



DISCOVERY
COLLEGE

Grow. Discover. Dream.

DP Subject Selection

Thursday 12 January 2017



Overview of Evening

6.30-7.20

Overview of programmes – Brian McCann
Intro to HEO – Susie Blomfield & Marisa Jackson

7.20-8.30

Department displays in Diploma Centre – HoDs,
teachers and students available to answer questions.
HE Counsellors available in their offices.

The IB Organisation

- Founded in 1968, first graduates 1971
- Pressure from diplomats who wanted internationally transferable qualification
- Recognised leader in the field of international education
- Encourages students to be active learners, well-rounded individuals and engaged world citizens

IB Diploma

- Two year curriculum for students aged 16 - 19
- Recognised by universities worldwide
- Asks challenging questions
- Students learn how to learn
- Develops a strong sense of identity and culture
- Develops ability to communicate with and understand people from other cultures



IB Diploma

- Three subjects at Higher level (240 hours)
- Three subjects at Standard level (150 Hours)
- Theory of Knowledge (ToK)
- Extended Essay (EE)
- Creativity, Action and Service (CAS)
- Bilingual Diploma if two Languages A taken
(seen as prestigious, valued by many universities)

Theory of Knowledge (ToK)

- Critically evaluates knowledge claims
- Stimulates critical reflection
- Develops ability to analyse evidence
- Make interdisciplinary connections
- Explores strengths and limitations of individual and cultural perspectives
- Assessment: Essay & Presentation

Extended Essay (EE)

- Essay of 4,000 words
- Investigation of a topic of special interest in an “in depth” manner
- Chosen from one of the subjects taught
- Independent research and writing skills expected at university
- February Year 12 - November Year 13

Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)

- Educates the whole person
- Helps students become responsible, compassionate citizens
- **Creativity**: arts, and other experiences that involve creative thinking.
- **Activity**: physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle, complementing academic work.
- **Service**: an unpaid and voluntary exchange that has a learning benefit for the student. The rights, dignity and autonomy of all those involved are respected.

IB Diploma - Grading System

- Each subject is assessed on the 1-7 scale
- ToK/EE in combination are worth 0-3 points
- $(6 \times 7) + 3 = 45$ points
- 24 points is the minimum passing total
- Various “fail codes” apply, e.g.
 - less than 12 overall in 3 HL subjects
 - Grade ‘E’ in ToK or EE

