

## **IB CURRICULUM**

Founded in 1968, the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) is a non-profit educational organization based in Geneva, Switzerland. IBO offers high quality programs of international education to a worldwide community of schools. IB is a curriculum where one can take a really wide variety of subjects and be extremely creative.

### **Students who take the IB curriculum will:**

- Develop the skill of thinking independently and will drive their own learning;
- Take part in programs of education that can lead them to some of the highest ranking universities around the world
- Increase their cultural awareness through developing skills in a second language
- Be able to engage with people in an increasingly globalized and rapidly changing world. The IB curriculum enables students to develop strong academic, social and emotional characteristics. It is also known for its holistic approach and not only educates the students but also enables them to develop skills which will help them in learning more.

The three programs for students aged 3 to 19 help develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world. There are more than 6,00,000 IB students at 2,218 schools in 125 countries.

### **The three programmes offered by the IBO are:**

- **PYP:** The Primary Years Programme is offered to students from Kindergarten to Class 5.
- **MYP:** The Middle Years Programme is offered to students from Class 6 to Class 10.
- **DP:** At the higher level the students can take up the Diploma Programme for Class 11 and Class 12.

In this section we will be focusing mainly on the MYP and the DP programs. MYP: Middle Year Programme:

The MYP or the Middle Year Programme is a five-year programme for students aged 11 to 16, i.e., for students from class 6 to class 10.

The MYP is a challenging framework that encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world. It helps the students in developing skills for communication, intercultural understanding and global engagement. These are considered the essential qualities for young students to develop a global outlook. The MYP also aims to help students develop an understanding about themselves and the community they live in.

The basic approach of the MYP programme is the focus on "learning how to learn." It has created several effective Approaches to Learning (ATL), which helps students in developing skills for communication, collaboration, organization, self-management, reflection, research, informational literacy, media literacy, creative and critical thinking, and transfer of learning.

### **The Curriculum:**

The MYP curriculum is designed in a way that helps students develop holistically. The teachers take special care to inculcate the following things in the curriculum:

- Teaching and Learning in Context;
- Conceptual Understanding;
- Approaches to Learning (ATL);
- Service as Action (Community Service);
- Language and Identity.

**Through this, the students develop subject specific and interdisciplinary understanding. The framework of the IB consists of:**

- 1. Approaches to learning (ATL):** Helping students in developing skills for research, critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and self-management which would help them in effective learning.
- 2. Key and Related Concepts:** Helping students explore the big ideas that matter.
- 3. Global Contexts:** Helping students understand the relevance and importance of their study for understanding their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet.

This clearly explains that the curriculum of MYP is not restricted to books and classrooms. It reaches out to the students and trains them to implement what they

have learnt in their lives.

**The subjects offered by MYP are divided into 8 Groups:**

- Arts (Visual Art, Media, Drama, Music, etc.)
- Design (Digital Design, Product Design, etc.)
- Mathematics (Mathematics, Extended Mathematics)
- Individuals and Societies (Geography, History, Integrated Humanities, etc.)
- Interdisciplinary Learning
- Language Acquisition (Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Spanish etc.)
- Physical and Health Education
- Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics etc.)

Every subject Group should be taught for at least 50 hours every year. For students participating in the MYP e-Assessment, the IB recommends 70 hours of guided learning each year in years 4 and 5.

The last two years of the programme are designed in such a way that they help allow subject Group flexibility. This helps students to meet local requirements and personal learning goals.

**Assessment: students should take one subject each from the 8 subject Groups.**

**However, if the school offers a choice, in years 4 and 5 of MYP (which are usually classes 9 and 10), students can choose one subject from each of the following six subject Groups in years 4 and 5. The choice must be from:**

- Language and literature
- Language Acquisition (or a Second Language and Literature)
- Individuals and Societies
- Mathematics

- Sciences
- And one subject from Arts, Physical and Health Education or Design.

Each year, students in the MYP also engage in at least one collaboratively planned interdisciplinary unit that involves at least two subject Groups. This unit helps students in forming connections between the various subjects that they are studying and fuels their learning development.

Another important feature of the MYP curriculum is the long-term project which every student is required to complete. When students start this project they decide what they want to learn about, identify what they already know and what more do they need to know in order to complete the project.

Schools are free to design a flexible curriculum which meets local, national and international requirements.

