

IB Diploma Programme Brief

Updated on 8 August, 2024

Curriculum Framework

For detailed information, please refer to [BIS Curriculum Grades 11 & 12 - 2024/25](#).



DP Curriculum

Students in the DP develop as independent and lifelong learners. The interdisciplinary and inquiry-based nature of the programme encourages students to recognise relationships between school subjects and the world outside and combine relevant knowledge, and practical and social intelligence to solve problems.

The curriculum is made up of six subject groups and the three core components as below:

Subjects					
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Studies in Language and Literature --- Known as Language A	Language Acquisition --- Language B Language ab initio	Individuals and Societies	Sciences	Mathematics	The Arts
-English A: Language and Literature -Russian A: Language and Literature -SSST* Language A: Literature	-English B -French B -Mandarin B -German B -Russian B -Spanish B -French ab-initio -German ab-initio -Mandarin ab-initio -Russian ab-initio -Spanish ab-initio	-Economics -Geography -History	-Biology -Chemistry -Physics -Computer Science	-Analysis and Approaches (Calculus focused) -Applications and Interpretation (Statistics focused)	-Music -Theatre -Visual Arts
+					
The Core					
Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Students reflect on the nature of knowledge and on how we know what we claim to know.	Extended Essay (EE) Students complete an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper.	Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) Students complete a project related to those three concepts.			

Students who aim to achieve an IB Diploma need to meet the following requirements set by the IB (see the sections [The Award of the IB Diploma](#) and [Diploma Results / Course Results](#) for more details):

- One subject must be selected from each of the IB subject groups 1 - 6.
- The exception is Group 6: The arts, which is optional. If a student does not want to study Group 6 subject they can select an additional subject from Group 1 - 4 instead.
- Students take at least three (but not more than four) subjects at Higher Level (HL) and the remaining at Standard Level (SL).
 - HL and SL courses differ in scope but are measured according to the same grade descriptors, with students expected to demonstrate a greater body of knowledge, understanding and skills at HL.
 - Language ab-initio is available at SL only.
- Students have the option of studying a literature course in a language that is not offered by the school with a tutor. This is called the *School-Supported Self-Taught (SSST).
 - Please note the additional cost of a tutor is borne by parents/guardians.
- Students have the option of studying a course online if the subject is offered. The courses are developed and delivered by [Pamoja Education](#), the IB-approved online course provider. If students wish to take a subject that is not offered at BIS, or it is impossible to take the subject due to the timetable, it is worth considering taking the course online. To do so, all the following conditions and agreements must be confirmed with the DP Coordinator:
 - The subject course is offered by Pamoja
 - The fee is paid by the parents/guardians
 - The student is eligible for self-study
 - BIS is able to allocate Site-Based Coordinator (SBC)
 - No more than two online courses are taken by the student.
- Three core components must be completed alongside individual subjects and throughout a student's time in the DP. The Core aims to broaden students' educational experience and challenge them to apply their knowledge and skills.

Non-DP Curriculum

Kyrgyz National Curriculum

The local curriculum follows the programme determined by the Ministry of Education of the Kyrgyz Republic in order to prepare students for Kyrgyz state examinations in addition to DP courses. It is offered in the following subjects:

- Kyrgyz Language
- Kyrgyz History
- Russian Language and Literature
- Military Training

This programme is provided for all Kyrgyz citizens and open to any other students who have the required language fluency and/or wish to participate. However, attendance in all above indicated courses (in addition to DP courses) is mandatory if the student wishes to take Kyrgyz state examinations and receive Kyrgyz National Certificate of Secondary Education.

IB Assessments

The IB uses both external and internal assessments in the DP:

- **External Assessment (EA)** - Examinations form the basis of the assessment for most courses. This is because of their high levels of objectivity and reliability.
- **Internal Assessment (IA)** - This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.

Subjects

Grades are based on a 1-7 scale, with 7 being the highest grade. The grade boundaries differ depending on the subject, level and year. At BIS the latest grade boundaries published at the time are used to provide a grade.

The Core (TOK and EE)

Grades are based on an A–E scale, with A being the highest grade. These two grades are combined in the diploma points matrix as below to contribute between 0 and 3 points to be added to a student’s Diploma score. If failed to submit satisfactory work in either area, the IB Diploma will not be awarded.