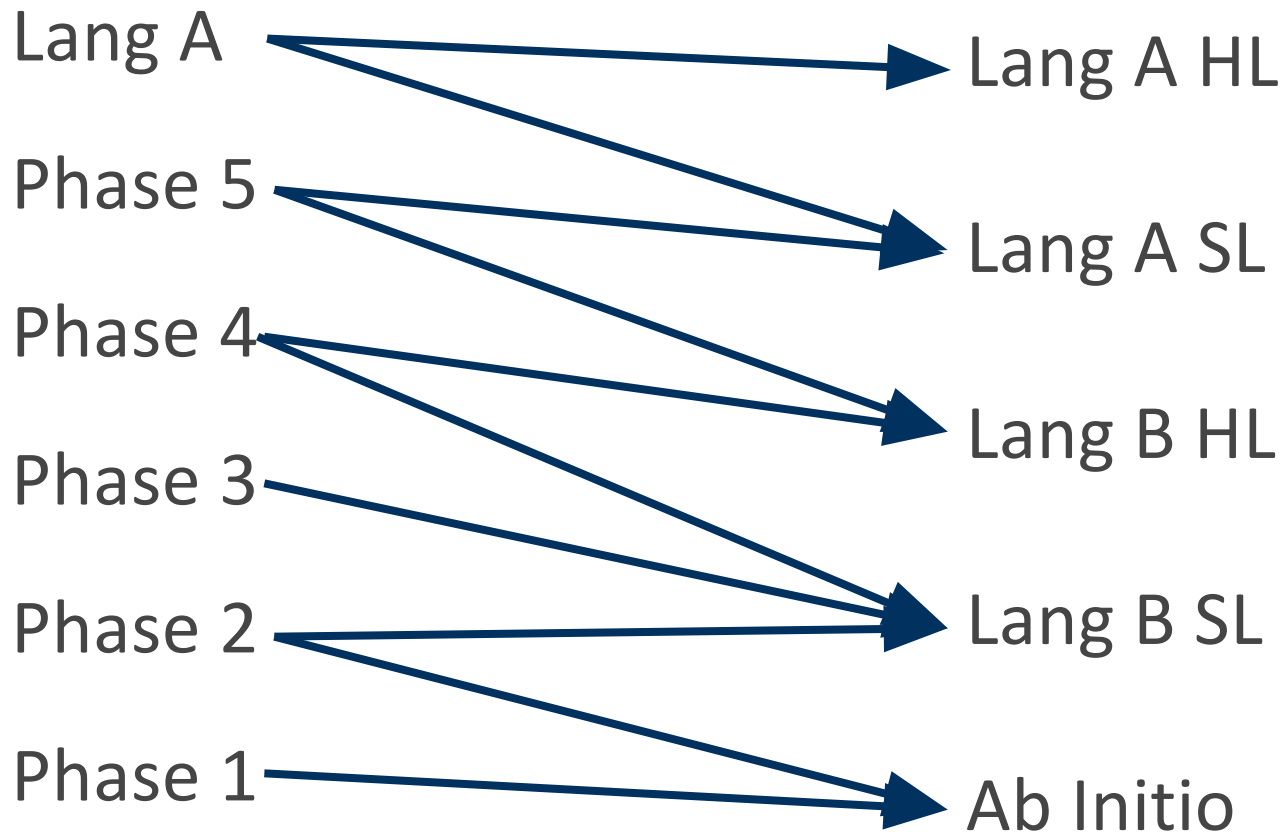
Assessment in the IB Diploma

- Internal Assessment conducted throughout the 2 year course - external moderation
- Art - a portfolio of photographs of work and a written personal statement
- Music - recorded performances
- Oral examinations for languages
- Science – lab reports
- Written examinations for most subjects at the end of the two year course

Language Choice

MYP

DP



Language Choice

- Students taking Language A in the MYP must continue with Language A – not possible to move to Language B
- Students taking Mandarin B will be assumed to continue with Mandarin B or Ab Initio – movement to Spanish Ab Initio not automatic

Self-taught Language

- Must be fluent in language to an academic level (reading and writing)
- Only Literature SL available
- Study with tutor outside school (paid by parents)
- School-based supervisor (Alan Kirk)
- Independent study
- Must have initiative and be disciplined

