

What is so special about the International Baccalaureate Diploma?

This information is taken from www.ibo.org/

- The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma is recognised around the world and ensures an increased adaptability and mobility for students who successfully complete the programme.
- The curriculum and pedagogy of IB programmes focus on international perspectives of learning and teaching, while insisting that students fully explore their home culture and language. www.ibo.org/programmes/index.cfm
- IB World Schools must undergo an exhaustive authorisation process in order to offer one or more of the programmes, which includes a study of the school's resources and commitment to the IBO mission and philosophy. The City of Stoke on Trent Sixth form College successfully completed this process in January 2007, and is currently the only institute in Staffordshire to introduce the IB Diploma as part of their curriculum offer. www.ibo.org/diploma/slides.cfm
- IB teachers participate in a wide variety of professional development opportunities to constantly update their knowledge and share their expertise with colleagues around the world. www.ibo.org/diploma/slides.cfm
- Many students graduating from the Diploma Programme find that it enhances their opportunities at tertiary institutions. The IBO works closely with universities around the world to gain recognition for IB programmes. www.ibo.org/diploma/recognition/index.cfm
- The core components of IB programmes encourage students to participate in creative and service-oriented activities, while at the same time emphasising the importance of reflection on a personal and academic level. www.ibo.org/programmes/slides.cfm

what british students are saying about international baccalaureate...

"An interesting and stimulating way to learn"

"An opportunity to develop a wider understanding of different cultures and attitudes"

IBO

"You can work within a like-minded group"

"You must be able to think for yourself"

"...the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) provides rigorous academic programmes and assessments, a high quality teaching staff and an unwavering commitment to prepare students to be citizens in an international community."

Dr Gerald Tirozzi, Executive Director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals

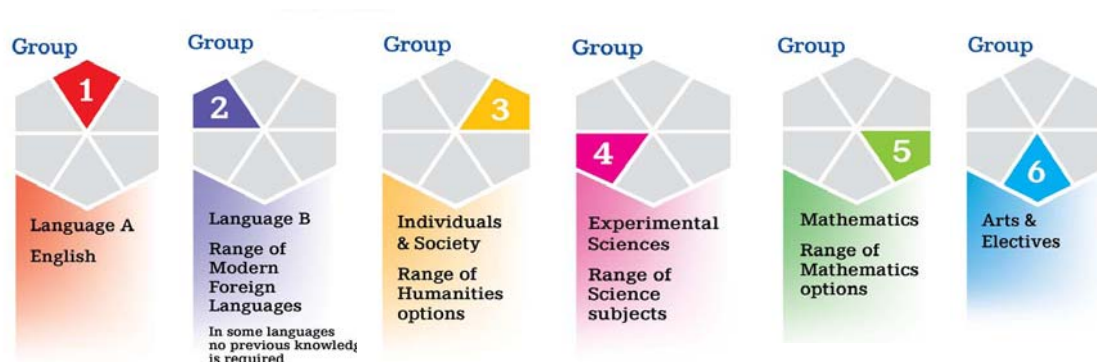
"There's now an expectation that they will achieve. We're a normal neighbourhood school but we've tripled the number of students in the IB programme. We're proof it isn't elitist - and the parents can't say enough good things about IB."

Dr Mel Riddle, principal of JEB Stuart High School, Fairfax County, Virginia, USA.

What does the Curriculum comprise of for the International Baccalaureate Diploma?

The City of Stoke on Trent Sixth Form College is offering the following options for the students on the International Baccalaureate Programme:

Diploma Programme Groups	Subject(s) chosen	Higher Level	Standard Level	Language of Instruction
Group 1: Language A1	English	Yes	Yes	English
Second Language B	French	Yes	Yes	French/English
Second Language <i>ab initio</i>	Spanish		Yes	Spanish/English
Group 3: Individuals and societies	History	Yes	Yes	English
	Geography	Yes	Yes	English
	Philosophy	Yes	Yes	English
	Psychology	Yes	Yes	English
Group 4: Experimental Sciences	Biology	Yes	Yes	English
	Chemistry	Yes	Yes	English
	Physics	Yes	Yes	English
Group 5: Mathematics and Computer Science	Mathematics	Yes		
Group 6: The Arts	Theatre Arts	Yes	Yes	English
	Visual Arts	Yes	Yes	English
Theory of Knowledge (TOK)	Compulsory			English



What is the procedure for assessments throughout the International Baccalaureate Diploma?

The International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) assesses student work as direct evidence of achievement against the stated goals of the Diploma Programme courses.

The Diploma Programme goals provide students with:

- a broad and balanced, yet academically demanding, programme of study
- the development of critical-thinking and reflective skills
- the development of research skills
- the development of independent learning skills
- the development of intercultural understanding
- a globally recognised university entrance qualification.

Diploma Programme assessment procedures measure the extent to which students have mastered advanced academic skills in fulfilling these goals, for example:

- analysing and presenting information
- evaluating and constructing arguments
- solving problems creatively.

Basic skills are also assessed, including:

- retaining knowledge
- understanding key concepts
- applying standard methods.

