



International[®]
Baccalaureate

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World Studies Extended Essay

*An in-depth interdisciplinary
study of an*

*issue of contemporary,
global significance.*



IB/Harvard Partnership

- World studies has been developed in partnership with Harvard University Project Zero.



IB/Harvard Partnership

The project aims to

- develop interdisciplinary inquiry i.e. the ability to conduct an investigation in which students integrate knowledge and modes of thinking from two or more disciplines and
- develop global consciousness which consists of three capabilities- global sensitivity; global understanding and global self

Research

- the world studies project has included site visits to participating schools and questionnaires to schools and students
- a report from Harvard Project Zero has focused on the students' experience of preparing for and going through the process of researching and writing the world studies essay

Development in Schools

- started in UWC in Mahindra with a request in 2001 to authorise a world studies course located in the core of the hexagon
- 2002 IB agreed that there should be a world studies extended essay. First cohort entered essays in 2005
- 4 schools on board by May 2009-Mahindra, Jakarta IS, Koç, and Bloomfield
- 2008-2010 4 additional schools: OS Colombo and Aga Kahn Academy; Atlantic College and Washington IS.

Essential Features

- essays must address a topic of global significance
- have a clearly framed research question that addresses a global issue through a “local” example(s)
- draw on disciplinary expertise rigorously and selectively
- integrate IB disciplines productively
- show the development of global consciousness in a researcher’s reflection space



Framing a Research Question

- start with a global issue
- see how this plays out in a local context or contexts
- explore which disciplinary concepts/approaches will need to be used to investigate the topic
- narrow the study down and develop a focused research question

TOPIC

HIV-AIDS and religion: beliefs and knowledge about HIV-AIDS among members of different religious communities in Mombasa, Kenya.

RESEARCH QUESTION

What do members of three religious congregations (Hindu, Muslim and Christian) in my city, Mombasa, believe, or know about, the causes, transmissions and cures of HIV-AIDS, and how might religious beliefs inform these people's views?

TOPIC

Express yourself! Youth culture: a global phenomenon with local meanings everywhere.

RESEARCH QUESTION

How and why have two Japanese graffiti artists used American hip hop art for the purposes of self-expression and community organization in their country?

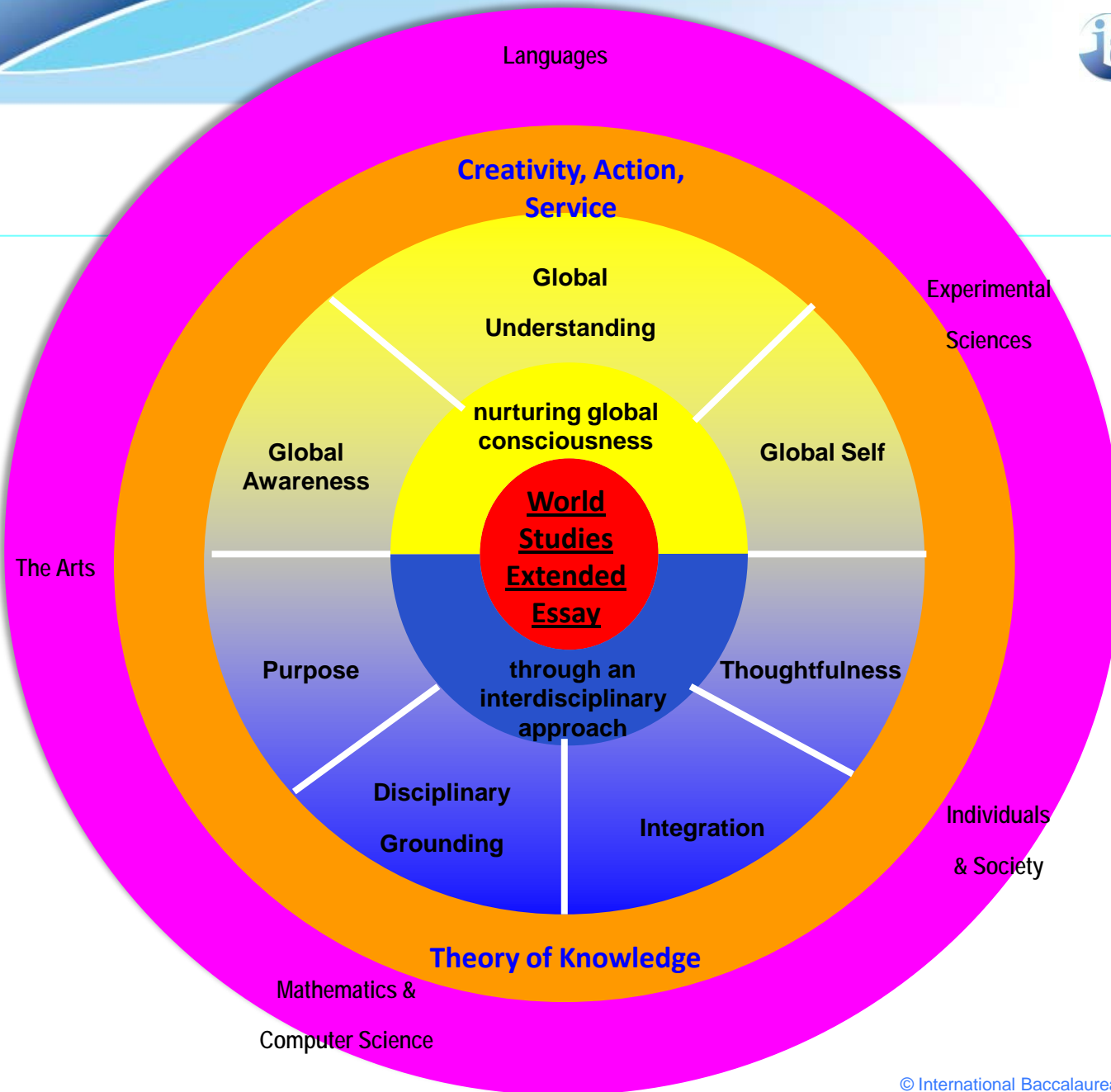


Interdisciplinary Research

- **purpose**-that is, knowing why the disciplines have been chosen
- **disciplinary grounding**- in the sense of understanding of concepts or theories of the disciplines used
- **integration** -of the disciplines to give more than the sum of their parts
- **thoughtfulness** -which in the best essays will involve reflecting on the usefulness of the disciplinary tools used

Global Consciousness

- **global sensitivity**—a sensitivity to local phenomena and experiences as expressions of developments on the planet
- **global understanding**—the capacity to think in flexible and informed ways about issues of global significance
- **global self**—a developing perception of self as a global actor and member of humanity, capable of making a positive contribution to the world.



Mainstream Launch

- world studies is now a mainstream EE option for first examinations 2013
- all documents plus a forum for teachers are on a dedicated OCC page
- there is a world studies chapter in the new edition of the guide published December 2010
- teacher support material published (in English only)
- screen cast and video

