



DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
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DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

Year 11 into Diploma Programme

COURSE SELECTIONS CRITERIA 2016 – 2017



DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

Students entering Year 12 may opt for one of the following:

I. IB Diploma:

The curriculum consists of six subject Groups

Group 1	Language A	English – Lang/Lit or Lit HL or SL Self-Taught mother tongue only at SL	
Group 2	Language B	English, German, Dutch HL	
	Language B:	Arabic, French, Spanish HL or SL	
	Language <i>Ab initio</i>	French, Spanish, only at SL	
Group 3	Individuals and Societies:	History, Economics, Psychology, Geography Business and Management, ITGS HL or SL	
Group 4	Experimental Science:	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, HL or SL Environmental Sciences SL Computer Science HL and SL Design Technology HL and SL Sports Science SL	
Group 5	Mathematics:	Math HL Math SL Math Studies SL	
Group 6	Electives:	Visual Arts, Theatre HL or SL or a second subject from Group 3, subject from Group 4, except Computer Science Film SL (online course) Further Math HL	a second

To be eligible for the award of the Diploma candidates must:

1. Offer **one** subject from each of the above Groups.
2. Offer **three** subjects at Higher level (HL) and **three** at Standard level (SL).
3. Submit an **Extended Essay** of 4000 words in **one** of the subjects of the IBDP during the second year, preferably in a subject taken by the student.
4. Follow the **Theory of Knowledge** course.
5. Engage in **CAS** representing Creativity, Activity and Service.

II. IB Courses:

Students who do not wish to take the Diploma programme may take IB Courses in five (possibility of 6) subjects of which English, Math are compulsory. It is preferred that two HL subjects are taken for university acceptance purposes.

***Timetable constraints may prevent a student from taking certain subjects.**

For further information please contact
Pam Parasram– IBDP Coordinator at
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Please see the IB website at <http://www.ibo.org>

IBDP COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GROUP 1

ENGLISH A – Lang/Lit or Literature HL/SL

This is a literature (complete literature course no language attainment), or Lang/Lit-based course for native or near-native speakers of the language. This involves the study of fifteen works of Literature at higher level and eleven at standard level. The Lang/Lit course helps to develop analytical and critical skills and a high level of competence in speaking and writing.

Entrance Requirements: HL - strong level 5 or higher
SL - 4 or higher

English is compulsory for all Diploma students.

LANGUAGE A SL/Self Taught

This is a literature course for students who have reached a high level of linguistic competence in their mother-tongue and wish to offer it as an alternative to the school based language A1 course, which is English. This involves the study of eleven works of literature. A degree of analytical and critical skills are required as well as fluency in speaking and writing the language. As this is a self-study programme and it places a great deal of responsibility on the student and parents. It should not be attempted unless a competent tutor to teach the course at home can be found. Students should have studied literature to at least year 9 levels.

Apart from providing information and administrative support, the school does take responsibility for the delivery of the course. Students who wish to avail themselves of this option must discuss this with the IBDP Coordinator and Self Taught Coordination/HOD first.

Entrance Requirements: SL 4 or higher

GROUP 2

ENGLISH B HL

This is a literature/language-based course for fluent speakers of the language who do not meet the requirements of the A1 course, or who wish to undertake a less demanding Language A course. There is equal emphasis on the study of literature and language through thematic units. The course develops some analytical and critical skills and gives students an opportunity to become competent at creative writing and speaking. ESL students have been relatively successful in this course of study. This is designed particularly for students who wish to complete a Language A in the mother tongue. English B makes provision for the MOE requirement). The course is only available at HL. (As per agreement with the Dutch School – Dutch B HL is also taught but within the constraints of the Dutch consulate. The same applies to German B HL).

Entrance Requirements: HL 5

ARABIC B HL/SL, FRENCH B HL/SL, SPANISH B HL/SL

These are second language courses for students with previous experience of two to five years of learning the language and have attained a fair level of fluency. The focus is on language acquisition and development; the study of literary and other texts plays an important part. The skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are developed and assessed. Students wishing to enter this level of Group 2 need to be interviewed by the HOD of Modern Languages on order to ascertain the level of the subject.

Entrance Requirements: HL/SL Upon results of **interview and assessment – level is recommended.**

FRENCH/ARABIC/SPANISH AB INITIO only at SL

These are foreign language courses for beginners. These courses enable students with no foreign/second language experience to take another language to fulfill the diploma requirements. The focus is on language acquisition and development through speaking, listening, reading and writing. These courses satisfy university requirements for a foreign language.

