

**IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME MEETING FOR  
10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
STUDENTS AND PARENTS  
CLASS OF 2017**

**Tuesday, 23 September 2014  
8:20 – 9:20**

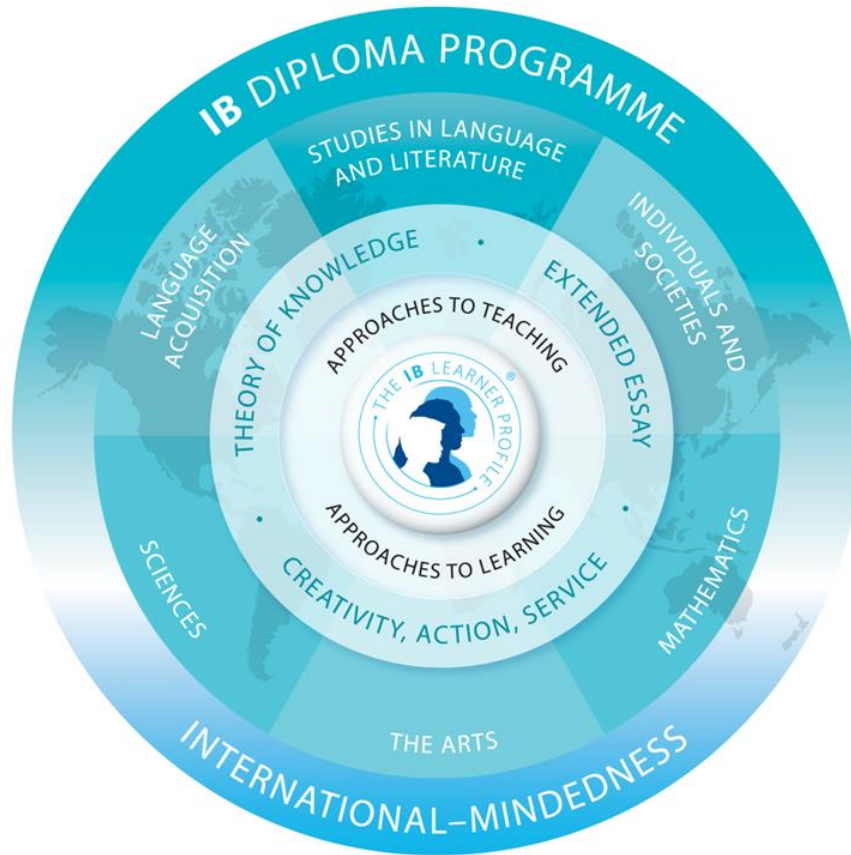


**THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN GENOA**  
SINCE 1966

## MEETING OVERVIEW

1. Information about IB courses
2. Information about university requirements
3. *Questions for reflection*
4. *Course choice simulation activity*
5. Final thoughts & next steps

# IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME CURRICULUM



Students study concurrently:

- three subjects at higher level (240 hours each).
- three subjects at standard level (150 hours each).
- all three parts of the core.

The IB Learner Profile and the core are central to the philosophy of the Diploma Programme.

## GROUP 1:

### STUDIES IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The focus is directed towards developing an understanding of the techniques involved in literary criticism and promoting the ability to form independent literary judgments.

HL → 13 works of literature

SL → 10 works of literature

Examples:

- *English A Literature (HL/SL)*
- *Italian A Literature (HL/SL)*

## GROUP 2: LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

**Language B (HL/SL)** are language acquisition courses for students with some background in the target language. While learning this additional language, students also explore the culture(s) connected to it.

HL → 2 works of literature

SL → no works of literature

*Examples: English B, Italian B, French B, Spanish B*

The **language *ab initio* (SL only)** course is a language acquisition course for students with little or no experience of the language. It is organized around three themes (Individual and society, Leisure and work, Urban and rural environment).

*Examples: Italian ab initio, French ab initio, Spanish ab initio*

## GROUPS 1 – 2: LANGUAGE COMBINATIONS

IB Group*	Subject	Higher Level available?	Standard Level available?
1	Language A literature <sup>1</sup>	YES	YES
2	Language B <sup>2</sup>	YES	YES
2	Language <i>ab initio</i> <sup>3</sup>	NO	YES

### Notes on specific languages:

- 1 – English A literature, Italian A literature
- 2 – English B, Italian B, French B, Spanish B
- 3 – Italian, French, or Spanish *ab initio*

\* All students need at least one language from group 1 (HL or SL) and at least one second language, which can come from either group 1 or group 2 (HL or SL).

