not all examinations can follow the above sequence. Language A examinations are sometimes held so that paper 1 and paper 2 are separated by a period of days. Since these papers are quite independent of each other in terms of content, and the language involved is one in which the candidate is highly fluent, it is considered that the separation of papers will have less of an impact than in other subjects.

### **Internal assessment and other non-examination components**

Internal assessment can take a variety of forms, from an individual oral presentation and discussion lasting ten minutes for language B courses, to a research workbook in visual arts which is each student's personal record of their artistic development, recommended to require 72 hours of work at higher level (nearly one-third of the course). In between are cases such as the experimental sciences (group 4) internal assessment, made up at higher level of pieces of work selected from a portfolio of 60 hours of practical work and investigations (25% of total teaching time). The nature of the assessment task reflects the purpose of the internal assessment, in particular the emphasis on and type of process skills involved. This is especially the case in group 4, where particular pieces of practical work that meet certain criteria should be selected from the whole portfolio.

However, there are certain procedural features that are common to all internal assessment.

First, internal assessment should, as far as possible, be woven into normal classroom teaching. Internal assessment focuses on skills, not subject content, but the internal assessment activities chosen by the teacher or the student can often be used as vehicles for teaching prescribed course content.

Activities to be used for internal assessment can also be used to develop skills, that is, formatively, as well as to contribute summatively to the final assessment outcome. The decision about when to make the transition from formative assessment to using an activity as part of final summative assessment is often left up to the teacher. Internal assessment should not be viewed as a separate "bolt-on" activity to be conducted after a course has been taught.

A second common feature is the prescribed level of support given by the teacher to the student for activities that will actually contribute to final assessment. Where the end result of the activity is a relatively formal piece of written work, teachers are generally permitted to discuss the topic and approach with the student and give restricted advice on a first draft. Any subsequent amendment or editing must be by the student, so that the final work submitted for internal assessment is the student's own. Sometimes, group activities are permitted as a basis for internally assessed work, but where written work is to be submitted this must always be the individual work of each student.

Third, internal assessment is conducted by applying a fixed set of assessment criteria for each course. These criteria describe the kinds and levels of skills that must be addressed in the internal assessment. Teachers should ensure that students are familiar with the internal assessment criteria and that the pieces of work chosen for use in internal assessment address these criteria effectively. This is especially significant in the group 4 experimental sciences, where the portfolio of practical work might quite legitimately contain a number of pieces of work that are not suitable for use against the assessment criteria. The group 4 internal assessment criteria are intended to address a particular set of skills that may not be evident in some standard science laboratory work.

The last two of these features also apply to the small number of externally marked, non-examination components. These include extended essays, theory of knowledge essays, language A world literature assignments and language A written tasks. Although these pieces of work are sent to examiners for marking and are not marked by teachers, the teacher's role in discussing the work with the student, lending advice and considering the assessment criteria, is very similar to that for internal assessment components, which are marked by the teacher.

### **Publication of results**

Diploma and certificate results are published to schools and university admission systems on 5 January and 5 July each year for the two examination sessions. The results are sent electronically, as are many other administrative processes relating to the examination system, such as candidate registration and most mark entry. Candidates are issued with a numeric grade from 1 to 7 for each subject entered and candidates following the full Diploma Programme will

also receive letter grades for TOK and the extended essay, together with a total diploma points score. Students are given a unique PIN code to access their results electronically on 6 July.

### **Bilingual Diploma**

A bilingual diploma can be awarded to a candidate who:

1. takes two languages A
2. takes examinations in at least one of the subjects from group 3 or group 4 in a language other than that taken as their language A.

## **The Core Elements of the Diploma Programme**

### **Creativity, Action and Service (CAS)**

The CAS requirement takes seriously the importance of life outside the world of scholarship, providing a refreshing counterbalance to the academic self-absorption some may feel within a demanding school environment. The IB goal of educating the whole person and fostering a more compassionate and active citizenry comes alive in an immediate way when students reach beyond themselves and their books.

The CAS requirement encourages students to share their energy and special talents with others: students may, for example, participate in theatre or musical productions, and sports and community service activities. Students should, through these activities, develop greater awareness of themselves and concern for others, as well as the ability to work cooperatively with other people.

A system of self-evaluation encourages students to reflect on the benefits of CAS participation to themselves and to others, and to evaluate the understanding and insights acquired.

**Creativity** is interpreted broadly to include a wide range of arts activities as well as the creativity students demonstrate in designing and implementing service projects.

**Action** can include not only participation in individual and team sports but also taking part in expeditions and in local or international projects.

**Service** encompasses a host of community and social service activities. Some examples include helping children with special needs, visiting hospitals and working with refugees or homeless people.

**Core Content:** For the award of a Diploma, students are required to fulfil the learning outcomes of CAS and spend 150 hours in pursuit of activities which can be classed as Creativity, Action or Service. These 150 hours are completed over the two years of the Diploma Programme.

**Assessment:** Schools monitor students' progress. Students who fail to complete the requirements are not awarded Diplomas.

The educational benefits of CAS apply in the school community, and in the local, national and international communities. CAS should extend the students. It should challenge them to develop a value system by which they enhance their personal growth. It should develop a spirit of open-mindedness, lifelong learning, discovery and self-reliance. It should encourage the development of new skills on many levels: for example, creative skills, physical skills and social skills. It should inspire a sense of responsibility towards all members of the community. It should also encourage the development of attitudes and traits that will be respected by others, such as determination and commitment, initiative and empathy. Although there are three elements to CAS, it is important not to consider them as mutually exclusive.

CAS is about the education of the whole person, and the three elements are therefore interwoven. Together, they enable a student to recognize that there are many opportunities in life, away from formal academic study, to grow in knowledge of life, self and others. Creative and physical activities are particularly important for adolescents (probably more so than for any other age group) because popular culture informs and shapes their desires and values. There are also pursuits which offer much opportunity for fun and enjoyment at a time which is, for many young people, full of stress and uncertainty. The service element of CAS is, in itself, the most significant, but the two other elements are also very important, as they provide access, balance, and flexibility to meet individual students' interests and preferences. However, even more important in the model is that it is not just a matter of three individual parts: uniquely in the Diploma Programme it is the interaction of them all that creates the richness of CAS. The whole of CAS is greater than the sum of its parts.

*Please note that all Nations students are required to follow the CAS programme.*

### **The Extended Essay**

IB Diploma Programme students are required to undertake original research and write an extended essay of 4,000 words (maximum). This essay offers the student the opportunity to

investigate a topic of special interest and to become acquainted with the kind of independent research and writing skills expected at the university level. The IBO recommends that a student devote a total of about 40 hours of private study and writing time to the essay.

The extended essay can serve to deepen a student's programme of study, for example when the student chooses to focus the essay on a topic included in a higher-level course. Students may also elect to add to the breadth of their academic experience by writing on a subject not included in their diploma choices. Creative writing and interdisciplinary themes are not accepted for the extended essay.

### Supervision

Schools must appropriately supervise IB diploma candidates as they write their extended essays. The supervisor is usually a faculty member able to provide academic guidance concerning the subject in which the extended essay is registered. In addition, the supervisor provides general guidance on time management and the overall structure and presentation of the paper, and ensures that the essay is the candidate's own work.

**Core Content:** Students are required to write independently a research essay (maximum 4000 words) on a topic of their own choice in an IB subject.

**Assessment:** All Extended Essays are marked externally.

All Diploma students must undertake an Extended Essay on a topic of their choice within an IB subject. This requirement reflects the principle that independent research skills are vital to all areas of study and deserve a central role in the curriculum. With the Theory of Knowledge and Creativity, Action, Service components, the Extended Essay provides the 'glue' that makes the Diploma a coherent and integrated qualification.

The Extended Essay is an in-depth study of a limited topic within an IB subject. It is recommended that students spend a maximum of 40 hours on it, though many willingly exceed this, often by a significant amount. Students have around 3 hours contact time with an academic supervisor, who is usually a teacher within the school, and are expected to work independently for the remainder of the time. The supervisor provides the candidate with advice and guidance in the skills of undertaking research – by assisting, for example, with defining a suitable topic, with techniques of gathering and analysing information/evidence/data, with documentation methods for acknowledging sources and with writing an abstract. The work is typically undertaken over several months.

### **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)**

Theory of Knowledge (TOK), an interdisciplinary requirement intended to stimulate critical reflection on knowledge and experience gained inside and outside the classroom, is a course of study unique to the International Baccalaureate Organization and mandatory for every Diploma Programme student; it adds coherence to the programme. TOK should involve at least 100 hours of teaching time spanning the programme's two years.