Entrance Requirements: HL/SL Upon results of **interview and assessment – level is recommended.**

GROUP 3

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT HL/SL

Business and Management is a discipline that examines decision-making processes and how these decisions impact on and are affected by internal and external environments. It is designed to develop an understanding of business theory, as well as an ability to apply business principles, practices and skills. It is designed to give the students an international perspective of business and to promote their appreciation of cultural diversity through the topics studied.

Entrance Requirements: HL 5
SL 4

ECONOMICS HL/SL

The study of Economics is essentially about the concept of scarcity and the problem of resource allocation. Economics incorporates elements of history, geography, psychology, sociology, political studies and many other related fields of study. It does not exist in a vacuum, because it naturally must consider how economic theory is to be applied in an international context.

The scientific approach characterizes the standard methodology of Economics. This methodology can be summarized as a progression from problem identification, through hypothesis formulation and testing, arriving finally at a conclusion.

Entrance Requirements: HL 5
SL 4

HISTORY HL/SL

The content of the Twentieth Century History course includes but is not limited to: The causes, practices and effects of war, the rise of single party states, East /West relations after 1945, Adolph Hitler etc. The study of history allows students to prepare for university entrance and to make decisions about their future.

Entrance Requirements: HL 5
 SL 4

GEOGRAPHY HL/SL

Geography, through the study of the dynamic relationship between Man and his natural and social environment, attempts to explain the spatial organisation of the world. It aims, through a continuing process of critical evaluation, to enlighten those who are responsible for decisions concerning the use of the environment.

Entrance Requirements: HL 5
 SL 4

PSYCHOLOGY HL/ SL

Psychology is the scientific study of the behaviour in humans (animals). Its goals are to describe, understand, predict and control behaviour. Students can specialise in one or more of several technical areas: clinical and counseling, industrial psychology, educational psychology and research.

Entrance Requirements: HL 5
 (English) SL 4

ITGS HL/SL

Information Technology in a Global Society

ITGS is the study and evaluation of the impact of information technology on individuals and society. ITGS provides an introduction to computers and computer applications; including study of the Internet, E-mail, multimedia, databases, spreadsheets, word processing, project management and robotics. It explores the advantages and disadvantages of the use of digitized information at the local and global level. ITGS provides a framework for the students to make informed judgments and decisions about the use of information technology within social contexts.

Although ITGS shares methods of critical investigation and analysis with other social sciences, it also considers ethical questions found in the study of philosophy. This widespread use of IT raises important questions about social and ethical issues that shape our society today. ITGS offers an opportunity for a systematic study of these issues, whose range is such that they fall outside the scope of any other single discipline.

Entrance Requirements: ITGS

No particular background in terms of specific subjects studied for national or international qualifications is expected or required and no prior knowledge is necessary for students to undertake ITGS as a course of study. **However, a familiarity with MYP Technology design cycle concepts and an interest in Information Technology would be an advantage. Knowledge of web designing, video editing and database will be an added advantage.**

GROUP 4

PHYSICS HL/SL

This course involves the study of both the content and process of Physics. Physics is the most fundamental of the experimental sciences in that it seeks to explain the basic features of the world in terms of matter and energy. There are three connected domains of knowledge and skills in Physics: laws, experimental skills and social and historical aspects. Internally assessed practical work makes up 20% of the course.

Entrance Requirements: HL 6
 SL 4

BIOLOGY HL/SL

The course aims to develop in the students a body of knowledge about living organisms as well as a broad general understanding of the subject. The course is divided into two parts: a compulsory core and an option. Four basic unifying themes run throughout the programme. Internally assessed practical work makes up 20% of the course.

Entrance Requirements: HL 5
 SL 4

CHEMISTRY HL/SL

As well as being the central science essential to the understanding of all biological phenomena and underpinning the physical environment in which we live, chemistry is very much an experimental science. Internally assessed practical work makes up 20% of the course.

Entrance Requirements: HL 5
 SL 4

ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS AND SOCIETIES SL

The Environmental Systems and Societies course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester introductory college course. The goal of Environmental Systems and Societies is to provide students with the scientific concepts, principles and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with the problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. To achieve these goals, we will focus on the following: personal experience in experimental design; understanding the unifying themes that integrate all biological and environmental science topics; and the application of knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and societal concerns. Students will gain an appreciation of the real-world benefits associated with understanding, designing and implementing environmentally sound practices. Internally assessed practical work makes up 25% of the course.

Entrance Requirements: Background in Geography and Sciences

COMPUTER SCIENCE (HL/SL)

The Computer Science syllabus defines the subject as “the solving of problems using computers”, which pretty much sums it all up. Students will learn how to convert steps into suitable algorithms and code them in a high-level programming language (such as JAVA) to create a working, practical solution to the original problem.