## GROUP 3: INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES

### **History (HL/SL)**

The focus of the history program is on the main developments in 20<sup>th</sup> century world history (IB “route 2”). High level history also includes the study of major trends in Europe and the Middle East in the period from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Economics (HL/SL)**

The study of economics is essentially about the concept of scarcity and the problem of resource allocation. The objectives of this course are for students to have an understanding and knowledge of economic concepts and theories, apply economic theory to a range of circumstances and a variety of situations, analyse information through the use of economic concepts and theories, and evaluate concepts and theories from different economic perspectives.

## GROUP 4: SCIENCES

**Biology (HL/SL)** – The study of biology covers the concepts of “structure and function,” “universality *versus* diversity,” “equilibrium within systems,” and “evolution.”

**Chemistry (HL/SL)** – Chemistry is an experimental science that combines academic study with the acquisition of practical and investigational skills. It is called the central science, as chemical principles underpin both the physical environment in which we live and all biological systems.

**Physics (HL/SL)** – Physics is the most fundamental of the experimental sciences, as it seeks to explain the universe itself, from the very smallest particles—quarks—to the vast distances between galaxies. Enrollment in this course, particularly at high level, is limited to those students with a demonstrated potential to meet its inherent challenges.



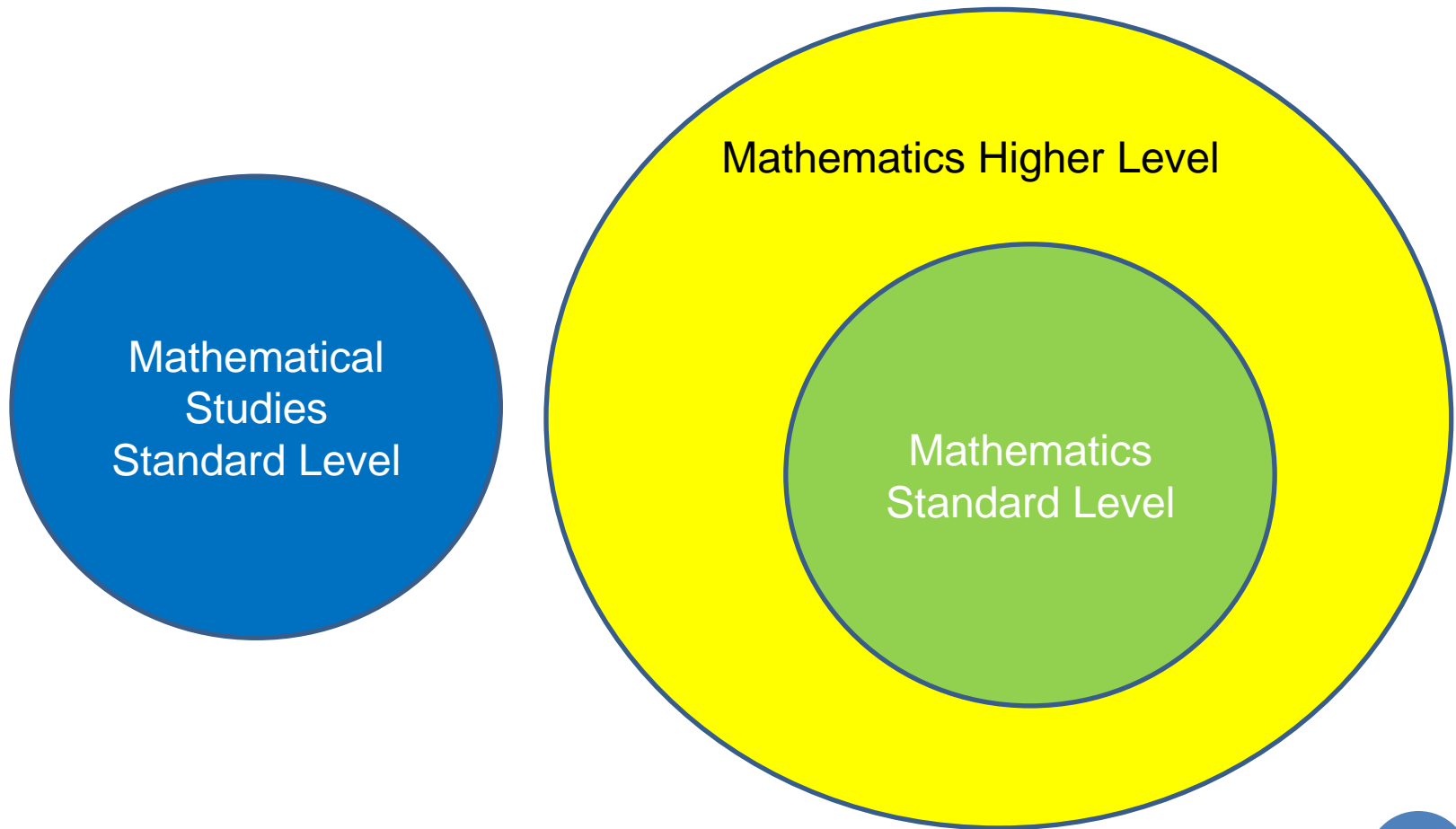
## GROUP 5: MATHEMATICS

**Mathematical Studies (SL only)** - This course caters for students with varied backgrounds and abilities. More specifically, it is designed to build confidence and encourage an appreciation of mathematics in students who do not anticipate a need for mathematics in their future studies.

**Mathematics SL** - This course caters for students who already possess knowledge of basic mathematical concepts, and who are equipped with the skills needed to apply simple mathematical techniques correctly. The majority of these students will expect to need a sound mathematical background as they prepare for future studies in subjects such as chemistry, economics, psychology and business administration.