The origins of TOK lie in a fusion of two divergent educational traditions, one pragmatic and the other placing prime importance on the teaching of philosophy. In TOK, students are encouraged to reflect on all aspects of their Diploma Programme work. It is possible to have informed discussions about the nature and purposes, strengths and limitations of particular knowledge systems, since distribution requirements ensure that course selections include each of the principal domains of knowledge. For example, students are encouraged to reflect on the nature of poetic truth in literature and to contrast such truth with that obtained in other systems of knowledge – the historical fact, the scientific fact, a mathematical proof, and so on. They also examine the grounds for the moral, political and aesthetic judgments that individuals must make in their daily lives. Emphasis is placed on the role of language and thought and on the development of the student's critical thinking skills. Students are helped to consider how they know what they know (different ways of "knowing") and to develop habits of reflection which they bring to each subject, resulting in a deeper intellectual experience. As befits an international programme, the TOK course explores various cultural traditions and encourages students to think about the strengths and limitations of different ways of knowing.

TOK is not another name for philosophy, which exists as a subject option in its own right, yet in a broad sense the aim of TOK is to encourage a philosophical cast of mind and to promote clarity of thought and good judgment.

**Core Content:** Students are required to consider the nature of knowledge in general and, in particular, the knowledge issues that arise in the study of the arts, ethics, history, the human sciences, mathematics and the natural sciences. In doing so, students will encounter the various methodologies within these areas and the roles played by emotion, language, reasoning and sense perception.

**Internal Assessment:** 33% presentation (10 minutes) on knowledge issues arising in a topic of students' own choice. Not externally moderated.

**External Assessment:** 67% essay (1200 - 1600 words) from list of ten prescribed titles.

The Theory of Knowledge course is the only course that all Diploma students take; as such it embodies the spirit and approach of the Diploma as a whole. With the Extended Essay and Creativity, Action, Service components, it provides the cement that makes the Diploma a coherent and integrated qualification.

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) challenges students to question the bases of knowledge, to be aware of subjective and ideological biases and to develop the ability to analyse evidence that is expressed in rational argument. Based in the six subjects that the students study, it compares and contrasts them, allowing students to develop a more mature view of them, in preparation for deeper study. TOK seeks to develop, for example, the abilities to distinguish between good and poor reasoning; to spot intentional or accidental bias (in oneself and in others), and to spot inconsistencies.

The application of these skills varies according to subject, and students might examine, for example, how reasoning in Mathematics is similar to, and different from, that in the Natural Sciences, or the emotional and/or rational bases for ethical decision making.

In addition to this *critical thinking* aspect, the course recognises that intellectual tools are double-edged, and encourage certain dispositions such as a willingness to challenge one's own deeply-held convictions, a willingness to hold ourselves to the same standards to which we hold others, and a willingness to entertain opposing views charitably. In this way the course encourages an openness, intellectual honesty and where appropriate, an intellectual humility.

As part of the TOK course all students participate in a weekly lecture as part of the History of Ideas course. This course aims to give students an overview of the greatest thinkers and ideas of History- starting with the Greeks and leading chronologically through to the great thinkers of the 20th century.

*Please note that all students in year 12 are required to follow the Theory of Knowledge course in order to gain credit for a High School Diploma. Any student following the full Diploma in year 13 is required to follow the second year of the course .*

## **Global Affairs**

At the Campus des Nations, we run a weekly course called "Global Affairs". The main objectives of the course are for students to develop an awareness of world events, to learn basic debating skills, to explore and learn to live with ideological differences and to be able to view the media critically. The course is mandatory for all year 12 students and is entirely student-led. A typical session will include:

- The local and international news read by students as well as at least one article from one of the countries represented by one of the presenters.
- A debate on one of those issues chaired and facilitated by students

The rationale behind this specific student-led format is to allow students to take ownership of the transmission of information, hereby making it less disembodied and (in the form of a debate) more dynamic.

The students who lead "Global Affairs" are selected rigorously and their responsibilities go further than merely scheduling news readers each week and chairing debates: the leaders have to update an information window on a regular basis and encourage their peers to prepare for the following debate.

The student leaders are awarded CAS credit for this activity.

## **GROUP 1: Language A**

Higher level: English A Literature  
French A Language and Literature

Standard Level: English A Language and Literature  
French A Language and Literature  
Self-taught Language A literature

*NB: Almost any "Self-taught" Language A Literature course can be studied at Standard Level outside of the school's timetabling for an extra fee.*

More than 80 different first languages have been offered for examination as part of the IBO's policy of encouraging students to maintain strong ties to their own cultures. Students ideally develop strong written and oral skills, respect for the literary heritage of their first languages, and an international perspective. Every diploma candidate is required to include a group 1 language, either HL or SL. Where no teacher is available, a student may be allowed to study language A as a self-taught candidate at SL only. The range of texts studied in language A courses is broad: students grow to appreciate a language's complexity, wealth and subtleties in a variety of contexts. Confidence and competence in oral and written communication skills are fostered. One of the explicit aims of the language A1 group is to engender a lifelong interest in literature and a love for the elegance and richness of human expression.

The aims of language A: language and literature at SL and HL are:

- To introduce students to a range of texts from different periods, styles and genres
- To develop in students the ability to engage in close, detailed analysis of individual texts and make relevant connections
- To develop the students' powers of expression, both in oral and written communication
- To encourage students to recognize the importance of the contexts in which texts are written and received
- To encourage, through the study of texts, an appreciation of the different perspectives of people from other cultures, and how these perspectives construct meaning
- To encourage students to appreciate the formal, stylistic and aesthetic qualities of texts
- To promote in students and enjoyment of, and lifelong interest in, language and literature.

### **English A Higher Level Literature (HL)**

**Core Content:** 15 texts studied, 5 of which are World Literature texts normally studied in translation. All genres are covered, including literary non-fiction. In English A, Shakespeare is compulsory.

**Option Topics:** None.

**Internal Assessment:**

- 30% oral coursework externally moderated
- Formal presentation (15%)
- Commentary on an unprepared extract from one of the texts previously studied (15%)
- 20% written coursework (maximum 3000 words):
- Comparative essay on World Literature texts (10%)
- Analytical or creative response to one World Literature text and a possible second text (10%)

**External Assessment: 50% examination:**

- Paper 1: Unseen commentary (25%)
- Paper 2: Essay based on a group of 4 texts; poetry, prose, non-fiction or drama (25%)

## **French Higher Level Language and Literature (HL)**

### **Core Content**

- Parts 1 and 2 - Language in cultural context, and language and mass communication
- Part 3: - Literature—texts and contexts (3 texts studied)
- Part 4 - Literature—critical study (3 texts studied)

Language and literature comprises four parts—two relate to the study of language and two to the study of literature.

The study of the texts produced in a language is central to an active engagement with language and culture and, by extension, to how we see and understand the world in which we live. A key aim of the language A: language and literature course is to encourage students to question the meaning generated by language and texts, which, it can be argued, is rarely straightforward and unambiguous. Helping students to focus closely on the language of the texts they study and to become aware of the role of each text's wider context in shaping its meaning is central to the course.

The language A: language and literature course aims to develop in students skills of textual analysis and the understanding that texts, both literary and non-literary, can be seen as autonomous yet simultaneously related to culturally determined reading practices.

### **External assessment (4 hours) 70%**

- Paper 1: Comparative analysis (2 hours)  
The paper consists of two pairs of unseen texts. Students write a comparative analysis on one of the two pairs (20 marks) 25%
- Paper 2: Essay (2 hours)  
In response to one of six questions students write an essay based on both the literary texts studied in part 3. The questions are the same at HL but the assessment criteria are different. (25 marks) 25%

### **Written task**

Students produce at least four written tasks based on material studied in the course. Students submit two written tasks for external assessment. (20 marks) Each task must be 800–1,000 words in length plus a rationale of 200–300 words. 20%

### **Internal assessment – 30%**

This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.

### **Individual oral commentary**

Students comment on an extract from a literary text studied in part 4 of the course. (30 marks)  
Students are given two guiding questions. 15%

### **Further oral activity**

Students complete at least two further oral activities, one based on part 1 and one based on part 2 of the course. The mark of one further oral activity is submitted for final assessment. (30 marks)  
15%

## **English A and French A Standard Level Language and Literature (SL)**

### **Core Content**

- Parts 1 and 2 - Language in cultural context, and language and mass communication
- Part 3: - Literature—texts and contexts (2 texts studied)
- Part 4 - Literature—critical study (2 texts studied)

Language and literature comprises four parts—two relate to the study of language and two to the study of literature.

