

The Middle Years Programme: Q&A for IB World Schools



Middle Years
Programme

When did first teaching of the new MYP curriculum start?

First teaching started in September 2014 or January 2015, depending on the start of the academic year in schools.

When do schools have to complete implementation of the new requirements?

The IB provides a phased approach for schools to implement the new requirements, however all schools must complete the transition by 1 January 2017. Transition documents provide timelines for meeting the requirements for schools involved in the programme evaluation process. The latest transition document was posted on the Online Curriculum Centre (OCC) in December 2013.

How do the changes in requirements affect my school's five-year evaluation?

The *Programme evaluation guide and self-study questionnaire* (for use from March 2014) is available on the OCC and should be used by schools that began their self-study in or after March 2014 (with submission before December 2016). During this period, some programme requirements must be in place. For other requirements, schools must have planned how they will complete the transition. Guidance is provided by the transition document published on the OCC in December 2013. One important change to note is that monitoring of assessment as a requirement at programme evaluation will be phased out at the end of 2015.

Until December 2015, schools that do not request IB-validated grades through moderation are required to complete monitoring of assessment prior to programme evaluation. The deadline to submit requests for monitoring of assessment is 30 October 2015. Schools may use monitoring reports for evaluation visits that occur within two years of submission. Samples submitted after September 2015 must be based on the new assessment criteria as outlined in the *Handbook of procedures for the Middle Years Programme: Moderation and monitoring of assessment* (2015). Schools implementing the subject-group flexibility option in MYP years 4 and 5 must submit for monitoring of assessment samples from all subject groups offered in year 5. Any subject group not offered in year 5 must be monitored in the highest year (grade or level) in which it is offered.

From January 2016, feedback on unit plans will be offered through the Building Quality Curriculum School Enhancement Service. For programme evaluation, schools will be required to submit for evaluation two unit plans from each of the MYP's eight subject groups. Schools registering students for the IB MYP certificate from May 2016 will be exempt from this requirement at programme evaluation. Building Quality Curriculum, a fee-based service, will also be available upon request for any subject (or combination of subjects) whenever schools seek feedback on their development of MYP unit plans.

Trials of the Building Quality Curriculum service began in November 2014 with additional sessions planned for April and October 2015. Updates will be provided at www.ibo.org/supportservicesforschools and through *Coordinator's notes*. Schools may indicate interest in participating in the pilots by contacting the IB at GSS@ibo.org.

What does subject-group flexibility mean?

Subject-group flexibility supports schools in meeting local requirements and can offer students opportunities to create individual pathways for further learning. Whenever possible, schools should continue to provide all students with opportunities to engage in the study of eight subject groups in all years of the programme. If students are better served in years 4 and 5 by studying fewer than eight subject groups, however, schools may offer subject-group flexibility. In that case, students must be able to choose subjects from at least six subject groups (with certain conditions) that are taught independently and concurrently. A document about subject-group flexibility (MYP moderation, certification and eAssessment) can be found on the OCC.

What is MYP eAssessment?

MYP eAssessment represents a balanced, appropriately challenging model that comprises examinations and coursework. Two-hour onscreen examinations in four subject groups (language and literature, sciences, mathematics, individuals and societies) and in interdisciplinary learning are individually marked by IB examiners. Portfolios of student work for four subject groups (language acquisition, physical and health education, arts, and design) are moderated by IB examiners to international standards.

These innovative assessments focus on conceptual understanding and the ability to apply knowledge in complex, unfamiliar situations. They offer robust and reliable assessment of student achievement in the MYP.

Where can I find out more about MYP eAssessment

The new formal assessment requirements are outlined in key documents on the OCC: *Guide to MYP eAssessment* and *Handbook of procedures for the Middle Years Programme*. eAssessment and curriculum development reports keep the MYP community up to date with information regarding ongoing decisions about the new external assessment model.

What is the timetable for the last subject moderation and the introduction of MYP eAssessment?

Subject moderation and the resulting MYP certificate will continue until the end of the 2015 moderation sessions. Mandatory moderation of the personal project will start in 2016, providing global consistency across all MYP schools. A limited series of onscreen examinations will be available in 2015 as part of a live pilot. A larger range of examinations will be available in 2016. From that date, eAssessment will be the sole route to the IB MYP certificate.

What subjects will be offered for MYP eAssessment?

The full list of assessments for the MYP is available in the eAssessment development report (September 2014) on the OCC.

Is taking part in MYP eAssessment optional for schools?

MYP eAssessment offers robust and reliable assessment of student achievement in the MYP. There are many benefits to taking part in MYP eAssessment, however, external assessment (onscreen examinations and ePortfolios) to validate MYP grades remains entirely optional. Schools do not have to register students for MYP eAssessment. Schools may offer any or all available subjects, to any combination of students in MYP year 5.

How much will MYP eAssessment cost?

The IB announced its pricing framework for the MYP in August 2013 to give schools time to plan budgets for 2015 and 2016. A summary is available in the document *MYP fees and pricing framework* on the OCC. The pricing policy will offer greater value for the annual fee and a range of options for the eAssessments, focused on requirements for attaining the full IB MYP certificate.

How can I register students for MYP eAssessment?

As of September 2015, schools can register for eAssessment in 2016 using IBIS.

When does mandatory moderation of the personal project begin?

Beginning in 2016, all MYP year 5 students must be registered for mandatory moderation of the personal project.

Are there any additional fees for mandatory moderation of the personal project?

Beginning in 2016, annual fees for the MYP will include mandatory moderation for the personal project. Schools completing required registration of MYP year 5 students for moderation of the personal project will not incur additional costs. MYP fees are confirmed in the annual message sent to all IB World Schools in January.

What professional development opportunities are available to support schools in the implementation of the new MYP?

The IB started briefing and training workshop leaders on the new MYP curriculum framework in January 2013. From January 2014, both face-to-face and online workshops reflected changes outlined in MYP subject-group guides and in the publication *MYP: From principles into practice* (May 2014). Throughout 2014, a series of subject-specific seminars introduced the new framework at IB professional development workshops in all regions. All current category 1 and category 2 workshops reflect the new framework. By January 2017, schools must have one teacher in each subject group trained in the new curriculum framework at an IB-approved workshop.

From 2015, a series of new category 3 workshops will also be available:

- Teaching and learning in global contexts
- Inquiry in the MYP
- Evaluating your MYP
- Managing assessment
- Action in the MYP

Further information on new MYP professional development opportunities is available at www.ibo.org/programmes/pd. If you have more questions, please contact your Regional Professional Development Manager.

How can I communicate changes in the MYP to my school and community?

The IB digital tool kit, available from www.ibo.org, contains a wide range of visual and print-based resources that you can use to help students, parents, teachers, administrators, officials and community members better understand the benefits of the new MYP. Essential information about the programme is always available from www.ibo.org/myp.

For further information

Please visit the OCC to access the following documents:

- Milestone dates
- Transition documents for authorization
- Development reports for eAssessment
- Subject group guides and *MYP: From principles into practice*
- Summary of the pricing framework



Interested in learning more about the MYP?

Watch a video, brochures and read more online!

www.ibo.org/myp