**Mathematics HL** - This course caters for students with a good background in mathematics who are competent in a range of analytical and technical skills. The majority of these students will be expecting to include mathematics as a major component of their university studies, either as a subject in its own right or within courses such as physics, engineering and technology. Others may take this subject because they have a strong interest in mathematics and enjoy meeting its challenges and engaging with its problems. In addition to the core program, the option studied is “statistics and probability.”

## GROUP 5: MATHEMATICS



## GROUP 6: THE ARTS

### **Visual Arts (HL/SL)**

Visual Arts (IB “Option A”) is designed for students who wish to concentrate on studio practice in visual arts.

Students will produce investigation workbooks to support, inform, develop and refine studio work through sustained contextual, visual and critical investigation.

### **Alternative to a group 6 subject:**

Another subject from group 2, 3, or 4.

# UNIVERSITY APPLICATION PLANNING

## **The Goal:**

Helping students earn offers from the universities that best suit their future academic and personal aspirations, e.g. the “best university for the student.”

*Students will apply to:*

- 2-3 “Difficult” schools
- 2-3 “Possible” schools
- 2-3 “Likely” schools

# UNIVERSITY APPLICATION PLANNING

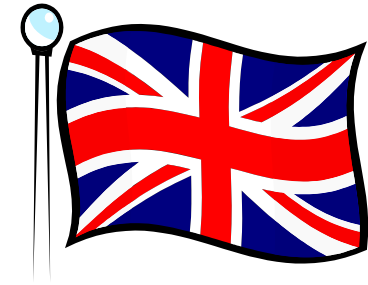
## The Process:

*Prepare* → *Research* → *Apply*

ISG College Counseling Website  
with useful and necessary info:

[isgcollegecounseling.weebly.com](http://isgcollegecounseling.weebly.com)

# UNIVERSITIES IN THE UK



You apply directly to the *faculty* of the university, usually referred to as applying to a “**course**.” Most offers are conditional pending the issue of final exam results (IB Diploma results for ISG students).

All applications are made online through **UCAS** – you can apply to a maximum of 5 universities (4 in the case of medicine / veterinary science), and in any case only one of which may be Cambridge or Oxford (not both).

Most universities in the UK are **public** – very few are private. The institutions are autonomous, and therefore the standards required (i.e. combination of IB subjects, points secured in total and in individual subjects) are a matter for each individual institution to decide. Requirements will vary considerably depending on the institution and the course.

**Requirements:** Sometimes a total overall IB DP score, specific subjects as part of a student’s program, and/or specific scores in high level subjects. *If the IB Diploma has not yet been achieved, the offers will normally be conditional on specified IB grades being obtained.* In some cases, there are additional entrance exams (i.e. medicine – very early in 12<sup>th</sup> grade), on-site interviews, and or supplemental application forms.