### **Assessments in MYP**

The IB has introduced several new things in assessment:

- It has made it mandatory for the personal projects to be moderated.
- There have also been changes made in the optional external assessment, with the introduction of the new MYP e-assessment model for the students of MYP year 5 (which is class 10).
- MYP e-assessment model comprises of examinations and coursework.
- There are 2 - hour examinations in four subject Groups (Language and Literature, Sciences, Mathematics, and Individuals and Societies).
- In Interdisciplinary Learning, the exams are individually marked by IB examiners.
- The portfolios made by students in four subject Groups (Language and Literature, Sciences, Mathematics, and Individuals and Societies) are moderated by the IB examiners to meet international standards.

These assessments are designed in such a way that they focus on conceptual understanding and the ability to apply knowledge in complex, unfamiliar situations.

The assessment and grading scheme in the MYP is a bit complicated. This

complexity has arisen because the MYP curriculum assesses the performance of students in a very meticulous way.

Every subject has several aspects of learning, and if a teacher wants to judge whether a student can perform well in that subject, they need to make sure that the student has understood all of its aspects.

To do this, there are 4 objectives or criteria on which every subject is assessed. These criteria vary from subject to subject but they basically help the teachers in assessing the performance of students in every aspect of the subject.

In simpler words: To judge the performance of every subject, each subject is divided and assessed on 4 aspects which are called 'objectives'.

### **Example:**

John is an MYP student with Physics as one of his subjects that he opted for. His teachers will have 4 objectives through which they can know whether John has understood all the aspects of Physics. Every objective is assessed on the scale of 1 to 8. If the student does well in all objectives, then it means he has done well in the whole subject. The same is repeated for every subject.

### **Grading:**

#### **As mentioned above:**

- Students have to take a minimum of 6 subjects from 8 subject Groups.
- Every subject is divided into 4 'Objectives'.
- For every Objective, the attainment value is 1 to 8.
- This means, in every subject a maximum of 32 attainment points can be earned.

These values are then converted into the grade points for that particular subject which starts from 1 and ends at 7 where 1 is the lowest and 7 is the highest. MYP assessment criteria are converted into term grades using the IB 1-7 scale, in line with the DP grading system.

**For example, in the Arts, the four assessment objectives are:**

- Knowing and understanding marked between 1 and 8.
- Developing skills marked between 1 and 8.
- Thinking creatively marked between 1 and 8.
- Responding marked between 1 and 8.

Based on this value, the grade boundary for the Arts subject would be 0 - 32 (maximum value 8x4 objectives), so the minimum is 0 and the maximum is 32. After this objective — based grading, the subject will be further graded on the point based scale of 1 to 7 to match the IB Point based grading system. (Have a look at the table)

Total grading is based on: 5 e-assessments + 2 e-portfolios + 1 personal project = 8 items to be graded. So 8 multiplied by 7 (the maximum grade), gives 56.

If a student seeks a formal qualification at the end of the MYP programme, they would have to take the e-Assessments after which they can get the IB MYP certificate.

**To earn the MYP certificate, students must complete 2 hour on-screen examinations in each of the following:**

- Language and Literature
- Individuals and Society
- Sciences
- Mathematics
- Interdisciplinary Learning

History, Geography, Humanities, Philosophy, Economics and Business Studies	
Grade	Score
1	0 – 3

2	4 – 7
3	8 – 12
4	13 – 17
5	18 – 22
6	23 – 27

The students also need to submit two e-portfolios. One e-Portfolio in language acquisition and the other from any one of the following: design, arts or physical and health education.

The students should also complete a moderated personal project and complete school-based expectations for service as action (community service).

So, in other words, students seeking the MYP certificate must complete the following. They are:

**On-screen examinations in:**

- Mathematics
- Language and literature
- Sciences
- Individuals and Societies
- Interdisciplinary Learning

**E-Portfolios (coursework) in:**

- Language Acquisition
- Physical and Health Education, Arts, or Design

**The MYP Personal Project:**

## **How do students achieve the MYP certificate?**

Students must achieve a total of at least 28 points, with a grade of '3' or higher in each e- Assessment component, to be eligible to receive the IB MYP certificate.

The maximum total score for the IB MYP certificate is 56, with a grade from 1- 7 assigned to each required e-Assessment.

A maximum of 7 points can be scored in every 5 e-assessments of the subjects chosen.

Additionally, the interdisciplinary assessment can contribute up to 7 points and the personal project, another 7 points.

### **IBDP: International Baccalaureate Diploma Program:**

The Diploma Program is essentially for Class 11 and Class 12. The IBDP curriculum has two main components: Class requirements and The Core.

#### **The First Component: Class Requirements:**

All the subjects offered by IB Board in all programs are divided into 6 Groups. Students have to take one subject from each Group from Groups 1 to 5. The 6th subject can be either from Group 6 or a substitute from one of the other Groups.