The study of the texts produced in a language is central to an active engagement with language and culture and, by extension, to how we see and understand the world in which we live. A key aim of the language A: language and literature course is to encourage students to question the

meaning generated by language and texts, which, it can be argued, is rarely straightforward and unambiguous. Helping students to focus closely on the language of the texts they study and to become aware of the role of each text's wider context in shaping its meaning is central to the course.

The language A: language and literature course aims to develop in students skills of textual analysis and the understanding that texts, both literary and non-literary, can be seen as autonomous yet simultaneously related to culturally determined reading practices.

**External assessment (3 hours) 70%**

- Paper 1: Textual analysis (1 hour 30 minutes)  
The paper consists of two unseen texts. Students write an analysis of one of these texts. (20 marks) 25%
- Paper 2: Essay (1 hour 30 minutes)  
In response to one of six questions students write an essay based on both the literary texts studied in part 3. The questions are the same at HL but the assessment criteria are different. (25 marks) 25%

**Written task**

Students produce at least three written tasks based on material studied in the course. Students submit one written task for external assessment. (20 marks) This task must be 800–1,000 words in length plus a rationale of 200–300 words. 20%

**Internal assessment – 30%**

This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.

**Individual oral commentary**

Students comment on an extract from a literary text studied in part 4 of the course. (30 marks)  
Students are given two guiding questions. 15%

**Further oral activity**

Students complete at least two further oral activities, one based on part 1 and one based on part 2 of the course. The mark of one further oral activity is submitted for final assessment. (30 marks)  
15%

## **GROUP 2: Second Language**

Languages Offered: Higher and Standard level: French B; Spanish B

Standard level only: French ab-initio; Spanish ab-initio

### **Aims**

Group 2 consists of a range of language courses accommodating the different levels of linguistic proficiency that students have already gained by the time that they begin. There is a single set of Group 2 aims, common to all the courses, but the objectives are differentiated according to what students are expected to be able to demonstrate at the end of each course.

#### **The aims of Group 2 are:**

- To enable students to understand and use the language they have studied in a range of contexts and for a variety of purposes
- To enable students to use the language appropriately
- To encourage, through the study of texts and through social interaction, an awareness and appreciation of the different perspectives of people from other cultures
- To develop students' awareness of the role of language in relation to other areas of knowledge
- To provide the opportunity for enjoyment, creativity and intellectual stimulation through knowledge of a language
- To provide students with a basis for further study, work and leisure through language
- To develop students' awareness of the relationship between the languages and cultures with which they are familiar.

#### **Overview of which course is appropriate**

##### **Language B HL**

is for language learners who intend to study the language at this level for a future career, or to meet a Diploma Programme requirement, and who:

- have 4 to 5 years experience of the target language
- are not taught other subjects in the target language
- are normally taught outside a country where the language is spoken

##### **Language B SL**

is for language learners who may not intend continuing study of the language beyond the Diploma Programme and who:

- have 2 to 5 years experience of the target language
- are not taught other subjects in the target language
- are normally taught outside a country where the language is spoken
- are beginners or near-beginners who live in a country where the language is spoken

Ab Initio is for beginners who:

- have little or no previous experience of the language

##### **Language B**

###### **Higher and Standard Level**

Language B SL and HL are language acquisition courses for students with some background in the target language. While learning this additional language, students also explore the culture(s) connected to it.

**Core Content:** The core is common to both HL and SL consists of three topics (Social relationships, Communications and media, Global Issues) and is a required area of study. Higher level, two works of literature are studied and SL teachers select two options from a choice of five

**Speaking:** Students aim to become fluent in the target language. By the end of the course they should be able to use a range of tenses, vocabulary and registers in spontaneous formal and informal conversation.

**Reading:** Students need to interpret a variety of authentic texts and show understanding of specific language items. Students must also understand the overall meaning of texts, for example by writing a letter in response to a given text.

**Writing:** Students must be able to convey ideas clearly, grammatically and coherently.

### **Language B Assessment HL**

**Internal Assessment:** 30% oral coursework externally moderated

- Individual oral (20%). Individual oral presentation followed by conversation with the teacher.
- Group oral (10%). Classroom interaction: three tasks including one listening task.

**External Assessment:** 70% Examination

- Paper 1- Receptive Skills: Text handling and written response in target language (25%)
- Paper 2: Two pieces of writing in the target language using a variety of registers (25%). One creative response (250-400 words) and one argumentative response (150-200 words).
- Written assignment: 400-700 words creative response to literature. (20%)

### **Language B Assessment SL**

**Internal Assessment:** 30% oral coursework externally moderated

- Individual oral (20%). Individual oral presentation followed by conversation with the teacher.
- Group oral (10%). Classroom interaction: three tasks including one listening task.

**External Assessment:** 70% Examination

- Paper 1- Receptive Skills: Text handling and written response in target language (25%)
- Paper 2: One piece of writing in the target language using a variety of registers (25%). One Task (250-400 words) .
- Written assignment: 300-400 words creative response to literature (20%)

**Ab initio** (*NB – available as a standard level subject only*)

### **Who is this course for?**

The language ab initio course is designed for students with little or no prior experience of the language they wish to study. All final decisions on the appropriateness of the course for which students are entered are taken by coordinators in liaison with teachers, using their experience and professional judgment to guide them. The most important consideration is that the language ab initio course should be a challenging educational experience for the student.

### **Course outline**

The language ab initio course is organized into three themes.

- Individual and society
- Leisure and work
- Urban and rural environment

Each theme has a list of topics that provide the students with opportunities to practise and explore the language as well as to develop intercultural understanding. Through the development of receptive, productive and interactive skills, students should be able to respond and interact appropriately in a defined range of everyday situations.

Furthermore, the course seeks to enhance intercultural understanding. While learning the target language, the student becomes aware of the similarities and differences between his or her own culture(s) and those of the target culture(s). With this awareness, a greater respect for other peoples and the way in which they lead their lives is fostered.

Within the course framework, through the study of authentic texts, students investigate and reflect on cultural values and behaviours. The language ab initio course, albeit at a basic level, seeks to

develop intercultural understanding and foster a concern for global issues, as well as to raise students' awareness of their own responsibility at a local level.

Theory of knowledge (TOK) is central to the Diploma Programme, and the relationship between TOK and group 2 is of great importance. Learning an additional language involves linguistic and metalinguistic, sociolinguistic, pragmatic and intercultural skills and competencies.

**Assesment:**

There are five assessment objectives for the language ab initio course. Students will be assessed on their ability to:

1. demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the intercultural elements related to the prescribed topics
2. communicate clearly and effectively in a range of situations
3. understand and use accurately the basic structures of the language
4. understand and use an appropriate range of vocabulary
5. use a register and a format that are appropriate to the situation.

**Paper 1** (1h30) 30% - understanding of 4 written texts through text-handling exercises.

**Paper 2** (1h) 25% - 2 compulsory writing tasks (1: minimum 50 words;2: minimum 100 words)

**Written assignment** (2h) 20% - a piece of writing, 200–300 words, in the target language carried out in class under teacher supervision

**Individual oral** (10 minutes with 15 minutes preparation time) 25% in 3 parts:

- Part 1: Presentation of a visual stimulus (from a choice of two) by the student
- Part 2: Follow-up questions on the visual stimulus
- Part 3: General conversation including at least two questions on the written assignment

### **GROUP 3 : Individuals and Societies**

The subjects offered are all taught at the Higher and Standard Level:

- Economics
- Geography
- History in English
- History in French
- Psychology

#### **Aims**

The aims for the programme for Group 3 – Individuals and Societies are:

1. Encourage the systematic and critical study of: human experience and behavior; physical, economic and social environments; and the history and development of social and cultural institutions.
2. Develop in the student the capacity to identify, to analyse critically and to evaluate theories, concepts and arguments about the nature and activities of the individual and society.
3. Enable the student to collect, describe and analyse data used in studies of society, to test hypotheses, and to interpret complex data and source material.
4. Promote the appreciation of the way in which learning is relevant both to the culture in which the student lives, and the culture of other societies.
5. Develop an awareness in the student that human attitudes and beliefs are widely diverse and that the study of society requires an appreciation of such diversity.
6. Enable the student to recognize that the content and methodologies of the subject in group 3 are contestable and that their study requires the toleration of uncertainty.