The Extended Essay and TOK points matrix:

		Theory of Knowledge (TOK)					
		Excellent A	Good B	Satisfactory C	Mediocre D	Elementary E	Not submitted
Extended Essay (EE)	Excellent A	3	3	2	2	Fail	Fail
	Good B	3	2	2	1	Fail	Fail
	Satisfactory C	2	2	1	0	Fail	Fail
	Mediocre D	2	1	0	0	Fail	Fail
	Elementary E	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail
	Not submitted	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail

The Core (CAS)

CAS is not assessed or graded, but must be completed in order to achieve the IB Diploma.

Overall (Subjects + The Core Components)

There is a maximum of 7 points available for each of the six required elective courses; in addition, there are 3 points available for the combination of TOK and EE. This makes a maximum total of 45 points calculated as $[(6 \times 7) + 3] = 45$.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Academic honesty is taken extremely seriously and is an integral part of the BIS culture. Students in the DP will be introduced to the meaning and significance of concepts related to academic honesty, in particular academic authenticity, during Research Methods lessons. Skills such as selecting sources, citing and referencing are introduced in DP subjects and students are expected to apply these skills to their work.

The Award of the IB Diploma

A student will be eligible for the award of the IB Diploma if he/she meets the criteria outlined by the IB as below. The award of the IB Diploma is made externally by the IB and it is independent of the BIS High School Diploma.

- Six subjects are taken from each subject group except for Group 6 (alternated with Group 1-4).
- A minimum of three courses must be at HL.
- The minimum threshold for the award of the diploma is 24 points.

The IB Diploma will NOT be awarded if:

- CAS requirements have not been met.
- There is “N” awarded for TOK, EE or for a contributing subject.
- There is grade E awarded for TOK and/or EE.
- There is grade 1 awarded in a subject/level.
- There are more than two grade 2s awarded.
- There are more than three grade 3s or below awarded.
- The candidate has not gained a total of 12 points on HL subjects.
(For candidates who register for four HL subjects, the three highest grades count.)
- The candidate has not gained 9 points or more on SL subjects.
(For candidates who register for two SL subjects must gain at least 5 points at SL.)
- The candidate has received a penalty for academic misconduct from the final award committee.

However, students are not obliged to take the IB Diploma. Some students may feel that their needs are not best met by this course, and may choose to organise their programme in a different way. In this case students may, or may not, complete IA, TOK or EE. Students may also choose fewer than three HL subjects.

Bilingual Diploma

A bilingual diploma will be awarded to a successful candidate who fulfils one or more of the following criteria:

- Completion of two languages selected from Group 1 with the award of a grade 3 or higher in both languages.
- Completion of one of the subjects from Group 3 or Group 4 in a language that is not the same as the candidate's nominated studies in Group 1.
- Attainment of a grade 3 or higher in both Group 1 language and the subject from Group 3 or Group 4.

Diploma Results / Course Results

Other than the IB Diploma, Diploma results and Course results are achieved for any IB examination taken. Course results are achieved by those who do not meet the requirements for the IB full Diploma and are typically used in conjunction with a BIS High School Diploma to earn advanced standing credit. Diploma results and Course results constitute the official results. Results certification only shows what a candidate achieves and does not display subjects or the core components that are not completed.

The Award of the BIS High School Diploma

If a student fulfils the graduation requirements set out by the school as below, the student will be awarded a BIS High School Diploma, accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Council for International Education. This is the equivalent of an American High School Diploma, but may also have equivalency in other countries. The conditions for the award of the BIS High School Diploma are determined by the school and are not contingent on any external examinations.

Graduation Requirements

The BIS 'High School Diploma' is awarded to all graduating students who meet the following minimum standards from Grade 9 to Grade 12:

- Credits (full academic year course) in the following subject areas:
 - English - minimum 4 credits
 - Other Language - minimum 4 credits
 - Mathematics - minimum 4 credits
 - Science - minimum 4 credits
 - Computer Science - minimum 2 credits
 - Individuals & Societies - minimum 4 credits
 - Creative & Elective courses (may be in the categories listed above) - minimum 4 credits

*Minimum 70% attendance in the course is required to receive a credit.
- Physical Education programme completed.

University and Career

University and Career Counsellors help DP students in terms of career plans and applications to higher institutions.

In some countries, such as the USA and Canada, the IB Diploma qualifies students for advanced placement or academic credits; furthermore, students with the IB Diploma are accepted at a higher rate at selective US universities than those with other qualifications. In general, European universities prefer the IB Diploma for entrance over IB Course results or the High School Diploma. Some European and US universities may require English proficiency tests such as IELTS and TOEFL, if a student only has the High School Diploma or the High School Diploma with IB Course results.

The list of universities that recognize and accept IB qualifications is growing daily and information is available on the IB website at <http://www.ibo.org/country/> and [the Guide to International University Admissions](#) can be referred to.

