

PREPARING TO MAKE CHOICES ABOUT IB SUBJECTS AND THEIR RELATION TO UNIVERSITY CHOICES CLASS OF 2018

Meeting for Parents and Students

Monday, 5 October 2015

8:20 am – 9:20 am



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

SUCCESSFUL IB STUDENTS...

According to the authors of Making the Difference: Differentiation in International Schools, the “critical success predictor for students entering the IB program is”:

- A. Intelligence and hard work
- B. Choice of IB subjects and luck
- C. Maturity of attitude and work habits

THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME AT ISG

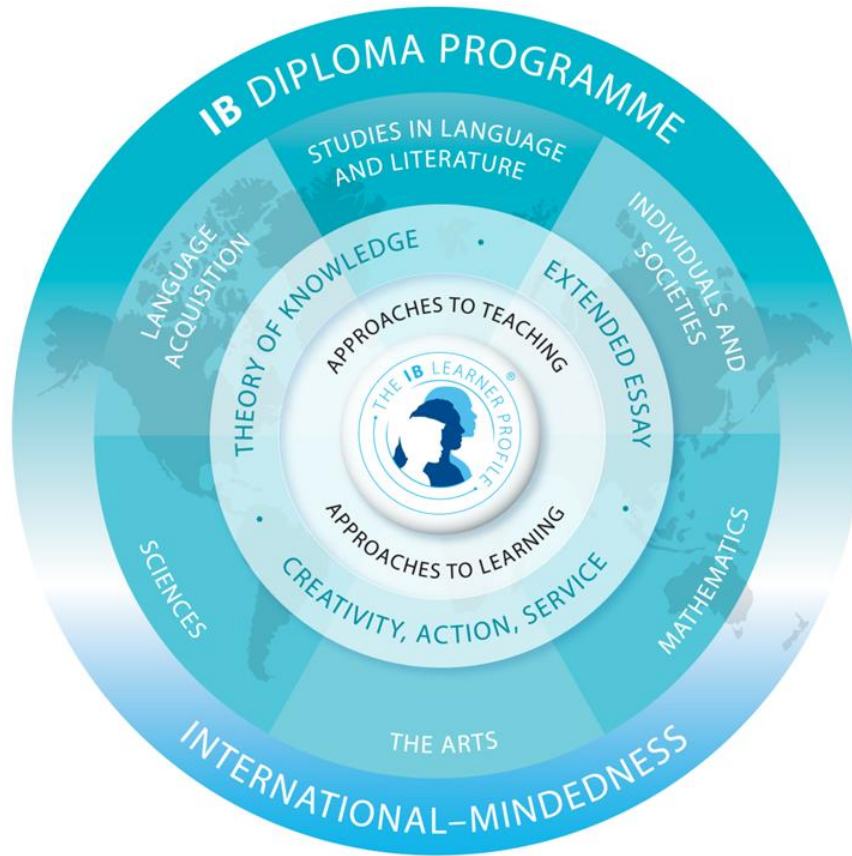
ISG IB Diploma Website
with useful and necessary info:

isgibdiploma.weebly.com

Information about:

- Curriculum, core components, assessment
- Writing and referencing (MLA format)
- Other resources (study habits, forms, etc.)

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME CURRICULUM



6 subjects:

- 1 subject from each of IB groups 1, 3, 4, and 5
- A second language, either from IB group 1 or 2
- A sixth subject from group 2, 3, 4, or 6

Of the 6 subjects:

- 3 at higher level and
- 3 at standard level

Core:

- Theory of Knowledge
- Extended Essay
- CAS

GROUP 1:

STUDIES IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The language A: literature course introduces students to the **analysis** of literary texts.

Students learn to appreciate the artistry of literature, and develop the ability to **reflect critically** on their reading, presenting literary analysis powerfully through **both oral and written communication**.

HL → 13 works of literature

SL → 10 works of literature

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

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).

