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An overview of the Diploma Programme (DP) curriculum



A globally significant and locally relevant curriculum

The IB Diploma Programme (DP) curriculum is standardized worldwide, empowering students to transfer from a school in one country to another with minimal disruption to their studies. Your school will receive a comprehensive framework, which can be customized to create a curriculum that is engaging and challenging for learners.

It is deliberately flexible and can be tailored to your school's culture and context – wherever you are in the world.

We champion schools and teachers as architects of their own teaching, trusting that they are best placed to understand what is appropriate to their school's culture, context and needs, as well as their students' interests and abilities.

With IB support, every step of the way

Once your school is accepted as an IB candidate school, you will be assigned an IB consultant to work with you to develop your curriculum. This expert consultant will share deep experience, best practice and personalized recommendations to guide your success.

A flexible framework

The DP curriculum is comprised of six subject groups and the core, which includes theory of knowledge (TOK), creativity, activity, service (CAS) and the extended essay (EE). Students can choose one course from each of the subject groups, although they may substitute an arts course with an additional course from one of the other five subject groups.

The six subject groups:

1. Studies in language and literature
2. Language acquisition
3. Individuals and societies
4. Sciences
5. Mathematics
6. The arts

With plenty of choice for students

There are many different courses available within each subject group, providing plenty of choice for the modern student. Each course can be taken at higher level (HL) or standard level (SL), with at least three and no more than four courses taken at HL. This does not mean a HL course is better than a SL course. SL courses ensure students feel able to pursue passions they might otherwise feel they need to drop, while HL courses allow students to deep-dive into their strengths. Students also can enroll in a range of authorized DP courses online offered via their IB World School.

Ready to discover more about each course?
Download the DP Subject Briefs >>

All supported by an intellectual core

The three elements of the DP core aim to broaden students' educational experience and challenge them to apply their knowledge and skills.

1. **The extended essay** (EE) empowers students to direct their own inquiry through an in-depth question related to one of their chosen DP subjects.
2. **Theory of knowledge** (TOK) unifies the DP approach to learning, with a course on critical thinking that encourages students to inquire into the nature of knowing.
3. **Creativity, activity, service** (CAS) is an opportunity for students to develop their identity and supplement academic study with a holistic range of activities that explore creativity, physical activity and community service.



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