

# The IB Diploma Programme



ACS  
(International)

A Methodist Institution  
(Founded 1886)



## International Baccalaureate Organization

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) is a recognised leader in the field of international education, encouraging students to be active learners, well-rounded individuals and engaged world citizens. Founded in 1968, it currently works with 3,874 schools in 148 countries to develop and offer three challenging programme to over 1,218,000 students aged 3 to 19 years.

## International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) is a challenging two-year curriculum, covering Years 5 and 6 at ACS (International), it leads to a qualification that is widely recognised by the world's leading universities.

Students learn more than a collection of facts. The Diploma Programme prepares students for university and encourages them to:



1 Ask challenging questions



2 Learn how to learn



3 Develop a strong sense of their own identity and culture



4 Develop the ability to communicate with, and understand people from, other countries and cultures

The curriculum contains six subject groups together with a core made up of three separate parts. This is illustrated by a hexagon with the three parts of the core at its centre.



### Extended Essay

The extended essay has a prescribed limit of 4,000 words. It offers the opportunity to investigate a topic of individual interest, and acquaints students with the independent research and writing skills expected at university.



### Theory of Knowledge (ToK)

The interdisciplinary TOK course is designed to provide coherence by exploring the nature of knowledge across disciplines, encouraging an appreciation of other cultural perspectives.



### Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

Participation in the school's CAS programme encourages students to be involved in artistic pursuits, sports and community service work, thus fostering students' awareness and appreciation of life outside the academic arena.

## The Six Subject Groups

Students study six subjects selected from the subject groups. Normally three subjects are studied at Higher Level (courses representing 240 teaching hours), and the remaining three subjects are studied at Standard Level (courses representing 150 teaching hours).

### Subjects offered at ACS (International)

Group 1: Literature – Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese  
Language and Literature – English, Chinese  
School Supported Self-taught Language A Literature

Group 2: Language B – English (HL only), Chinese, Malay, Tamil, Hindi, French, Spanish  
ab initio: Mandarin, Malay, Spanish, Japanese, French

Group 3: Business & Management\*, Economics\*, Geography, History and Psychology\*

Group 4: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Sports, Exercise and Health Science

Group 5: Mathematics, Mathematical Studies

Group 6: Music, Visual Arts, Theatre (or another Group 3 or 4 subject)

#### Note:

- Candidates may NOT choose both Business and Economics.
- Vietnamese Literature in Group 1, English Language and Literature in Group 2, [Other] Languages in Group 2; Psychology in Group 3 and Humanities subjects offered in Group 6 are NOT confirmed but are subject to staffing and enrolment numbers.

All three parts of the Core: **Extended Essay**, **Theory of Knowledge** and **Creativity, Activity, Service** are compulsory and central to the philosophy of the Diploma Programme.

At the end of the two-year programme, students are assessed both internally and externally in ways that measure individual performance against stated objectives for each subject.

#### Internal assessment

In nearly all subjects, some of the assessment is carried out internally by teachers, who mark individual pieces of work produced as part of a course of study. Examples include oral exercises in language subjects, projects, student portfolios, class presentations, practical laboratory work, mathematical investigations and artistic performances.

#### External assessment

Some assessment tasks are conducted and overseen by teachers without the restrictions of examination conditions, but are then marked externally by examiners. Examples include written task for language and literature (Group 1), written assignments for language acquisition (Group 2), essays for Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay.

Because of the greater degree of objectivity and reliability provided by the standard examination environment, externally marked examinations form the greatest share of the assessment for each subject.

The grading system is criterion-based (results are determined by performance against set standards, not by each student's position in the overall rank order), validity, reliability and fairness are the watchwords of the Diploma Programme assessment strategy.

#### The Diploma and University Entrance

Each of the six subjects is given a final grade of 1–7 (with 7 being the highest) with a possibility of up to 3 extra points for Extended Essay and ToK. This gives a final maximum mark of 45.

A Diploma is usually awarded upon attaining 24 points.

Universities will give conditional offers requiring a specific number of points. The offers will depend on the standing of the university and popularity of the subject.

## The IB Diploma Points Matrix

The following new matrix will be adopted from the May 2015 session.

ToK/EE	A	B	C	D	E
A	3	3	2	2	Failing Condition
B	3	2	2	1	
C	2	2	1	0	
D	2	1	0	0	
E	Failing Condition				

\*Performance in both ToK and EE of an elementary standard is a failing condition for the award of the Diploma.