Entrance Requirements: HL 5
 SL 4

SPORTS EXERCISE AND HEALTH SCIENCE SL

The Sports, exercise and health science course is currently a standard level (SL) pilot subject. The course is on open offer to IB schools from September 2012, with first examinations in May 2014.

This new, SL only course lies within Group 4 Experimental sciences. Group 4 students explore the concepts, theories, models and techniques that underpin each subject area and through these develop their understanding of the scientific method.

SEHS students participate in a compulsory group 4 project. This collaborative and interdisciplinary exercise provides an opportunity for students to explore scientific solutions to global questions.

Entrance Requirements: No prior knowledge however a background in Sport and Biology is recommended.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY HL/SL

Design technology aims to develop internationally minded people whose enhanced understanding of the technological world can facilitate our shared guardianship of the planet and create a better world. Design technology achieves a high level of technological literacy by enabling students to develop critical-thinking and design skills, which they can apply in a practical context. While designing may take various forms, it will involve the selective application of knowledge within an ethical framework.

It will focus on the design, development, analysis, synthesis and evaluation of problems, and their solution through practical activities. The creative tension between theory and practice is what characterizes design technology within the Diploma Programme experimental sciences.

Entrance Requirement: HL 5
 SL 4

GROUP 5

MATH HL

This course is suitable only for students of considerable proven ability, along with enthusiasm for the subject in its purest form. This is a very demanding course which includes elementary analysis, geometry, and probability. It is suitable for those wishing to pursue a career in pure math, engineering or physics. An internally assessed component, the portfolio, accounts for 20% of the final grade.

Entrance Requirement: HL 6 (*Math Extended - MYP Year 11*)
 SL 5
 ST 4

MATH SL

This course is similar in content to the High Level, but with questions of a much more straightforward nature, and is suitable for students who already possess a proven sound mathematical background. It is a demanding course containing a broad range of topics including algebra, trigonometry, calculus, and statistics. It is suitable for those students who wish to go on to further study in those subjects with a significant mathematical content. It also has an internally assessed component.

Entrance Requirement: SL 5

MATH STUDIES SL

Math Studies caters for students with varied mathematical backgrounds and abilities. The nature of the subject is such that it concentrates on the maths which can be applied to other curriculum subjects. There are sections in the course designed to stretch the stronger students including calculus and statistical analysis and techniques. The project, a piece of written work based on personal research, provides 20% of the final grade.

Entrance Requirement: SL 4

FURTHER MATH HL

This course is available only at higher level. It caters for students with a very strong background in mathematics who have attained a high degree of competence in a range of analytical and technical skills, and who display considerable interest in the subject. Most of these students will expect to study mathematics at university, either as a subject in its own right or as a major component of a related subject. The course is designed specifically to allow students to learn about a variety of branches of mathematics in depth and also to appreciate practical applications. It is expected that students taking this course will also be taking mathematics HL.

Entrance Requirement: 6 or 7 and Interview with Math Head of Department

GROUP 6

VISUAL ARTS HL/SL

A two year course consisting of both:

- a) Studio Practical Work
- b) Research Workbook

The studio course includes opportunities both for structured learning of the value of colour, tone, form, design etc. and for wide ranging personal research of a more experimental nature. The techniques used may be: drawing, painting (multi medium), collage, graphics, block printing, photography, fashion design, stage and costume constructions, architectural design, film and video.

This list is exemplary, not exhaustive. Much studio work will combine several of these techniques and any media may be used.

Entrance Requirements: HL 5
SL 4

THEATRE HL/SL

The Diploma Theatre Arts course aims “to examine theatre in its diversity of forms around the world.” (IBO, Theatre – Guide.) This is achieved by studying a variety of theatre genres from the past and present (scripted and non-text based, Western and non-Western) in a variety of capacities (actor, director, playwright, designer). Similar to the MYP Drama course, students are required to explore theatre through practical activity, research, reflection on their process, and document their work in a journal. Unlike the MYP Drama course, they are not marked on their personal engagement but solely on their written work and documentation of their practical work. The course is an opportunity for students who enjoy theatre to explore and create theatre according to their personal interests in greater depth.

The course is assessed 50% internally and 50% externally. Internal assessment is completed with an audio-recorded presentation of their practical work and an independent project of their choosing. External assessment is completed with a research paper on a genre of world theatre and a full proposal for a performance. The former is on a topic of their choosing. The latter is selected from a list of topics provided by the IBO. All four components are 25% of the final mark at both higher and standard level. The only difference in higher level is the word count and research requirements for the final assessment.

Entrance Requirement: Prior knowledge of drama is recommended but not essential.