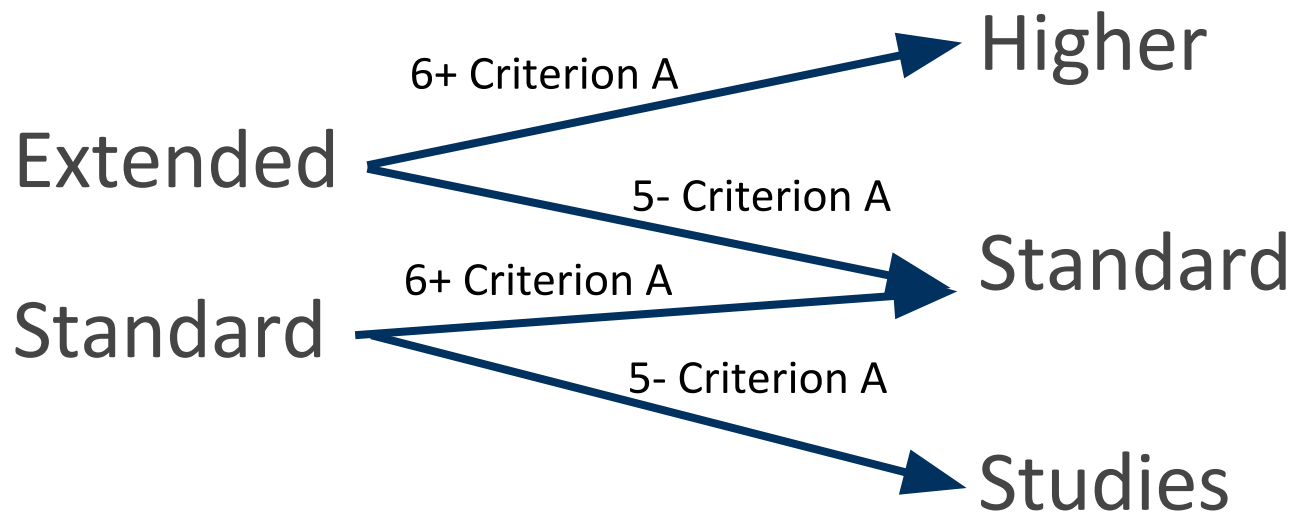
Group 4 Science Options

- Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Design Technology (DT) and Sports, Exercise and Health Science (SEHS) available at SL and HL
- Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS) available at SL only
- DT, ESS and SEHS, while very good subjects, may not be counted as a traditional lab science by some universities

Mathematics

MYP

DP



- Check prior knowledge document
- Initial Y12 test a good indication

Mathematics and Sciences

MYP

Knowledge and
Understanding
(Criterion A) - 25%

Investigative Skills
(Criteria B-D) - 75%

DP

Knowledge and
Understanding
(Exam) - 80%

Investigative Skills
(IA) - 20%

The Arts

- Doing one Arts subject a very viable option – keeps education broad
- Possible to do two Arts subjects, but only if Env Sys & Soc is taken – cannot do a traditional Humanity or Science
- Doing two Arts leads down a particular path - fine if you are sure

The aim of the HEO

- To find a university or pathway that is the right fit for every student academically, socially and culturally



The role of the HEO

- To maximise students' opportunities of getting university offers
- To give students options and keep doors open
- To meet with every student individually from years 11-13 to discuss subject selection, career pathways and to advise on university options and majors

Importance of Subject Selection

- Can play a crucial role in university admissions
- Can determine an offer or a rejection
- Higher Level subjects are particularly important

It's complex...

- Course requirements can vary between country, programme and university
- Some courses do not require particular combinations
- **Canada** - Maths Studies largely not recognized, Chemistry needed for Engineering plus Maths & Physics
- **Germany** - Maths and 1 Science at HL
- **US** - a lab science is a 'must'

Sample combinations

- **Medicine** – Chemistry & Biology HL, Maths minimum Standard
- **Engineering** – Maths & Physics at HL (Chemistry for Canada)
- **Law** – History, English, Geography at HL

Possible prerequisites

- **Architecture** - Art at HL, mixture of art and sciences (Physics preferred)
- **Business** - no prerequisites, but Maths can be important
- **Economics** - Maths at HL for top universities, Economics is not essential
- **Psychology** - Sciences at HL, Psychology useful
- **Art or Design** - Visual Arts SL or HL with additional portfolio

Possible prerequisites

- **International Relations/Politics** - History, English, Economics very useful
- **Computer Science** - Maths & Physics at HL
- **Sports Science** - 1 or 2 Sciences at HL
- **Anthropology** - History, Economics, Geography, Languages at HL very useful
- **Lab Sciences** - 2 sciences at HL

Importance of Rigour

- Aiming low to score high – does it work?
- Chinese A or Chinese B? Maths Studies or Maths Standard?
- *“Not just a matter of admission, but one of transition”* (Kings College London)

Facilitating Subjects

“Taking two facilitating subjects will keep a wide range of degree courses and career options open. These are the subjects most commonly required by our universities.”

Dr. Wendy Piatt, Director General of Russell Group, U.K.

If in doubt, keep subjects broad.