### **Economics**

#### **Aims**

1. To develop an understanding of microeconomic and macroeconomic theories and concepts and their real-world application
2. To develop an appreciation of the impact on individuals and societies of economic interactions between nations
3. To develop an awareness of development issues facing nations as they undergo the process of change

<b>Syllabus Component</b>	<b>Description</b>
Microeconomics	Competitive markets: demand and supply Elasticity Government intervention Market failure Theory of the firm and market structures (HL only)
Macroeconomics	The level of overall economic activity Aggregate demand and aggregate supply Macroeconomic objectives Fiscal policy Monetary policy Supply side policies

<b>Syllabus Component</b>	<b>Description</b>
International Economics	International trade Exchange rates The balance of payments Economic integration Terms of trade (HL only)
Development economics	Economic development Measuring development The role of domestic factors The role of international trade The role of foreign direct investment The roles of foreign aid and multilateral development assistance The role of international debt The balance between markets and intervention

### **Assessment**

#### **Higher Level**

##### **External Assessment**

- Paper 1 - Extended Response (1 hour 30 minutes) on microeconomics and macroeconomics. (30% of final grade)
- Paper 2 - Data Response (1 hour 30 minutes) on international economics and development economics. (30% of final grade)
- Paper 3 - Extension Paper (1 hour) on HL extension material from the whole syllabus. (20% of final grade)

##### **Internal Assessment**

Three economic commentaries, based on different sections of the syllabus and on published extracts from the news media. (3 x 750 words max.) (20% of final grade)

#### **Standard Level**

##### **External Assessment**

- Paper 1 - Extended Response (1 hour 30 minutes) on microeconomics and macroeconomics. (40% of final grade)
- Paper 2 - Data Response (1 hour 30 minutes) on international economics and development economics. (40% of final grade)

##### **Internal Assessment**

Three economic commentaries, based on different sections of the syllabus and on published extracts from the news media. (3 x 750 words max.) (20% of final grade)

## **Geography**

### **Aims**

1. To develop an understanding of the interrelationships between people, places, spaces and the environment.
2. To develop a concern for human welfare and the quality of the environment, and an understanding of the need for planning and sustainable management.
3. To appreciate the relevance of Geography in analyzing contemporary issues and challenges, and develop a global perspective of diversity and change.

**Core Content:** There are four compulsory topics:

- Population in Transition
- Disparities in Wealth and Development
- Environmental Quality and Sustainability
- Resource Consumption

**Option Topics:** Standard level students will complete two of the option units and higher level students will complete three of the options units from the list below:

- Freshwater – Issues and Conflicts
- Oceans and their Coastal Margins
- Extreme Environments
- Hazards and Disasters
- Leisure, Sport and Tourism
- The Geography of Food and Health
- Urban Environments

**Global Interactions:** Higher level students will also complete a third paper and it includes seven compulsory options:

- Measuring global interactions
- Changing space
- Economic interactions and flows
- Environmental change
- Sociocultural exchanges
- Political outcomes
- Global interactions at the local level

**Internal Assessment:** This is based on a piece of field work that is completed in the local environment. It is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.

- Higher Level – 20%
- Standard Level – 25%
- Both are written reports of 2500 words.

**External Assessment:** Examinations at the end of year 13.

### **Higher Level Students:**

- Paper One consists of a series of short answered questions and one extended response question. It is worth 25% of the final grade.
- Paper Two consists of three structured questions based on stimulus material, each selected from a different theme. It is worth 35% of the final grade.
- Paper Three consists of two essay questions. It is worth 20% of the final grade.

### **Standard Level Students:**

- Paper One consists of a series of short answered questions and one extended response question. It is worth 40% of the final grade.

- Paper Two consists of two structured questions based on stimulus material, each selected from a different theme. It is worth 35% of the final grade.

### **Extra-Curricular Trips**

The Geography Department firmly believe in giving the students the opportunity to link the theoretical knowledge learnt in the classroom to practical examples. There is an 'awe and wonder' nine day to visit to Morocco in which students investigate extreme environments, the pressures placed on fresh water, the impact of tourism and globalization. There is also a day trip to Chamonix in which students can experience cold alpine environments and a day trip to the river L'asse in which students undertake the field work for their Internal Assessment.

### **History in English**

#### **Aims**

1. To promote an understanding of history as a discipline, including the nature and diversity of its sources, methods and interpretations
2. To encourage an understanding of the present through critical reflection upon the past
3. To encourage an understanding of the impact of historical developments at national, regional and international levels.
4. To develop an awareness of one's own historical identity through the study of the historical experiences of different cultures.

**Prescribed subject:** The origins and rise of Islam c.500-661

#### **Paper One**

**Standard level study topics:** Standard and Higher level students are required to study two topics in the history of Europe and the Islamic world between 600 and 1450 from the following list.

- Dynasties and rulers
- Society and economy
- Wars and warfare
- Intellectual, cultural and artistic developments
- Religion and the state

#### **Paper Two**

**Higher level study topics:** Higher level students examine the above topics in greater depth. They also study 14th century famine, pestilence and social change.

They sit a third paper on which there are questions based on the material covered at Standard and Higher level.

#### **Paper Three**

**Internal assessment:** This is a historical investigation that students undertake into a subject of their own choice. It is internally assessed and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.

- Higher level – 20%
- Standard level – 25%
- It is a written report of 2000 words

**External assessment:** Examinations are at the end of Year 13.

#### **Standard level students:**

- Paper One consists of a series of questions concerning evidence about the rise of Islam. The evidence is provided and students have to analyze it. It is worth 30% of the final grade.
- Paper Two consists of a choice of essay questions under different topic headings. Students have to choose two questions, each from a different topic. It is worth 45% of the final grade.

### **Higher level students:**

- Paper One consists of a series of questions concerning evidence about the rise of Islam. The evidence is provided and students have to analyze it. It is worth 20% of the final grade.
- Paper Two consists of a choice of essay questions under different topic headings. Students have to choose two questions, each from a different topic. It is worth 25% of the final grade.
- Paper Three consists of a choice of essay questions from the whole course. Students have to choose three. It is worth 35% of the final grade.

### **Extra-curricular activities**

The History Department is a dynamic group of teachers that use a variety of methods to teach the course! In the past year there has been a weekend trip to Burgundy to explore the wealth of medieval architecture there and we have visited a local mosque. We have welcomed some internationally recognized historians for an all-day conference on the crusades and we have an extensive collection of resources on our class wiki.

### **History in French**

#### **Objectifs globaux du cours d'histoire**

1. De promouvoir la compréhension de l'histoire en tant que discipline, y compris la nature et la diversité de ses sources, méthodes et interprétations.
2. D'encourager la compréhension du présent à travers une réflexion critique sur le passé
3. D'encourager la compréhension de l'impact des développements historiques au niveau, régional, national et international.
4. De développer chez l'élève la conscience de sa propre identité historique à travers l'étude des expériences historiques de cultures différentes.

#### **Composantes du Programme d'Histoire au niveau du IBDP en section francophone**

##### **Sujet obligatoire (Epreuve #1) NM-NS**

Le conflit israélo-arabe(1945-1979)

Ce sujet traite de l'évolution du conflit israélo-arabe de 1945-1979. Il exige des élèves qu'ils réfléchissent au rôle des puissances dans ce conflit (promoteurs des tensions ou médiateurs lors des tentatives d'apaisement des tensions dans la région). Ce sujet obligatoire exige des élèves qu'ils étudient les questions politiques, économiques et sociales inhérentes au conflit, ainsi que les causes et les conséquences spécifiques des affrontements militaires de 1948/49 à 1973. La nature et l'étendue des développements sociaux et économiques au sein du territoire israélien/palestinien contesté et leurs conséquences sur les populations doivent être aussi étudiées.

##### **Thèmes de l'histoire mondiale du XXème siècle (Epreuve #2) NM-NS**

Thème #1 Causes, pratiques et effets des guerres

La guerre est l'une des principales caractéristiques du XXème siècle. Dans le cadre de ce thème, il convient d'identifier les différents types de guerres, et d'étudier leurs causes, leurs pratiques et leurs effets.