GROUPS 1 – 2: LANGUAGE COMBINATIONS

IB Group *	Subject	Higher Level available?	Standard Level available?
1	Language A literature ¹	YES	YES
2	Language B ²	YES	YES
2	Language <i>ab initio</i> ³	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)

This is a world history course based on a **comparative** and **multi-perspective** approach to history. It involves the study of a variety of types of history, including **political, economic, social and cultural**, and provides a balance of structure and flexibility. The course emphasizes the importance of encouraging students to think historically and to develop historical skills as well as gaining factual knowledge. It puts a premium on developing the skills of **critical thinking**, and on developing an **understanding of multiple interpretations** of history.

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.

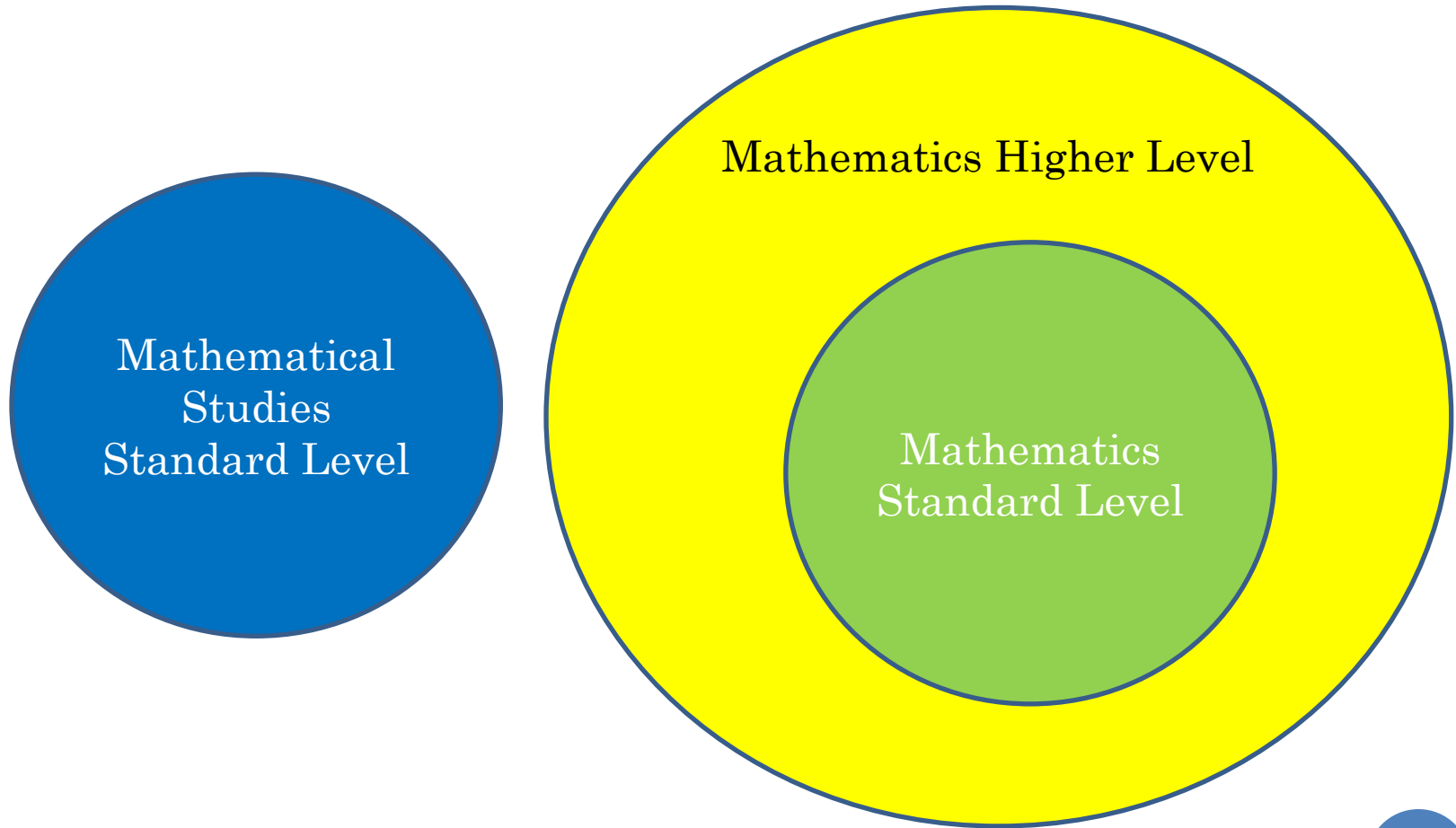
GROUP 5: MATHEMATICS

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)

This course encourages students to challenge their own creative and cultural expectations and boundaries. ... students **develop analytical skills in problem-solving and divergent thinking**, while working towards **technical proficiency and confidence as art-makers**. In addition to **exploring and comparing visual arts from different perspectives and in different contexts**, students are expected to **engage in, experiment with and critically reflect upon a wide range of contemporary practices and media**. The course is designed for students who want to go on to study visual arts in higher education as well as for those who are seeking lifelong enrichment through visual arts.

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*

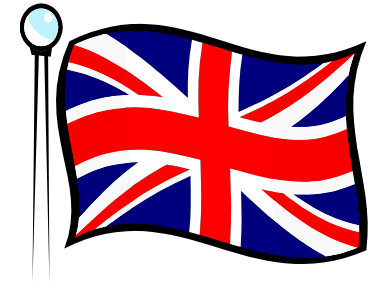
ISG College Counseling Website
with useful and necessary info:

isgcollegecounseling.weebly.com

Please be aware:

Choosing a university and course/major, as well as the process of application, will take significant time and effort.

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 IB exam results.

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. In some cases, there are additional entrance exams (i.e. medicine – very early in 12th grade), on-site interviews, and or supplemental application forms.



UNIVERSITIES IN THE USA

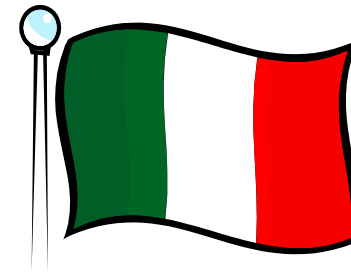