# UNIVERSITIES IN THE USA

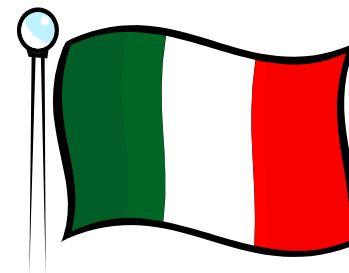
You **apply** directly to each college/university. A few still require paper applications, some require online applications, many allow students to apply through the Common Application.

**Offers** are made in the spring of a student's 12<sup>th</sup> grade year and are based on the work done to that point. (An offer might be withdrawn if a student performs very poorly in the final semester of 12<sup>th</sup> grade.)

A student may apply to a university in the USA with or without an **IB Diploma**. However, "IB exams, while not mandatory, will increase a student's chance for securing admission to selective universities." At some universities, students may earn exemption from certain courses and/or university credit for certain courses if they perform well on their IB exams.

Students applying to US universities generally must submit the scores from the **SAT** Test. Some universities also advise students to submit scores for 1 or more SAT Subject Tests.

Resources for universities and applicants in the USA and Canada: **IB Recognition policy** summaries: <http://www.ibo.org/diploma/recognition/recognitionpolicy/index.cfm>



# UNIVERSITIES IN ITALY

Of the three subjects that students study at high level in order to earn the IB Diploma, the subjects listed in **bold** in the chart below must be studied at high level in order to earn equivalency with an Italian high school diploma.

	Linguistica	Scientifica	Scienze Umane
Group 1	<b>Prima lingua</b>	Prima lingua	Prima lingua
Group 2	Seconda lingua	Seconda lingua	Seconda lingua
Group 3	Storia o Economia o Geografia o Filosofia o Psicologia o Antropologia.	Storia o Economia o Geografia o Filosofia o Psicologia o Antropologia-	<b>Storia</b> o Economia o Geografia o <b>Psicologia</b> o Antropologia o Sociologia o Pedagogia
Group 4	Chimica o Fisica o Biologia o Informatica o Scienze Ambientali	Fisica o Chimica o Biologia	Chimica o Fisica o Biologia o Informatica o Scienze Ambientali
Group 5	Matematica o Studi Matematici	<b>Matematica</b>	Matematica o Studi Matematici
Group 6	Terza Lingua	Chimica o Biologia o Scienze Ambientali Informatica o Latino o Arte	<b>Filosofia</b> o <b>Storia</b> o Economia o Geografia o Arte



# POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS\*

IB Group	Student A
1	English A lit HL
1 or 2	Italian A lit HL (IB group 1)
3	History HL
4	Biology SL
5	Math Studies SL
2, 3, 4, or 6	Visual Arts SL (IB group 6)

**\* These examples are for illustration purposes only.**

**Remember there are restrictions due to scheduling, # of requests for a course, etc.**

# POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS\*

IB Group	Student A	Student B
1	English A lit HL	English A lit SL
1 or 2	Italian A lit HL (IB group 1)	Italian B HL (IB group 2)
3	History HL	Economics SL
4	Biology SL	Chemistry HL
5	Math Studies SL	Mathematics SL
2, 3, 4, or 6	Visual Arts SL (IB group 6)	French B HL (IB group 2)

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**Remember there are restrictions due to scheduling, # of requests for a course, etc.**

# POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS\*

IB Group	Student A	Student B	Student C
1	English A lit HL	English A lit SL	English A lit HL
1 or 2	Italian A lit HL (IB group 1)	Italian B HL (IB group 2)	Italian A lit SL (IB group 1)
3	History HL	Economics SL	History HL
4	Biology SL	Chemistry HL	Biology SL
5	Math Studies SL	Mathematics SL	Mathematics SL
2, 3, 4, or 6	Visual Arts SL (IB group 6)	French B HL (IB group 2)	Economics HL (IB group 3)

**\* These examples are for illustration purposes only.**

**Remember there are restrictions due to scheduling, # of requests for a course, etc.**

# POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS\*

IB Group	Student A	Student B	Student C	Student D
1	English A lit HL	English A lit SL	English A lit HL	Italian A lit HL
1 or 2	Italian A lit HL (IB group 1)	Italian B HL (IB group 2)	Italian A lit SL (IB group 1)	English B HL (IB group 2)
3	History HL	Economics SL	History HL	Economics SL
4	Biology SL	Chemistry HL	Biology SL	Chemistry HL
5	Math Studies SL	Mathematics SL	Mathematics SL	Mathematics SL
2, 3, 4, or 6	Visual Arts SL (IB group 6)	French B HL (IB group 2)	Economics HL (IB group 3)	Spanish <i>ab initio</i> SL (IB group 2)

