



Learning in England ∞ International Baccalaureate

15 > What is the International Baccalaureate?

The IB, as it is popularly known, is for students aged 3-19. “IB programmes challenge students to excel in their studies and encourage both personal and academic achievement.”
<https://www.ibo.org/>

“IB programmes aim to do more than other curricula by developing inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who are motivated to succeed.

The IB programmes are different from other curricula because they:

- > encourage students of all ages to think critically and challenge assumptions*
- > develop independently of government and national systems, incorporating quality practice from research and our global community of schools*
- > encourage students to consider both local and global contexts*
- > develop multilingual students.”¹*

The Diploma Programme is run during the Sixth Form/Years 12 and 13 in about 100 schools across the UK, but very few in Oxfordshire. It is an alternative to A Levels. If you would like your child to undertake the IB instead of A Levels then please contact us for more detailed information and advice about the suitability for your child.

Pupils study six subjects [three at Higher Level, and three at Standard Level].

This is a simplified list of subjects

- > Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature – in the student’s mother tongue

¹ <https://www.ibo.org/>



- > Group 2: Language Acquisition – in a language other than the student’s mother tongue which may include Latin or Greek
- > Group 3: Humanities and Social Sciences – choosing from Business Management, Economics, Geography, History, Information Technology in a Global Society (ITGS), Philosophy, Psychology, and Social and Cultural Anthropology and Global Politics. The courses in World Religions, and Environmental Systems and Societies are offered at Standard Level only.
- > Group 4: Experimental Sciences - Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Design Technology and Computer Science. The courses in Sport, Exercise and Health Science, Environmental Systems and Societies and Nature of Science are offered at Standard Level only.
- > Group 5: Mathematics and Further Mathematics.
- > Group 6: The Arts: Dance, Foreign Languages, Music, Theatre, Visual Arts, Film and Literature and Performance.

In addition, pupils must study or do

- > Theory of Knowledge [TOK]
- > an Extended Essay and
- > 150 hours of Creativity, Activity and Service [CAS] outside the classroom.

Pupils can be awarded a maximum of 45 points and a minimum of 24 points to achieve the Diploma.

In order to teach IB programmes, schools must be authorised. Every school authorised to offer IB programmes is known as an IB World School.



Is it worth doing the IB Diploma instead of A Levels??



As a Year 12 student I can say a lot about the IB Programme...it is really good at making you a well-rounded student. The HL courses allow you to be very strong in some areas. Everyone saying the IB kills your social life is correct to some extent.

If you can’t manage your time well, don’t do the IB, because everything piles up and it gets very hard. The IB is very good at teaching critical thinking...it is very rigorous, but definitely do-able.

I’m glad my parents chose an IB school for me because it did challenge me, but that’s not something everyone enjoys or wants.

<http://www.davidsongifted.org/Search-Database/entry/A10701>