Facilitating Subjects

- English
- Languages (A or B, not ab initio)
- Geography
- History
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Mathematics (Higher or Standard, not Studies)

Student A

Higher Level	Standard Level
Visual Arts	Math Studies
Design Technology	Spanish Ab Initio
Business	English A Lang & Lit

Possible majors: Art related courses, possibly Business

Remember: Can be limiting, but totally acceptable for a path in the Creative Arts

Student B

Higher Level	Standard Level
Mathematics	Geography
Biology	English A Lang & Lit
Chemistry	Chinese A Lang & Lit

Possible majors: Biochemistry, Medicine, Vet Science, Mathematics, Economics, etc

Remember: Still a focused approach towards STEM, but more doors open if this path changes

Student C

Higher Level	Standard Level
Biology	Mathematics
Chemistry	Mandarin B
English A Lang & Lit	Psychology

Possible majors: The Arts and Sciences

Remember: More flexibility for a number of different majors

Remember:

There are **OPTIONS** for
every student with all subject
choice combinations.

If you are unsure....

- Keep it broad, choose 2 facilitating subjects at HL
- Do subjects you enjoy and are good at: play to your strengths
- Be realistic
- Speak to your teachers and your HE Counsellor
- Be flexible to keep your options open
- Research admission requirements if you have a clear idea of what you want to study at university

What universities say about the IB



*“Boston University highly values the IB program. The **rigor** or **degree of challenge** within one’s curriculum is among the most important considerations during the application process, and the IB program undoubtedly provides one of the **highest levels of rigor**. The IB is among a small number of academic programs around the world which Boston University has recognized as eligible for advanced credit/standing due to the significant rigor and challenge within each program. In fact, based upon the number of credits a student can achieve, it has helped allow a number of students to complete a bachelor’s degree in three years.”*


- Scott Dyers, Senior Associate Director of Admissions, **Boston University**, USA

*“McGill has enthusiastically recruited IB students for over two decades. Even today, when reviewing an application from an IB Diploma candidate . . . our admissions officers can be assured of the candidate’s **strong** and **broad based** academic preparation. We have seen that IB students embrace the rigorous academic challenges of university life and perform well in their McGill programmes. As a member of the College and University Recognition Taskforce, I can attest to the **respected position** of the IB diploma at prestigious universities throughout North America.”*


-Kim Bartlett Director of Admissions **McGill University** Québec, Canada

*“One of the advantages of an IB curriculum is its **structure** and **quality**. It is a coordinated program, well established, well-known and well-respected. We know the quality of IB courses, and **we think the IB curriculum is terrific.**”*

-Christoph Guttentag Dean of Undergraduate Admission, **Duke University**, USA



International Baccalaureate
Baccalauréat International
Bachillerato Internacional

Jobs and careers | News | About the IB | Contact the IB | English ▼ 

Benefits of the IB | Programmes | Become an IB school | **University admission** | Professional development

Why admit IB students? >

Recognition of IB programmes ▼

Country recognition statements

FAQs

IB Diploma compared with other qualifications

Recognition of the MYP

IB recognition resource library

How we work with universities >

The IB higher education symposium >

IB World Student Conferences >

Recognition of IB programmes

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) is one of the world's most exciting educational courses for 16-19 year olds.

It focuses on personal, professional and academic development and is globally recognized by universities for the holistic and rigorous education it provides.

The IB works hard to make sure the DP is globally recognised by universities, with its students gaining competitive offers for further study.

How is the IB recognized in different countries?

There are IB World Schools in nearly 150 countries throughout the world, and students send exam results to higher education institutions in nearly 90 countries annually. Given the wide diversity of local education systems it can be difficult to understand how the IB is recognized in various parts of the world.

To learn more on IB recognition information at the national level, [read about the IB by country](#).

Which universities recognize IB programmes?

The Pathways

- Full IB Diploma
- IB Diploma Courses
- Applied Learning (BTEC)

We are looking for the **best fit** for each student
with **appropriate challenge**

IB Diploma Courses

- 6 subjects or less
- No Higher level required
- No ToK, EE or CAS requirement
- CAS is a school requirement
- Completion of 5 subjects, one year of ToK and a 2,000 word “Extended Project” qualifies a student for graduation from DC
- Allows students to focus time and energy on areas where success is more likely

Applied Learning (BTEC)

