



The IB: A Race against Time

Success in the IB isn't just about being smart. It's about being strategic. Here's a comprehensive guide to prepare for the IB.

An overview of the IB

Students can score up to 45 points. Over the course of two years, every IBDP student takes 6 courses (3 at Higher Level, 3 at Standard Level) where at least one course is taken from each of Group 1-5.

- Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature
- Group 2: Language and Acquisition
- Group 3: Individuals and societies
- Group 4: Sciences
- Group 5: Mathematics
- Group 6: The Arts

Students score 1-7 points for each of their 6 subjects. This totals to 42 subject points. Grades are dependent on subject-specific Internal Assessments, exams, and coursework. Grade boundaries depend on the subject.



Pro tip: We reveal trends on which subjects have the highest scores in our [1-to-1 counseling package](#).

The remaining 3 points belong to your Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge components:

- Extended Essay: an academic piece written on one of the student's 6 subjects (or a combination in special cases) that explore a detail in depth beyond the level of a high school student. Find an interesting topic that is worth mention in university applications.
- Theory of Knowledge: a philosophy course containing two components: The TOK Essay and the TOK exhibition. Students discuss personal interpretations based on schools of thoughts and the philosophies of great thinkers.



The Extended Essay and TOK are combined a combined score from 0-3 as seen in the table below

		Theory of knowledge				
		A	B	C	D	E
Extended essay	A	3	3	2	2	Failing condition
	B	3	2	2	1	
	C	2	2	1	0	
	D	2	1	0	0	
	E	Failing condition				

The final condition is that a student passes Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) by demonstrating continuous engagement over 18 months. It is a pass or fail condition.

- CAS entails activities that show a student's engagement with their passions and their community.
- Pro tip: These activities should be cleverly integrated with building a university college admissions to build a holistic profile to save time for your child. Make sure they are well documented.

Passing Requirements for IB

- CAS requirements are met.
- The candidate has achieved at least 24 total points.
- A grade has been awarded in all subjects, TOK and the EE.
- A grade of at least a 2 has been awarded in all subjects.
- There are no more than two grade 2s awarded (SL or HL).
- There are no more than three grade 3s or below awarded (SL or HL).
- The candidate has at least 12 points on HL subjects. (For candidates who register for four HL subjects, the three highest grades count).
- Candidates have at least 9 points on SL subjects. (Candidates who register for two SL subjects must be awarded at least 5 points at SL).

Free Textbooks and General Online Resources

Start off by looking at what the IB has in store. It's essential to understand the sections of your syllabus. Before even studying any of the content, look over the structure of the course to understand what it takes to succeed in the course.

- IB Subject Briefs (contains syllabi and component weightings):
<https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/>
- Free IB Textbooks: <https://annas-archive.org/>
- Publicly Accessible Past Papers: <https://dl.ibdocs.re/>

Online Resources:

- Revision Village YT | A great free resource for revising IB Mathematics. If your child has the confidence to independently learn, this channel is a great tool. They have other subjects available, but they are newly developed and not as strong. They have a paid subscription for questionbanks. These can be useful at times, but can deviate from true exam style. Past Papes are and always will be the best practice.



Still not satisfied? I have more for you. Sign up for your free trial of 1-on-1 Pre-IB Counseling to understand what how to maximize your child's chances of success with a data-backed knowledge base I have built.