Différentes études de cas sur les types de guerre seront étudiés :

- Guerre civile
- Guérilla
- Guerre limitée, guerre totale

Thème #2 La Guerre Froide

Ce thème porte sur les relations entre l'Est et l'Ouest à partir de 1945. Il a pour but de favoriser une perspective internationale et une compréhension des origines, des événements et des conséquences de la Guerre Froide – un conflit qui a grandement influencé les affaires mondiales de la fin de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale jusqu'au début des années 1990. Il aborde la rivalité des superpuissances et les événements dans tous les domaines touchés par la politique de la GF tels que les sphères d'intérêts, les guerres (par procuration), les alliances et les interventions

dans les pays en voie de développement. Une emphase sera mise sur les enjeux de la GF au Moyen-Orient.

### **Aspects de l'Histoire de l'Europe et du Moyen-Orient (Epreuve #3) NS**

Histoire du Moyen-Orient

Thème #1 : Les Ottomans (1281 - 1566)

Cette section traite de la conquête de Constantinople par les Ottomans, qui marque un tournant dans l'histoire du monde occidental et islamique. La conquête par les Ottomans d'une partie du monde islamique et leur expansion dans les Balkans sont les principaux thèmes qui doivent être étudiés. L'étude des dirigeants ottomans est importante pour comprendre l'évolution du gouvernement musulman ainsi que celle de l'administration et de la loi musulmanes.

Thème #2 - L'empire Ottoman du début XIXème siècle au début du XXème siècle

Cette section traite des développements tant intérieurs qu'extérieurs ayant affecté l'Empire Ottoman. L'état de l'empire sur le déclin faisait l'objet d'un grand intérêt dans la région. Il a de même amené des demandes de changements de territoires turcs et ottomans. Cette section se concentre également sur la mesure dans laquelle l'Empire Ottoman a changé durant le XIXème siècle et au début du XXème siècle.

Thème #3: La guerre et les bouleversements au Moyen-Orient (1914-1949)

Cette section traite de l'impact de la PGM au Moyen Orient et examine l'importance militaire et politique de la révolte arabe, ainsi que les effets de la diplomatie des Alliés sur le développement de la région.

Les réorganisations politiques et territoriales dans la région après la guerre (que ce soit sous la forme d'un mandat ou par l'établissement d'Etats indépendants) et l'émergence des mouvements pour la régénération nationale seront étudiées. Cette section concerne principalement sur la question du mandat britannique en Palestine.

### **Evaluation interne au niveau du NM/NS**

Recherche historique sur un sujet au choix

La recherche interne en Histoire consiste en un rapport de 1500 à 2000 mots sur un sujet au choix. Elle comprend six sections : le plan de la recherche, un résumé des résultats, une évaluation des sources, une analyse, une conclusion et une bibliographie ou une liste de sources. L'évaluation interne doit porter sur une pièce écrite et doit être le travail personnel du candidat.

## **Psychology**

### **Aims**

The aims of the psychology course at Standard Level (SL) and at Higher Level (HL) are to:

- Develop an awareness of how psychological research can be applied for the benefit of human beings.
- Ensure that ethical practices are upheld in psychological inquiry
- Develop an understanding of the biological, cognitive and sociocultural influences on human Behaviour.
- Develop an understanding of alternative explanations of behaviour.
- Understand and use diverse methods of psychological inquiry.

### **Part 1: Core (SL/HL)**

- The biological level of analysis
- The cognitive level of analysis
- The sociocultural level of analysis

### **Part 2: Options (SL/HL)**

HL - 2 options

SL - 1 option

- Abnormal psychology
- Developmental psychology

- Health psychology
- Psychology of human relationships
- Sport psychology

**Part 3: Qualitative research methodology (HL only)**

- Qualitative research in psychology

**Part 4: Internal Assessment - simple experimental study (SL/HL)**

- Introduction to experimental research methodology
- Students design and carry out their own experimental study  
HL – 20% of grade  
SL – 25% of grade

**Part 5: External Assessment**

Examinations at the end of year 13.

Higher Level – 80% of grade:

- **Paper One:** consists of a series of 3 compulsory short-answer questions and one extended response question.
- **Paper Two:** consists of two extended response questions. Each from a different option. For each option there is a choice of 3 questions and you choose one.
- **Paper Three:** consists of three short-answer questions.

Standard Level – 75% of grade:

- **Paper One:** consists of a series of 3 compulsory short-answer questions and one extended response question.
- **Paper Two:** consists of one extended response questions from your chosen option. There is a choice of 3 questions and you choose one.

## **GROUP 4: Experimental Sciences**

Subjects Offered: Higher and Standard level: Biology, Chemistry, Physics  
Standard level only: Design Technology

### **Aims**

Through studying any of the Group 4 subjects, students should become aware of how scientists work and communicate with one another. While the “scientific method” may take on a wide variety of forms, it will generally involve the formation, testing and modification of hypotheses through observation and measurement, under the controlled conditions of an experiment. It is this approach, along with the falsifiability of scientific hypotheses that distinguishes the experimental sciences from other disciplines and characterizes each of the subjects within Group 4.

It is in this context that all the Diploma Programme Experimental Science courses should aim:

- To encourage an understanding of the relationships between scientific disciplines and the overarching nature of the scientific method
- To develop students’ appreciation of the possibilities and limitations associated with science and scientists
- To raise students’ awareness of the moral, ethical, social, economic and environmental implications of using science and technology
- To develop and apply the students’ information technology skills in the study of science
- To develop students’ experimental and investigative scientific skills
- To engender an awareness of the need for, and the value of, effective collaboration and communication during scientific activities
- To develop students’ ability to analyse, evaluate and synthesize scientific information enabling them thereby to apply and use a body of knowledge, methods and techniques which characterize science and technology
- To furnish students with a body of knowledge, methods and techniques which characterize science and technology
- To provide students with opportunities for scientific study and creativity within a global context which will stimulate and challenge

### **Biology**

#### **Higher Level**

**Core Content:** Cells, Chemistry of Life, Genetics, Ecology and Evolution, Human Health and Physiology, Nucleic Acids and Proteins, Cell respiration and Photosynthesis, Genetics, Human Reproduction, Defence against disease, Nerves Muscles and Movement, Excretion and Plant Science.

**Option Topics:** Two from Evolution, Neurobiology and Behaviour, Applied Plant and Animal Science, Ecology and Conservation, Further Human Physiology.

**Internal Assessment:** 24% of Practical Work with a minimum requirement of 60 hours

**External Assessment:** 76% Examinations

- Paper 1: 40 multiple choice questions (20%)
- Paper 2: Structured and extended response questions on option topics (36%)
- Paper 3: Structured and extended response questions on two option topics (20%)

#### **Standard Level**

**Core Content:** Cells, Chemistry of Life, Genetics, Ecology and Evolution, Human Health and Physiology

**Option Topics:** Two from Diet and Nutrition, Cells and Energy, Physiology of Exercise, Evolution, Neurobiology and Behaviour, Applied Plant and Animal Science, Ecology and Conservation.

**Internal Assessment:** 24% of Practical Work with a minimum requirement of 40 hours

**External Assessment:** 76% Examinations.

- Paper 1: 30 multiple choice questions (20%)
- Paper 2: Structured and extended response questions on option topics (32%)
- Paper 3: Structured and extended response questions on two option topics (24%)

## **Chemistry**

### **Higher Level**

**Core Content:** Stoichiometry, Atomic Theory, Periodicity, Bonding, States of Matter, Energetics, Kinetics, Equilibrium, Acids and Bases, Oxidation and Reduction, Organic Chemistry.

**Option Topics:** Two from: Medicines and Drugs, Human Biochemistry, Environmental Chemistry, Chemical Industries, Fuels and Energy, Modern Analytical Chemistry, Further Organic Chemistry.

**Internal Assessment:** 24% of Practical Work with a minimum requirement of 60 hours

**External Assessment:** 76% Examinations

- Paper 1: 40 multiple choice questions (20%)
- Paper 2: Structured and extended response questions on option topics (36%)
- Paper 3: Structured and extended response questions on two option topics (20%)

### **Standard Level**

**Core Content:** Stoichiometry, Atomic Theory, Periodicity, Bonding, States of Matter, Energetics, Kinetics, Equilibrium, Acids and Bases, Oxidation and Reduction, Organic Chemistry.

**Option Topics:** Two from: Medicines and Drugs, Human Biochemistry, Environmental Chemistry, Chemical Industries, Fuels and Energy, Higher Physical Organic Chemistry.