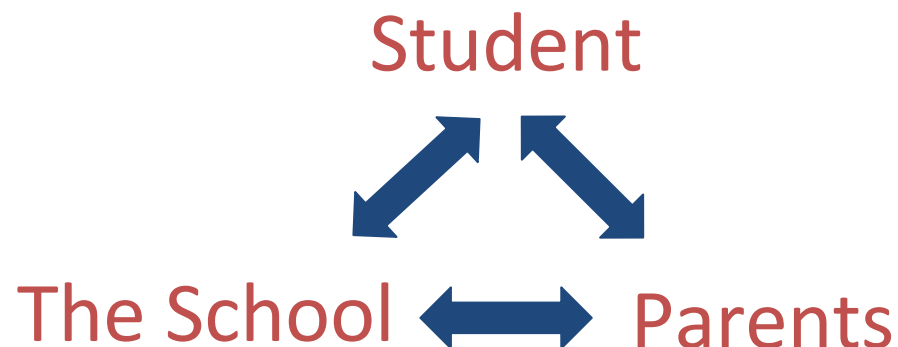
- Vocational, career-oriented courses, e.g.
Business, Art, Engineering, Sport
- Different style of learning
- Equivalent to 3 A-levels
- Accepted by UK universities and increasingly internationally
- Offered at other ESF schools (**not DC**)

The Process

- Talk to teachers, Mr. McCann, Ms. Blomfield, Mrs. Jackson and do research on universities
- Indicate choices on options form
- Teachers sign, with indication of “ready” or “not ready”
- Parent/guardian signs
- Submit form to Mr. McCann by **Friday 17 February at 3.30pm**
- Meet HE Counsellor and review choices, during March to June

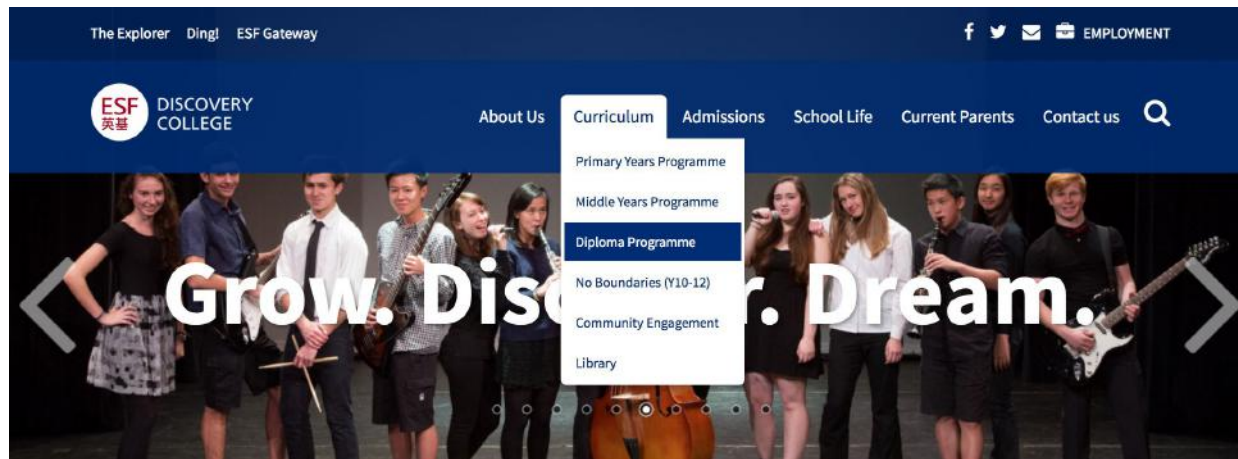
Making Decisions

- Personal interest and enjoyment
- Ability
- Future study/career plans - **be realistic**
(Must do research - consult HE Counsellors)
- **NOT** who you think the teacher will be
- Who makes the decision?



More Information

- Senior School Prospectus 2017-19 (online and hard copy)
- Subject teachers and HoDs
- Website under Curriculum -> Diploma Programme:
<http://www.discovery.edu.hk/cms/index.php/en/curriculum-information/dp>



- DP guides on Ding! under Courses -> DP -> DP Admin



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General Questions?