In addition to academic skills, Diploma Programme assessment encourages an international outlook and intercultural skills where appropriate.

Assessment tasks are designed to support and encourage good classroom teaching and learning. Student results are determined by performance against set standards, not by each student's position in the overall rank order.

Grading

Diploma Programme students follow six courses at higher level or standard level. The grades awarded for each course range from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest). Students can also be awarded up to three additional points for their combined results on theory of knowledge and the extended essay. Therefore, the highest total that a Diploma Programme student can be awarded is 45 points.

The Diploma is awarded to students who gain at least 24 points, subject to certain minimum levels of performance across the whole diploma and to satisfactory participation in creativity, action and service (CAS).

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Methods

A variety of different methods are used to measure student achievement against the objectives for each course.

External assessment

Examinations form the basis of the assessment for most courses because of their high levels of objectivity and reliability. They include:

- essays
- structured problems
- short-response questions
- data-response questions
- text-response questions
- case-study questions
- multiple-choice questions (limited use of these).

There are also a small number of other externally assessed pieces of work, for example, theory of knowledge essays, extended essays and world literature assignments. These are completed by students over an extended period under teacher supervision instead of examination conditions, and are then marked by external examiners.

Internal assessment

Teacher assessment is also used for most courses. This includes:

- oral work in languages
- fieldwork in geography
- laboratory work in the sciences
- investigations in mathematics
- artistic performances.

Assessments are checked by external examiners and normally contribute between 20 and 30 per cent of the total mark.

Some of the arts courses, for example, music, theatre arts and visual arts, have assessment of a major practical component, which can account for as much as 50 per cent of the total mark.

The International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) is committed to supporting the ongoing development of a worldwide professional learning community comprising internationally minded teachers, school leaders and school administrators.

Each of the members of staff involved in delivering the International Baccalaureate programme at the Sixth Form College undertake training at IBO-approved workshops prior to beginning teaching. This is an ongoing development programme with elements delivered abroad.

How well recognised is the International Baccalaureate Diploma?

University Recognition

The IB diploma is a passport to higher education. Universities around the world welcome the unique characteristics of IB Diploma Programme students and recognise the way in which the programme helps to prepare students for university level education.

www.ibo.org/diploma/recognition/

IB students routinely gain admission to some of the best known universities in the world. Most of these institutions have established recognition policies for the IB diploma. For example:

⇒ Oxford University, United Kingdom

"There are no standard offers to gain admission to Oxford University, and every candidate is assessed on their own individual merits, though candidates usually have achieved, or are expected to achieve, excellent exam results. Tutors are primarily concerned with academic ability and potential, as well as enthusiasm for the chosen subject. These exam results will generally be equivalent to one of:

- *grades A, A, B or A, A, A in British A Levels*
- *38 points in the International Baccalaureate*

Competitive applicants are usually in the top 5% of school leavers nationwide. Tutors are primarily concerned with academic ability and potential, as well as enthusiasm for the chosen subject. The competition for places on all courses at Oxford is very strong.

www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/int/world/quals.shtml

⇒ University of British Columbia, Canada

"UBC is a leader in recognising IB credentials. More than 1 100 IB students applied to UBC in 2005. This makes us one of the largest recipients of IB students among North American colleges and universities. We are also among the most generous universities worldwide when granting first-year credit for IB courses. For example, UBC will grant 6 credits of philosophy for scores of A or B on Theory of Knowledge." www.students.ubc.ca/welcome/admission.cfm?page=ib

⇒ University of Auckland, New Zealand

"An applicant will be deemed to be eligible for University Entrance if they have been awarded the full International Baccalaureate Diploma (24 points minimum)."

www.auckland.ac.nz/uoq/for/prospective/programmes/getting_in/ib.cfm

⇒ Harvard University, United States

"We value predicted A-level and IB results along with any information that helps us form a complete picture of an applicant's academic interests and strengths."

www.admissions.college.harvard.edu/utilities/faq/international/admissions/index.html

The IBO maintains information about university recognition this is displayed on their website www.ibo.org/country/. Please be advised to read this information carefully and consult the admissions office of any university in which you are particularly interested as this information can change.

Subject Leaflets

The following pages provide further information about some of the subjects that you will have the opportunity to study as an International Baccalaureate student. Further information can be obtained from our Admissions Officer- Kay Lomax: admissions@stokesfc.ac.uk 01782 854221

- ⇒ Biology- Higher Tier
- ⇒ Biology- Standard Tier
- ⇒ Chemistry- Higher Tier
- ⇒ Chemistry- Standard Tier
- ⇒ English Language- Higher Tier
- ⇒ English Language- Standard Tier
- ⇒ Geography- Higher & Standard Tier
- ⇒ History- Higher Tier
- ⇒ History Standard Tier
- ⇒ Mathematics
- ⇒ Philosophy- Higher Tier
- ⇒ Philosophy-Standard Tier
- ⇒ Physics- Higher Tier
- ⇒ Psychology
- ⇒ Theatre Arts
- ⇒ Visual Arts
- ⇒ Theory of Knowledge
- ⇒ Creativity Action & Service

