



IB Diploma Programme 2015-2017



What is the IB Diploma?

Founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968, the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) has developed four different educational programmes. The IB Diploma Programme is the last of these and is a challenging two-year curriculum aimed at students aged 16 to 19. This IB qualification is welcomed by leading universities around the world.

What is the profile of the IB Diploma?

The Diploma students develop their academic and personal strengths by:

- asking challenging questions
- learning how to learn
- developing a strong sense of their own identity and culture
- building communication skills and understanding of other cultures

IB Diploma students are encouraged to be Inquirers, Thinkers, Communicators, Risk-takers, Principled, Open-minded, Caring, Knowledgeable, Balanced and Reflective.

The IB Learner Profile

The IB Learner Profile was developed from the IBO Mission Statement. It describes the ideal character of an IB student.

IB Diploma students are active, compassionate and lifelong learners. They will exhibit all of these characteristics at some stage during their education. The consequence of this is that IB students are better prepared for further study and diverse career paths.



The Core

All students must follow programmes and successfully complete tasks in Theory of Knowledge; Creativity, Action and Service; and select a topic for an individual piece of research for their Extended Essay.

Extended Essay Investigates a topic of individual interest. Students learn independent research and writing skills expected at university. 4,000 word essay.

Theory of Knowledge (ToK) Provides coherence by exploring the nature of knowledge across disciplines, encouraging an appreciation of other cultural perspectives.

Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) Encourages students to be involved in artistic pursuits, sports and community service work, thus fostering students' awareness and appreciation of non-academic life.

Structure of the IB programme

Students study 3 subjects at Higher Level and 3 at Standard Level, selected from six different group areas. This allows students to explore some subjects in depth and others more broadly over a two-year period.

Group 1	Studies in Language and Literature
Group 2	Language Acquisition
Group 3	Individuals and Societies
Group 4	Experimental Sciences
Group 5	Mathematics
Group 6	Arts (or another subject from Groups 2 to 4)



Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature

Group 1 is the student's Mother Tongue or 'Best' Language. This course consists of a literature or language & literature course. It is designed for students who have experience in using the language in an academic context. The course includes oral and written tasks and provides a focus for developing an understanding of how language works to create meaning in a culture, as well as in particular texts.

For languages that we do not normally offer it is possible for a student to study a Literature 'School Supported Self Taught' course.

A bilingual diploma is awarded to students whose Group 1 language is one other than English or who select a second Group 1 language instead of a Group 2 language.

Group 2: Language Acquisition

Every student chooses a second modern language. The main emphasis is on language acquisition by developing both written and oral skills. Two courses are offered:

Ab initio A course for beginners. Available at Standard Level only.

Language B A foreign language course for students with some previous experience. The emphasis is on communicative skills in speech and writing, and understanding the culture of the language through literature.

Group 3: Individuals and Societies

Sometimes referred to as the Humanities, St. George's School offers the following four subjects:

- Economics
- Geography
- History
- ITGS (through Pamoja Education online)

Students analyse concepts and theories and use quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection, presentation and analysis. These courses include research and fieldwork based tasks that are assessed through internal assessment.

Group 4: Experimental Sciences

St. George's offers four subjects:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Environmental Systems and Societies

Students become familiar with the body of knowledge, methods and techniques that characterise science and technology. Students follow an intense programme of practical and project work which is assessed internally.

Group 5: Mathematics

All students follow a course in Mathematics:

Maths HL	A challenging course intended for those who will make use of advanced mathematics in their future studies and career.
Maths SL	A standard but advanced course.
Maths Studies	A standard level course accessible to the majority of students.

All these courses allow students to develop logical and creative thinking and use abstraction and generalisation to reach conclusions.



Group 6: Art (or elective subject)

Students may follow courses in Visual Arts or Music at St. George's School. These courses are focused on the student's ability to create art, whatever its form. Students learn how to express themselves artistically and produce or perform works of art.

Alternatively students may follow another subject chosen from Groups 2 – 4, depending on the school's current timetable.

How are students assessed?

The IB Diploma is granted through formal assessment. This includes external examinations taken in all subjects in May of Year 13, as well as internal assessment conducted throughout the programme.

Each subject is graded on a scale of 7 (maximum) to 1 (minimum). This gives a total raw points score maximum of 42 points.

How can students get their IB Diploma?

In order to obtain the Diploma, students must meet defined standards and conditions including a minimum total of 24 points and the satisfactory completion of the three Core Diploma requirements which are: Theory of Knowledge, CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) and the Extended Essay.

Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay combine to contribute a possible 3 additional points to the overall score, giving a maximum Diploma score of 45 points.

‘Course’ students (formerly ‘Certificate’ candidates)

Students not wishing to take the full Diploma programme can take any selection of IB subjects at either HL or SL. The courses they follow are identical to those followed by Diploma students.

A small class supplement is charged for any class with less than four students.

Please contact Mr. Jupp (tjupp@stgeorges.ch), Exams and IB Coordinator with any questions.



Examples of IB Diploma students and their subject selection for future University studies

<p>Peter</p> <p><i>University of Bath, UK Management</i></p>	<p>Maths SL Biology SL History HL French B SL English Language and Literature HL Economics HL</p>
<p>Suzanne</p> <p><i>EPFL, Switzerland Engineering</i></p>	<p>Maths HL Physics HL Economics SL French B HL English Literature SL Chemistry SL</p>
<p>John</p> <p><i>Boston University, USA Biology</i></p>	<p>Maths SL Biology HL History HL French ab initio SL English Literature SL Chemistry HL</p>

Our University counsellor, Mr Lunn (rlunn@stgeorges.ch), is available to guide the students with their subject choices and to provide information about universities.

Notes



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