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**Remember there are restrictions due to scheduling, # of requests for a course, etc.**

# POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS\*

IB Group	Student A	Student B	Student C	Student D	Student E
1	English A lit HL	English A lit SL	English A lit HL	Italian A lit HL	English A lit SL
1 or 2	Italian A lit HL (IB group 1)	Italian B HL (IB group 2)	Italian A lit SL (IB group 1)	English B HL (IB group 2)	French B SL (IB group 2)
3	History HL	Economics SL	History HL	Economics SL	History SL
4	Biology SL	Chemistry HL	Biology SL	Chemistry HL	Physics HL
5	Math Studies SL	Mathematics SL	Mathematics SL	Mathematics SL	Mathematics HL
2, 3, 4, or 6	Visual Arts SL (IB group 6)	French B HL (IB group 2)	Economics HL (IB group 3)	Spanish <i>ab initio</i> SL (IB group 2)	Biology HL (IB group 4)

**\* These examples are for illustration purposes only.**

**Remember there are restrictions due to scheduling, # of requests for a course, etc.**

# WHEN CHOOSING COURSES ...

... I need to remember that:

- There is no such thing as an “easy” IB subject.
- I should choose the most appropriate subjects for ME. They should be at the appropriate level of challenge and stimulation, but should also reflect an appropriate balance.
- There may be limitations due to scheduling. For example, two subjects in which I am interested may be scheduled at the same time, and courses with few requests will not be confirmed.
- Some UK and other universities impose requirements for certain courses.
- All language *ab initio* course and math studies are only available at standard level.
- There are “equipollenza” requirements if I am an Italian citizen.
- It is important to maintain balance! Why should I study 3 very difficult subjects at higher level if the universities in which I am interested do not require them?
- Some subjects are naturally compatible, e.g. strong math skills are valuable in physics, and strong writing skills are valuable in history.

## ACTIVITY: QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Please spend a few minutes now with your parents reflecting on the questions on the worksheet provided.

There are no right or wrong answers!

You will likely NOT know the answers to all questions now.

## ACTIVITY: IB COURSE SIMULATION

1. On the IB Subject Planning Worksheet provided, write the name of one subject next to each choice. Follow the instructions in the “notes” column. Keep in mind your responses to the “questions for reflection.”
2. Once you have chosen your courses, decide which 3 you would like to study at higher level and which 3 at standard level.

**REMEMBER: THIS IS A SIMULATION ONLY.**

You will submit your real course requests later during this year.



# REMEMBER THAT ADMISSIONS OFFICERS / TUTORS ARE LOOKING FOR...

- Strong academic results (grades) – improving scores throughout 4 years
- Challenging academic program – the IB counts!
- For some universities, specific courses/credits
- International polyglots
- Strong scores on admissions tests (SAT, UKCAT, etc.)
- High *predicted* grades (as well as *final* grades!)
- Commitment
- Personal and academic integrity
- Evidence of meaningful, targeted extra-curricular involvement
- A captivating personal statement – details!!!
- Strong, detailed letters of reference

# CHARACTERISTICS OF IB STUDENTS AT ISG

IB students at ISG should:

- Demonstrate self-discipline and responsibility.
- Enjoy the challenge of a demanding academic program.
- Have the desire and motivation required to obtain maximum benefit from the courses selected.
- Seek assistance when necessary, and not hesitate to give it when possible.
- Learn from fellow students as well as from teachers.
- Share with and contribute to the school community.

Students should have access to:

- Study time, about 3 hours a night.
- A computer with a printer; reliable Internet access also is required. IB assessed work should be word-processed.
- Reliable transportation to school.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A SUCCESSFUL  
IB STUDENT AND GET INTO YOUR FIRST-  
CHOICE UNIVERSITY?

**MOTIVATION!**

**ORGANIZATION!**

**HARD WORK!**

# 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CALENDAR

- Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Overview of IB DP
- Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>:
  - Discuss subjects with teachers
  - Talk with family
  - Study IBO website [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)
  - Study university requirements
- Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>: Review of IB DP choices
- Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> – Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>:  
Individual meetings with IB DP Coordinator
- Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>: Submit course requests

THANK YOU!

Any questions?