Student Life

Form Time

Form teachers work with subject teachers to have overall oversight of their form group's wellbeing and academic progress. Form teachers are available to meet with their form groups after assembly on Friday afternoons. DP students must attend a minimum 80% of all form class periods in order to qualify for the BIS High School Diploma.

Absence and Lateness Notifications

Notify by either way:

- Option 1 - Phone call by parents
 - Parents inform the school before 08:00 on the first day of absence.
- Option 2 - Email (Grade 11: lag11@bis.kg / Grade 12: lag12@bis.kg) by parents or students
 - Parents send an email having their child CCed.
 - Students send an email having their parents CCed.

ManageBac

All students and parents have access to [ManageBac](https://bishkek.managebac.com/) (<https://bishkek.managebac.com/>), the online platform for IB world schools. All information about each subject, assignment deadlines, assessments, grades, report cards, attendance records and teacher email addresses can be found there.

Study Periods

Many students in the DP have study periods in their weekly timetable. Students are responsible for themselves and are expected to use these periods effectively.

DP Study Rooms

DP Study Rooms are used exclusively by DP students without a supervisor to respect their own space at school. DP Study Rooms are closed at 17:00 due to the work shift of the security guard. After this time DP students are welcome to study on the main campus in the café or in any open classroom, if they wish to.

Flexible Attendance

DP students do not need to be physically on campus when they have study periods to practise using time effectively. Full flexible attendance shall start from the Term 2 (after the autumn break) in Grade 11 by providing new DP students the time to set up their habits of regular routine. DP students must be at school for any timetabled classes, assemblies, or agreed meetings and other agreed commitments.

Removal of privileges

The privilege of Flexible Attendance as well as the access to the DP Study Room may be withdrawn at the discretion of the DP Coordinator if a student struggles with self-management such as missing lessons or meetings or late to lessons. DP Students must:

- Submit all assignments on time to a good standard.
- Attend all scheduled lessons and agreed meetings or other commitments made in writing.
- Agree to attend school when requested by the form/subject teacher or DP Coordinator.

Mock Examinations

Traditionally DP Mock Examinations start from the second week after the winter break in January in Grade 12. The procedure and conditions follow the same IB regulations for official examinations.

Student Mental Support

Students are encouraged to turn to their Form Teachers for support with any issues they may have in relation to their academic, social or emotional wellbeing. In addition to their Form Teachers, students can also approach the School Counselor for help at any time. Initial contact can be made by the student themselves or as a referral by teachers or parents. Form Teachers, subject teachers and the School Counselor work together and communicate regularly to monitor the wellbeing of all students.

Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st 08:00-08:45					
2nd 08:45-09:30					
Break 09:30-09:45					
3rd 09:45-10:30					
4th 10:35-11:20					
5th 11:20-12:05					
Lunch 12:05-12:50					
7th 12:50-13:35					
8th 13:40-14:25					
9th 14:30-15:15					
Break 15:15-15:30					
ECA 15:30-16:30					

Abbreviation List

A	ACT	American College Testing
C	CAS	Creativity, Activity, Service; one of the Core components
	CommonApp	The Common Application; the application system to apply for US universities
D	DP	Diploma Programme
E	EA	External Assessment
	ECA	Extra Curricular Activity
	EE	Extended Essay; one of the Core components
G	GPA	Grade Point Average; usually needed for university application
H	HL	Higher Level
I	IA	Internal Assessment
	IELTS	International English Language Testing System
G	GMT	Greenwich Mean Time; the mean solar time at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London.

	G4	Group 4; usually used for Group 4 project in Sciences
M	MCQ	Multiple Choice Questions; the type of examination, applies to Paper 1 for Biology, Chemistry and Physics
P	PE	Physical Education
	PG	Predicted Grade
	PPF (TK/PPF)	Planning and Progress Form; needed for TOK Essay
	PRL	Prescribed Reading List
	PT	Prescribed Title; used in TOK
R	RPPF	Reflections on Planning and Progress Form; used for EE
	RQ	Research Question; used for EE
S	SAT	A standardised test widely used for college admissions in the United States; originally called the Scholastic Aptitude Test, later called the Scholastic Assessment Test
	SBC	Site Based Coordinator; who supports the students with their online learning (Pamoja)
	SL	Standard Level
	SSST	School-Supported Self-Taught
T	TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language; usually required in European countries
	TOK	Theory of Knowledge; one of the Core components
U	UCAS	The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service; the application system to apply for UK universities