FILM SL (Online Course)

The **film** course at SL aims to develop in students the skills necessary to achieve creative and critical independence in their knowledge, experience and enjoyment of film. The aims of this course are to promote an appreciation and understanding of film as a complex art form, an ability to formulate stories and ideas in film terms, the practical and technical skills of production, critical evaluation of film productions by the student and by others and a knowledge of film-making traditions in more than one country. **There are no prerequisites for this course.**

CORE COMPONENTS OF IBDP

1. THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

Students working towards an IB Diploma study Theory of Knowledge. This course encourages students to reflect on the nature of knowledge by critically examining different ways of knowing and different areas of knowledge. While there is no examination in this course there are internal and external assessment components.

TOK activities and discussions help students to discover and express their views on a variety of topics and to acknowledge and tolerate alternative viewpoints. Connections are also made between the different diploma subjects and distinctions are clarified.

Typically the course is taught by more than one teacher to allow students to be exposed to different perspectives and is based on a programme outline provided by IB.

Passing TOK is a requirement for the IB Diploma.

2. CAS (CREATIVITY, ACTIVITY AND SERVICE)

Students working towards an IB Diploma must complete activities over two years spread across the three areas. This programme validates the importance of life outside the classroom and provides students with the much needed balance. It helps to educate the whole person by fostering more caring and socially responsible attitudes in students. It also encourages the development of new skills such as: creative skills, physical skills and social skills. Students may combine all three areas in one project or do activities related to each one separately.

The course is open to highly motivated Certificate students at the discretion of the CAS Coordinator and IBDP.

3. EXTENDED ESSAY

This 4,000 word essay is an in-depth study on a topic chosen by the student from one of the subjects they are studying. This provides an opportunity for the student to apply independent research skills and methodology appropriate to the chosen subject. It must be completed by all IB Diploma students in their own time under the supervision of a qualified teacher at the school. It develops a high level of research and writing skills that benefit students enormously when they move on to university. The learning involved in completing the Extended Essay is aligned closely with the characteristics in the IB learner profile making students responsible for their own knowledge acquisition and understanding.

Students not attempting the Diploma are not required to complete an Extended Essay; however, as of 2013 a student may opt to do this core courses. Students are reminded of the diploma matrix regarding the assessment of TOK and EE. Should a student obtain an E in TOK or EE simultaneously, the diploma will not be awarded, (*International Baccalaureate, 2015*).

		Theory of knowledge					
		Excellent A	Good B	Satisfactory C	Mediocre D	Elementary E	Not submitted
Extended essay	Excellent A	3	3	2	2	1 + Failing condition*	N
	Good B	3	2	1	1	Failing condition*	N
	Satisfactory C	2	1	1	0	Failing condition*	N
	Mediocre D	2	1	0	0	Failing condition*	N
	Elementary E	1 + Failing condition*	Failing condition*	Failing condition*	Failing condition*	Failing condition*	N
	Not submitted	N	N	N	N	N	N

Figure 1: Diploma Matrix for TOK and Extended Essay – If an E grade is obtained in any of these parts of the Core – the diploma will not be awarded.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY:

Requirements for entry to the IB Diploma programme at DIA

The following are the entry requirements for students wishing to pursue the IB Diploma Programme at Dubai International Academy:

- **Any student who fails the MYP personal project will not be permitted to be a full Diploma Candidate.**
- Students must meet the requirement for English A1 unless doing their mother-tongue as the Language A option. In this case they must still have proven fluency in the English language in order to cope with the demands of TOK, EE as well as lessons delivered in English which are prescribed to facilitate the students with form and structure.
- Students must meet the entrance requirement for each individual HL and SL subject chosen.
- **Students unable to meet the above requirements may opt for IB Courses in six subjects provided they have achieved 5 Grade C's or above in I/GCSE examinations.**
- In cases of students entering DIA as new students; entrance examinations will be required in Math and English, followed by an interview with DPC. Students entering year 13 will only be considered under strict scrutiny of SMT and DPC.

Students will be offered provisional placement in courses on the basis of assessment in Grade 11. Places will be confirmed only if the student achieves the required grades required for HL and SL entry into DP 1. Their placement will be determined by interview with SMT.

Any of the courses listed could be withdrawn due to low student response. On the other hand, if a particular course is oversubscribed students will be selected on the basis of their grades in the final exam in year 11.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at pamp@diadubai.com.

**Pam Parasram
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Coordinator
Dubai International Academy**

***Note:** This guide was written and compiled by Sheugnet Carter & documents located on the IBO's website with adjustments made by Jennifer Hager and Pam Parasram to support new syllabus requirements. If there are any changes to this document then the DP coordinator Pam Parasram will keep parents notified.*