Students have to take 3 subjects at a higher level and 3 subjects at a lower level. The difficulty levels of IB subjects are divided into Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level (SL). As the name suggests, the higher level of each subject delves into an advanced version and is tougher than the standard level.

#### **Take a look at the subjects offered in each Group:**

##### **Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature:**

- Language A: Literature, which is automatically available in 55 languages and, by special request, for any other that has sufficient written literature.
- Language A: Language and literature, which is available in 17 languages.



- Literature and performance, which is automatically available in English, and by special request in Spanish and French.

Changes have been made to this group, with the implementation beginning from the year 2019. In this group, the changes are majorly focused in the internal assessment, with the methods being tweaked.

## **Group 2: Language Acquisition:**

### **Modern Languages:**

- Language ab initio courses are for beginners (that is, students who have little or no previous experience of learning the language they have chosen). These courses are only available at standard level.

### **Classical Languages:**

- Latin or Classical Greek coursework provides opportunities for students to study the language, literature and culture of ancient Rome or Greece.

**Group 3: Individuals and Societies** which would include different courses such as Business Management, Economics, Geography, History, Information Technology in a Global Society, Philosophy, Psychology, Social and Cultural Anthropology, World Religions, and Global Politics.

**Group 4: Sciences** which include subjects like Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Design Technology, Environmental Systems and Societies, Physics, and Sports, Exercise and Health Science

**Group 5:** This group included **Mathematics** offering the subject as Mathematical Studies SL (known as Math Studies), Mathematics SL, Mathematics HL, and Further Mathematics HL until the year 2018 – 2019.

## **Starting 2019, two Mathematics subjects/routes will each be offered at Standard Level (SL) and Higher Level (HL):**

1. **Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches:** This will be offered at both SL and HL. It is designed for students who enjoy developing their mathematics to

become fluent in the construction of mathematical arguments and develop strong skills in mathematical thinking. This subject would be ideal for students interested in mathematics, engineering, physical sciences, and some economics.

2. **Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation:** This will be offered at both SL and HL for students who are interested in developing their mathematics for describing our world, modelling and solving practical problems using the power of technology. Students who take Mathematics: Applications and interpretation will be those who enjoy mathematics best when seen in a practical context. This subject would be ideal for students interested in social sciences, natural sciences, medicine, statistics, business, engineering, economics, psychology, and design.

**Group 6:** The Arts including Dance, Film, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts.

IBDP tests are graded on a scale of 1-7. For a High Level subject, the minimum points to pass are 4. For students who register for three High Level subjects, at least 12 points have to be gained on higher level subjects. And students who register for four higher level subjects must gain at least 16 points at higher level.

While at the standard level the minimum required points to pass are 3, at least 9 points have to be gained on three standard level subjects. And candidates who register for two standard level subjects must gain at least 6 points at standard level.

## **The Second Component: Core**

**This is the second component needed to complete the IB Diploma Programme. This is further divided into 3 parts:**

- Theory of Knowledge (TOK)
- Extended Essay
- Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

**Let's look at all 3 of them.**

- **Theory of Knowledge:** This is a subject that provides an opportunity for students to reflect on the nature of knowledge, and on how we know what we claim to know.
- **Extended Essay:** The extended essay is an independent, self-directed

piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper.

- **Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS):** This is a three part project that forces students to get involved in extracurricular activities:
- **Creativity:** Getting involved in something creative, learning an instrument, acting in a play, writing a short story, etc. As long as you can argue it is creative (since you have to do a report), you can use it as your creativity part.
  - **Activity:** Generally sports-related activity, sports in a wide sense (could be anything outdoor like rock-climbing or hiking).
  - **Service:** Think of this as traditional community service. Students can volunteer to feed the homeless, host a fundraiser for brain cancer research or work at an orphanage for a while, during school breaks.

### **IBDP Marking Scheme**

The total score that a student can get in an IB Diploma is 45. The maximum points for each subject is 7 and a student has to take 6 subjects in all. That makes the total score to 42.

The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and Extended Essay (EE) components are awarded individual grades and, collectively, contribute up to 3 additional points towards the overall Diploma score making a total of 45.

The remaining element in the DP Core, Creativity, Activity, Service, does not contribute to the points total but authenticated participation is a requirement for the award of the diploma.

The Extended Essay is externally examined. Marks are awarded against a set of published criteria (both general and subject-specific).

The final Extended Essay grade and the final TOK grade are entered into the Diploma Points Matrix (see below) to award a possible maximum of 3 extra points to be added to a student's Diploma score. Candidates who fail to submit satisfactory work in either area will fail the Diploma.