**Internal Assessment:** 24% of Practical Work with a minimum requirement of 40 hours

**External Assessment:** 76% Examinations

- Paper 1: 30 multiple choice questions (20%)
- Paper 2: Structured and extended response questions on option topics (32%)
- Paper 3: Structured and extended response questions on two option topics (24%)

## **Physics**

### **Higher Level**

**Core Content:** Physical Measurement, Mechanics, Thermal Physics, Wave Phenomena, Electromagnetism, Atomic and Nuclear Physics and Quantum Physics.

**Option Topics:** Two from: Biomedical Physics, Historical Physics, Astrophysics, Relativity, Optics.

**Internal Assessment:** 24% of Practical Work with a minimum requirement of 60 hours.

**External Assessment:** 76% Examinations

- Paper 1: 40 multiple choice questions (20%)
- Paper 2: Structured and extended response questions on option topics (36%)
- Paper 3: Structured and extended response questions on two option topics (20%)

### **Standard Level**

**Core Content:** Physical Measurement, Mechanics, Thermal Physics, Waves, Electricity and Magnetism, Atomic and Nuclear Physics.

**Option Topics:** One from Higher Level extension materials of Mechanics, Quantum Physics and Nuclear Physics and Energy (thermodynamics). Also one from Biomedical Physics, History of Development of Physics, Astrophysics, Relativity, Optics.

**Internal Assessment:** 24% of Practical Work with a minimum requirement of 40 hours.

**External Assessment:** 76% Examinations.

- Paper 1: 30 multiple choice questions (20%)

- Paper 2: Structured and extended response questions on option topics (32%)
- Paper 3: Structured and extended response questions on two option topics (24%)

## **Design Technology**

### **Standard Level**

#### **Introduction**

Diploma Programme design technology is presently available at standard level only at Nations. It is based on a model of learning that incorporates knowledge, skills and design principles in problem-solving contexts. It aims to develop internationally minded people whose enhanced understanding of the technological world can facilitate our shared guardianship of the planet and create a better world. Diploma Programme design technology achieves a high level of technological literacy by enabling students to develop critical-thinking and design skills, which they can apply in a practical context. While designing may take various forms, it will involve the selective application of knowledge within an ethical framework.

It will focus on the design, development, analysis, synthesis and evaluation of problems, and their solution through practical activities. The creative tension between theory and practice is what characterizes design technology within the Diploma Programme experimental sciences.

It is in this context that the design technology course aims to develop in students:

- a sense of curiosity as they acquire the skills necessary for independent and lifelong learning and action through inquiry into the technological world around them
- an ability to explore concepts, ideas and issues with personal, local and global significance to acquire in-depth knowledge and understanding of design and technology
- initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to identify and resolve complex social and technological problems through reasoned ethical decision-making
- an ability to understand and express ideas confidently and creatively using a variety of communication techniques through collaboration with others
- a propensity to act with integrity and honesty, and take responsibility for their own actions in designing technological solutions to problems
- an understanding and appreciation of cultures in terms of global technological development, seeking and evaluating a range of perspectives
- a willingness to approach unfamiliar situations in an informed manner and explore new roles, ideas and strategies so they can articulate and defend their proposals with confidence
- an understanding of the contribution of design and technology to the promotion of intellectual, physical and emotional balance and the achievement of personal and social well-being
- empathy, compassion and respect for the needs and feelings of others in order to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment
- skills that enable them to reflect on the impacts of design and technology on society and the environment in order to develop their own learning and enhanced solutions to technological problems.

#### **Course Structure**

Core syllabus topics are based on the study of course concepts such as the design process, product design, green design and product innovation, as well as knowledge of materials, product development and evaluation strategies. Through their study of the core topics, students will appreciate how these topics interact and overlap with each other depending on the design context and the viewpoints of the designer, manufacturer and consumer.

Students are only required to study one option topic for examination in paper 3. At Nations we offer the CAD/CAM option, which covers the impact of CAD on the design process, CAM systems, the impact of CAD/CAM on manufacturing, rapid prototype manufacture, and CAD/CAM products.

#### **Assessment**

Three written examinations, which account for 64% of the total marks available, will be taken at the end of the second year. The internal assessments (IA), worth 36% of the final assessment are completed throughout the duration of the course.

### **External assessment**

Paper 1 is made up of multiple-choice questions that test knowledge of the core. Paper 2 tests knowledge of the core and includes a data-based analysis question, other short-answer questions and a longer-answer question related to design situations. Paper 3 tests knowledge of the CAD/CAM option.

### **Internal Assessment**

The internal assessment (IA) element consists of an interdisciplinary project (the group 4 project completed within a week at the end of the first year), a mixture of short and long-term investigations and the design project. The design project is an individually determined project that students will do in the first term of the second year. It allows students to explore a design problem that matches their ability, is related to the topics covered in the course and holds a personal interest for them.

### **Prerequisites for the course**

Although students starting the IBDP design technology course do not require any previous specialist technology experience, the MYP course in year 11 at Nations has been carefully designed to be a good preparation for the IBDP course; whilst still maintaining the requirements of the MYP. In MYP 5 students experience projects with resistant materials and CAD outcomes in the framework of the MYP design cycle. This prepares students for some of the core topics, the CAD/CAM option and the IB design cycle model at IBDP level.

IBDP design technology is relevant to students who are considering university or college courses in science, applied science, technology, product design, engineering or art.

## **GROUP 5: Mathematics**

**Levels Offered:** Higher level, Standard level or Studies standard level

### **Aims**

The aims of all mathematics courses in group 5 are to enable students to:

- enjoy mathematics, and develop an appreciation of the elegance and power of mathematics
- develop an understanding of the principles and nature of mathematics
- communicate clearly and confidently in a variety of contexts
- develop logical, critical and creative thinking, and patience and persistence in problem-solving
- employ and refine their powers of abstraction and generalization
- apply and transfer skills to alternative situations, to other areas of knowledge and to future developments
- appreciate how developments in technology and mathematics have influenced each other
- appreciate the moral, social and ethical implications arising from the work of mathematicians and the applications of mathematics
- appreciate the international dimension in mathematics through an awareness of the universality of mathematics and its multicultural and historical perspectives
- appreciate the contribution of mathematics to other disciplines, and as a particular “area of knowledge” in the TOK course.

### **Summary of courses available**

Because individual students have different needs, interests and abilities, there are three different courses in mathematics offered here. These courses are designed for different types of students: those who wish to study mathematics in depth, either as a subject in its own right or to pursue their interests in areas related to mathematics; those who wish to gain a degree of understanding and competence to understand better their approach to other subjects; and those who may not as yet be aware how mathematics may be relevant to their studies and in their daily lives.

Each course is designed to meet the needs of a particular group of students. Therefore, great care should be taken to select the course that is most appropriate for an individual student. In making this selection, individual students should be advised to take account of the following factors:

- their own abilities in mathematics and the type of mathematics in which they can be successful
- their own interest in mathematics, and those particular areas of the subject that may hold the most interest for them
- their other choices of subjects within the framework of the Diploma Programme
- their academic plans, in particular the subjects they wish to study in future
- their choice of career.

NB: there are often some myths surrounding the level of mathematics required for university courses. There is a letter regarding this issue from the Mathematics Department together with the Guidance Department at the end of this section.

### **Mathematical studies SL**

This course is available only at standard level, and is equivalent in status to mathematics SL, but addresses different needs. It has an emphasis on applications of mathematics, and the largest section is on statistical techniques. It is designed for students with varied mathematical backgrounds and abilities. It offers students opportunities to learn important concepts and techniques and to gain an understanding of a wide variety of mathematical topics. It prepares students to be able to solve problems in a variety of settings, to develop more sophisticated mathematical reasoning and to enhance their critical thinking. The individual project is an extended piece of work based on personal research involving the collection, analysis and evaluation of data. Students taking this course are well prepared for a career in social sciences, humanities, languages or arts. These students may need to utilize the statistics and logical

reasoning that they have learned as part of the mathematical studies SL course in their future studies.

### **Mathematics SL**

This course caters for students who already possess knowledge of basic mathematical concepts, and who are equipped with the skills needed to apply simple mathematical techniques correctly. The majority of these students will expect to need a sound mathematical background as they prepare for future studies in subjects such as chemistry and economics.

### **Mathematics HL**

This course caters for students with a good background in mathematics who are competent in a range of analytical and technical skills. The majority of these students will be expecting to include mathematics as a major component of their university studies, either as a subject in its own right or within courses such as physics, engineering and technology. Others may take this subject because they have a strong interest in mathematics and enjoy meeting its challenges and engaging with its problems.