You **apply** directly to each college/university. A few still require paper applications, some require online applications, many allow students to apply through the Common Application.

Offers are made in the spring of a student's 12th 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 12th 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.

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	Prima lingua	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-	Storia o Economia o Geografia o Psicologia 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	Matematica	Matematica o Studi Matematici
Group 6	Terza Lingua	Chimica o Biologia o Scienze Ambientali Informatica o Latino o Arte	Filosofia o Storia 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)

*** 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	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 IB 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*. Why should I study 3 very difficult subjects at higher level if the universities in which I am interested do not require them?
- 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* courses and math studies are only available at standard level.
- There are “equipollenza” requirements if I am an Italian citizen.
- Some subjects are naturally compatible, e.g. strong math skills are valuable in physics, and strong writing skills are valuable in history.

ACTIVITY A: 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 B: 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.

10TH GRADE CALENDAR / 2015 – 2016

- Monday 5 October, 8:20 – 9:20
Group meeting – parents & students
“Preparing to make choices about IB subjects and their relation to university choices”
- Friday 16 October, 13:30 – 14:30
10th grade student workshop
“Tools and resources for university research”
- Tuesday 6 October – Friday 13 November
 - Talk with family
 - Study useful websites, including www.ibo.org
 - Study university requirements

10TH GRADE CALENDAR / 2015 – 2016

- Monday 16 November, 13:30 – 14:30
Group meeting – parents & students
“Review of IB DP choices”
- Monday 16 – Friday 20 November
Presentations for 10th grade students by IB faculty
“Overview of IB subjects”
- Monday 23 November – Friday 4 December
Individual meetings with IB DP Coordinator
“Review of IB DP choices – draft plan”
- Monday 11 January
Submit final IB course requests

THANK YOU!

Any questions?