**The Diploma Matrix:**

TOK/EE	A	B	C	D	E
A	3	3	2	2	Failing Conditions
B	3	2	2	1	
C	2	2	1	0	
D	2	1	0	0	
E	Failing Conditions				

Students need to score a minimum of 24 points to get an IB Diploma. In case the student fails to do so he gets an IB certificate instead of the IB diploma. In case a student fails to submit the TOK, EE or the CAS but meets the minimum score requirement of 24 points he would not be awarded the IB Diploma but would receive the IB Certificate.

If the student wishes to take a subject again, he/she can do so and improve the grades.

The global pass rate for IB Diploma is about 80%. Exams are scheduled twice a year, once in November and then in May.

Following are the approximate grade scales used by the IB:

IB Grade	Percentage Range	Description
7	96-100	Excellent
6	83-95	Very Good
5	70-82	Good
4	56-69	Satisfactory
3	41-55	Mediocre

When it comes to assessments, there are two kinds: External and Internal. Some assessment methods include portfolios/dossiers, written essays, studio- work, experimental work, oral commentaries, as well as written exams and are tailored for different learning styles.

### **Fact-Check:**

In most Indian universities, admissions are over by mid-June. However, the IBDP results are declared only on July 6. While overseas universities grant admission on the basis of predicted grades, most Indian universities require the final mark sheets issued by the Board.

The Mumbai University issues Provisional Statement of Eligibility Certificates to IBDP students, which facilitates admission of students to various colleges and professional institutions affiliated to Mumbai University without the submission of the final grade results issued by the IB, on the grounds that the IB declares results late vis-a-vis the University's admission timelines. Off late the acceptance of IB has increased among the Indian Universities. The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) rates IB at par with class 12 CISCE, CBSE State Boards etc. The IB issues Indian equivalent percentages for the IBDP grades to those students who intend to apply to Indian universities.

Fulfilling other eligibility requirements, an IBDP student is able to appear for the entrance examinations for admission to professional courses like engineering, medicine, management, law, etc.in India.

**IBDP students from various schools have gained admission to leading colleges, such as**

- OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat
- Jindal Global Law School, Sonapat
- Lady Shri Ram College for Women, New Delhi
- Faculty of Management Studies-Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, Delhi University
- Sri Venkateshwara College, New Delhi
- College of Vocational Studies – Delhi University
- Indian School Institute of Business and Finance, Delhi
- Oberoi Centre for Learning and Development
- Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, Pune
- Foundation for Liberal and Management Education (FLAME), Pune
- Fergusson College Pune.
- ChristUniversity, Bangalore.
- Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore.
- National Institute of Design, Bangalore
- Manipal University.
- H R College, Mumbai
- Narsee Monjee College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai
- Jai Hind College, Mumbai
- K C College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai

And many more ...

Overall, there are some advantages and disadvantages of the IB curriculum.

**Pros:**

- The IB, especially the Diploma Programme is a challenging programme and fosters the need to think outside the box.
- Emphasis is on concepts and individualized research rather than on memorizing facts to achieve a 100% mark.
- The Diploma Programme (and now, even the Middle Years Programme) is recognized by the Indian Government, and most universities in the big metros will accept students who have successfully completed the Diploma and have achieved suitable scores.
- To enable students to deal with the changes coming from Indian educational board to IB, many schools have an initial orientation programme that familiarizes them with the requirements of the board.

**Cons:**

- In India, most schools have exams in May, with results coming out in July which is too late for local colleges. The predicted scores that schools give out in March / April may or may not be accepted by some colleges.

**KEY TAKEAWAY**

- PYP is the Primary Years Program while the MYP (Middle Years Program) is from class 6 to class 10.
- The subjects are divided into 8 Groups. To get an MYP certificate, a student has to take a minimum of 6 subjects from 8 Groups.
- Apart from the subjects, students also have to prepare a personal project. They also have to prepare portfolios in two subjects.
- To judge every subject, there are 4 objectives for each. This helps teachers to check the performance of the student in every aspect of that subject.
- Every subject's marks are then converted into grades on a scale of 1 to 7.
- The whole structure of IB is devised in such a way that it makes a student not only learn new things but also implement it in their lives. IB is also known for its holistic approach and the way it trains students about how to learn more and better.
- Although the PYP, MYP and IBDP form a continuous sequence,

each can be offered independently too.

- IB DP is offered as a two years programme equivalent to class 11 and class 12 and consists of two elements viz. Class Requirements and Core.
- The grading system ranges from 1-7 with 1 being the lowest and 7 being highest.
- A student can join the IB Diploma Program after completing the grade 10 level qualifications from CBSE, ICSE or any other State Board. The Diploma program is equivalent to 10+2 level qualification through CBSE.