### **Mathematical Studies Standard Level**

**Core Content:** Number and algebra, Descriptive statistics, Logic, sets and probability, Statistical applications, Geometry and trigonometry, Mathematical models, Introduction to differential calculus.

**Internal assessment (20%):** Project

The project is an individual piece of work involving the collection of information or the generation of measurements, and the analysis and evaluation of the information or measurements.

**External assessment (80%):** Examinations

- Paper 1 = 40% (1 hour 30 minutes): Graphic display calculator required. 15 compulsory short-response questions based on the whole syllabus.
- Paper 2 = 40% (1 hour 30 minutes): Graphic display calculator required. 6 compulsory extended-response questions based on the whole syllabus.

### **Mathematics Standard Level**

**Core Content:** Algebra, Functions and equations, Circular functions and trigonometry, Vectors, Statistics and probability, Calculus

**Internal assessment (20%):** Mathematical exploration.

This is a piece of written work that involves investigating an area of mathematics.

**External assessment (80%):** Examinations

- Paper 1 = 40% (1 hour 30 minutes): No calculator allowed.  
Section A: Compulsory short-response questions based on the whole syllabus.  
Section B: Compulsory extended-response questions based on the whole syllabus.
- Paper 2 = 40% (1 hour 30 minutes): Graphic display calculator required.  
Section A: Compulsory short-response questions based on the whole syllabus.  
Section B: Compulsory extended-response questions based on the whole syllabus.

### **Mathematics Higher Level**

**Core Content:** Algebra, Functions and equations, Circular functions and trigonometry, Vectors, Statistics and probability, Calculus

#### **Option syllabus content**

One of the following: Statistics and probability, Sets, relations and groups, Calculus, Discrete mathematics

**Internal assessment (20%):** Mathematical exploration.

This is a piece of written work that involves investigating an area of mathematics.

**External assessment (80%): Examinations**

- Paper 1 = 30% (2 hours): No calculator allowed.  
Section A: Compulsory short-response questions based on the core syllabus.  
Section B: Compulsory extended-response questions based on the core syllabus.
- Paper 2 = 30% (2 hours): Graphic display calculator (GDC) required.  
Section A: Compulsory short-response questions based on the core syllabus.  
Section B: Compulsory extended-response questions based on the core syllabus.
- Paper 3 = 20% (1 hour): Graphic display calculator (GDC) required.  
Compulsory extended-response questions based mainly on the syllabus options.

**Some notes from the Mathematics Department:**

- Your child's mathematics teacher is the best person to advise on which level a student is capable of achieving success. The definition of success of course depends on tertiary wishes and the individual student. The teachers in the mathematics department are not experts on guidance and will always refer students to the guidance department.
- The decision making process for choosing the correct level should include Mrs Juniper (Diploma Program Coordinator), Dr Grant, Mrs Levin, (Guidance Counsellors), a student's mathematics teacher, a student's parents and most importantly the student.
- The rules for tertiary entrance vary widely depending on a student's wishes, the country of application and the tertiary institution. These rules are also constantly evolving.
- The bottom line is that students must stay in regular contact with the Guidance Counsellors in order to maximise their tertiary prospects.
- Of course discipline and commitment are the keys to maximising tertiary prospects.

## **GROUP 6: Arts**

**Subjects Offered:** Higher level: Visual Arts, Film  
Standard level: Visual Arts; Film

### **Overview**

The “Arts” section of Group 6 includes Visual Arts and Film. The delivery of these subjects emphasises practical production by the student and the exploration of a range of creative work in a global context. Each of the individual subjects has its own explicit aims.

### **Visual Art**

#### **Nature of the subject**

Visual arts range from traditional forms embedded in societies and cultures to the varied and dispersed practices associated with contemporary and emerging forms of visual language. Visual arts are an integral part of everyday life which permeate all levels of human expression, communication and understanding. In addition to exploring visual arts from different historical perspectives, Diploma Programme visual arts students are expected to engage with and reflect upon a wide range of local and global, as well as familiar and unfamiliar, living artistic traditions.

The study of visual arts allows students to challenge their pre-existing creative and cultural expectations and boundaries in new and surprising ways. The processes of designing and making art require a high level of cognitive activity that is both intellectual and affective. This is evident not only in the way we create art and objects, but also in the way we understand, and respond to, the practices of art, design and craft from around the world. Theory and practice in visual arts are dynamic and ever-changing, and connect many areas of study and human experience through individual and collaborative production and interpretation.

The Diploma Programme visual arts course enables students to engage in both exploration and production. It is furthermore a challenging and thought-provoking area of study in which a student can develop analytical skills such as problem-solving and divergent thinking which will prove useful in many walks of life. A balanced visual arts education extends beyond practical “doing and making” activities to “reflecting on and responding to” visual images and artifacts.

This course is designed to enable students to go on to study visual arts in higher education and also welcomes those students who seek life enrichment through visual arts. Supporting the principles of the International Baccalaureate mission statement and learner profile, the course encourages an active exploration of visual arts within the students’ own and other cultural contexts. Through creative problem solving and critical thinking, visual arts students develop respect for the cultural and aesthetic diversity in the world around us.

#### **Aims**

The aims of all subjects in group 6, the arts, are to enable students to:

- enjoy lifelong engagement with the arts
- become informed, reflective and critical practitioners in the arts
- understand the dynamic and changing nature of the arts
- explore and value the diversity of the arts across time, place and cultures
- express ideas with confidence and competence
- develop perceptual and analytical skills.
- visually communicate ideas through the exploration and development of appropriate skills and media
- respond visually and creatively to personal and cultural experiences
- use visual literacy to explore the visual arts within diverse cultural contexts
- develop the ability to articulate the meanings and messages communicated in images and objects
- develop visual thinking.

## **Visual arts syllabus outline**

### **Higher level Option A (HLA, 240 hours)**

- Studio work (practical exploration and artistic production): 60%
- Investigation workbooks (independent contextual, visual and critical investigation and reflection, both visual and written): 40%

### **Standard level Option A (SLA, 150 hours)**

- Studio work: 60%
- Investigation workbooks: 40%

### **Assessment in IBDP visual art**

#### **External assessment (60%): studio**

Each student prepares an exhibition of work undertaken during the course. There is an interview with each student about their exhibition (about 20 minutes) which is video-recorded and this is included in the package of work uploaded to the IB for external examination. The purpose of the interview is to assess the student's studio work. During the interview, the student will be encouraged to talk about the technical aspects of the studio works, his or her own aims or intentions, and the relationship between the studio works and the investigation workbooks. The discussion should focus on the student's experiences in making the studio works exhibited and how these relate to the investigation work undertaken. The student is not expected to make a prepared speech.

The exhibition should include works that have been developed to their complete and final form as well as investigative work carried out during the development phase (for example, sketches, notes, preliminary studies). A rough sketch may have considerable relevance when explained by the student.

The quantity of work included in the exhibition is not prescribed. The main factors influencing the quantity of work produced are the:

- technical characteristics of the media and the production processes required
- complexity and scale of the art pieces
- nature of the art pieces and the process of their development
- various combinations of media chosen
- time available at either HL or SL.

For example, a student working in photography or computer graphics may complete a hundred or more pieces for exhibition. However, a student working with labour-intensive sculptural pieces, particularly if on a large scale, would probably produce fewer finished works.

#### **Internal assessment (40%): investigation**

Each student produces investigation workbooks during the course of study that support, inform, develop and help to refine the studio work. For assessment purposes, the student must select carefully the stated number of copied investigation workbook pages and ensure that they clearly meet the requirements of the assessment criteria. All internal assessment marks are moderated on what is presented in the candidate record booklets.

Assessment in visual arts consists of an evaluation of each student's body of work as a whole—both the finished products and the processes of artistic investigation and development. In each case, the component contributing the larger proportion to the total assessment is externally assessed: for option A this is studio; for option B it is investigation.

#### **Digital Candidate record**

Students must present their externally assessed work (studio for option A; investigation for option B) in the digital candidate record, which must contain:

- a statement by the student
- a short written comment by the teacher
- a digital photographic record of the selected studio works
- Digital copies of the selected investigation workbook pages.
- Video recording of the oral examination interview

In the statement, the student must describe briefly, in no more than 300 words, his or her artistic growth and development throughout the course. He or she should illustrate these insights with specific examples related to studio work and the investigation workbooks.

The student must select carefully the stated number of copied investigation workbook pages (see the following tables) and ensure that the work meets all the assessment criteria. It is important that the student includes pages that demonstrate how his or her investigation led to the development of some of the studio works photographed for inclusion in the candidate record booklet. The selection can include some consecutive pages. It is also important that students demonstrate evidence of:

- their investigation and strategies for organizing its content
- first-hand responses to such content
- exploration of ideas both visually and in writing.

### **Quantity of work**

The quantity of work expected of students for both studio and investigation work is not prescribed, and should be what is “reasonable” in the time available during the course. The following indicates the quantity of work required for inclusion in the digital candidate record booklet for both studio and investigation. The selection of photographs may include, where appropriate, such details as close-ups or different angles, or a series of stills.

**Internal assessment** Investigation 40%

25–30 digital copies of workbook pages

**External assessment** Studio 60%

Selection of 12–18 photographs representing the works produced

## **Film**

### **Nature of the Subject**

Film is both a powerful communication medium and an art form. The Diploma Programme film course aims to develop students’ skills so that they become adept in both interpreting and making film texts.

Through the study and analysis of film texts and exercises in film-making, the Diploma Programme film 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.

The IB film course emphasizes the importance of working individually and as a member of a group. Students are encouraged to develop the professional and technical skills (including organizational skills) needed to express themselves creatively in film. A challenge for students following this course is to become aware of their own perspectives and biases and to learn to respect those of others. This requires willingness to attempt to understand alternative views, to respect and appreciate cultural diversity, and to have an open and critical mind. Thus, the IB film course can become a way for the student to celebrate the international and intercultural dynamic that inspires and sustains a type of contemporary film, while appreciating specifically local origins that have given rise to cinematic production in many parts of the world.

For any student to create, to present and to study film requires courage, passion and curiosity: courage to create individually and as part of a team, to explore ideas through action and harness the imagination, and to experiment; passion to communicate and to act communally, and to research and formulate ideas eloquently; curiosity about self and others and the world around them, about different traditions, techniques and knowledge, about the past and the future, and about the limitless possibilities of human expression through film.

At the core of the IB film course lies a concern with clarity of understanding, critical thinking, reflective analysis, effective involvement and imaginative synthesis that is achieved through practical engagement in the art and craft of film.

### **Film Aims and Objectives:**

The film course at the standard and higher level aims to develop in students the skills necessary to achieve creative and critical independence in their knowledge, experience and enjoyment of film.

The aims are to promote:

- an appreciation and understanding of film as a complex art form
- an ability to formulate stories and ideas in film terms
- the practical and technical skills of production
- critical evaluation of film productions by the student and by others
- a knowledge of film-making traditions in more than one country.

Having followed the film course at SL or HL, students are expected to demonstrate:

an understanding of the variety of ways in which film creates meaning

- an understanding and effective use of appropriate film language
- originality and creativity in developing an idea through the various stages of film-making, from conception to finished production
- technical skills and an appropriate use of available technology
- the ability to draw together knowledge, skills, research and experience, and apply them analytically to evaluate film texts
- a critical understanding of the historical, theoretical, sociocultural, economic and institutional contexts of film in more than one country
- the ability to research, plan and organize working processes
- the ability to reflect upon and evaluate film production processes and completed film texts.

### **Syllabus Components:**

The IB Film course is broken into three study areas:

**Part 1: Textual Analysis** - The detailed study of film sequences

**Part 2: Film Theory and History** - The study of films and film-making traditions from more than one country.

**Part 3: Creative Process** - Techniques and organization of production, the development of creative, analytical and production skills within film-making

### **Assessment Outline:**

#### **External Assessments (50%):**

Independent Study (25%) Rationale, script and list of sources for a short documentary production of 8-10 pages (12-15 for HL) on an aspect of film theory and/or film history, based on a study of a minimum of two films (4 films for HL)

Presentation (25%) An oral presentation of a detailed critical analysis of a continuous extract from a prescribed film. The extract must not be longer than 5 minutes. Presentations are 10 minutes (15 minutes for HL)

#### **Internal Assessment (50%):**

Production Portfolio. One complete film project with accompanying written documentation: no more than 1,200 words (1,750 words for HL) (50 marks) Length of film project: 4-5 minutes including titles (6-7 minutes for HL). HL students also do a trailer of 40-60 seconds. Length of individual rationale for the film: no more than 100 words (HL length of trailer rationale: no more than 100 words. Students will be assessed on only one role (must be one of these roles: director, writer, cinematographer, editor)

\*\*Group work: The film project may be undertaken as a group project (up to four students who will be assessed with an unlimited number of performers or assistants who aren't assessed), but all accompanying documentation must be individually produced.

## **Subject Change procedures**

Students are permitted to change their subject package during the first three months of year 12. Any change must be discussed with the guidance counsellor, the relevant teachers and the Diploma coordinator. However, this is to be avoided if possible.

Changes from higher to standard level (or vice versa) can be effectuated after this point depending on the nature of the proposed change and provided that all parties are in agreement .

Any change in subject can only be validated once the subject change form has been completed and submitted to Ms Juniper.

## **The Certificates Programme**

Some students may find that the full Diploma Programme does not meet their needs and, therefore, may wish to do a Certificates programme, which allows greater concentration on areas of strength.

The Certificates Programme means that students are still required to sit examinations in their chosen subjects, but they are exempted from the extended essay and programmes for study can be tailored to meet individual needs.

If a student does not pass the Diploma Programme, he or she will still be awarded IBO Certificates for the subjects that have been passed.

For further information, please contact the IBDP coordinator.

## **The High School Diploma**

Some students may complete the secondary graduation requirements of Campus des Nations at the end of year 12. In such a case, students normally apply for admission to US or Canadian undergraduate schools for the September following year 12 and will do a High School Diploma based on credits.

All students completing the Diploma Programme or Certificates will qualify for a High School Diploma in year 13 provided that sufficient credit has been gained.

Please contact Mrs Levin for further information on this type of Diploma at [ellyn.levin@ecolint.ch](mailto:ellyn.levin@ecolint.ch).

## **The End of Year Examinations at Nations**

### **The Idea of Examinations as a form of Assessment**

Exams can be defined as timed tests that usually come at the end of a cycle, term or year. In many schools and universities, examinations are seen as "the be all and end all" – the definitive way of testing knowledge. Indeed, the IB Diploma uses examinations at the end of the course as a substantial means of testing knowledge. Some subjects are up to 80 % examination weighted, which means that performance in the examination hall is crucial for overall achievement.

However, the fact that a year or course culminates with examinations does not mean that students should study only towards and because of examinations. Rote learning and cramming a subject with as sole objective, high scores in the examinations, is a poor method of learning. Imagine an athlete who is preparing for a race: if (s)he wants to succeed, (s)he has no choice but to prepare for that race every week, practicing, training, rehearsing and improving. The objective of the athlete is clearly not to run the race and then to spend the rest of his or her life lying on a sofa; instead, the athlete is building up strength, skills and experience that simply make that person a good athlete, who will not only run a good race on the day when a medal is given, but the next day too, and the day after that.

At Campus des Nations learning is seen as a process that is concurrent and continual; it is not and should never be considered as a means to an end, but as an end in itself. A good student will not need to cram knowledge frantically at the last minute because (s)he will have revised work every day, after every class. A good student will not look at examinations as the purpose of learning, but as one part of it.

Think of a sponge that is imbibed with a liquid and then wringed dry. This is not what we want our students to be; for rote learning and cramming at the last minute means submerging yourself with information just before the test, then squeezing that information out the very next day – while it can still be remembered – and then forgetting everything (the sponge is dry) so that the brain can be "filled" with more cramming for the next day's examination. Our students are not sponges but lifelong learners, and the lifelong learner is "revising" all the time, even after the final examinations.

## Useful Contacts

E-mails

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## Websites

International School of Geneva	<a href="http://www.ecolint.ch">www.ecolint.ch</a>
International Baccalaureate	<a href="http://www.ibo.org">www.ibo.org</a>
(Almost) all the universities in the world	<a href="http://www.braintrack.com">www.braintrack.com</a>
UK universities	<a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a>
US universities	<a href="http://www.usnews.com">www.usnews.com</a>
	<a href="http://www.collegequest.com">www.collegequest.com</a>
	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>
	<a href="http://www.embark.com">www.embark.com</a>
Canadian universities	<a href="http://www.studyincanada.com">www.studyincanada.com</a>
French universities	<a href="http://www.letudiant.fr">www.letudiant.fr</a>