

What are the requirements for the IB diploma and certificate?

The Diploma Programme is a two-year, full-time programme. Students must choose one subject from each of groups 1 to 5, thus ensuring breadth of experience in languages, social studies, the experimental sciences and mathematics. The sixth subject may be an arts subject chosen from group 6, or the student may choose another subject from groups 2 to 5. At least three and not more than four are taken at higher level (HL), the others at standard level (SL). HL courses represent a recommended 240 teaching hours; SL courses cover 150 teaching hours.

In each examination, the student is graded on a scale of 1 (minimum) to 7 (maximum). The award of the diploma requires students to meet defined standards and conditions. These include a minimum total of 24 points and the satisfactory completion of three compulsory core components: 1) [theory of knowledge](#) (TOK); 2) [extended essay](#); and 3) [creativity, action, service](#) (CAS).

Approximately 80% of students are awarded the diploma. A student who does not satisfy the requirements of the full Diploma Programme, or who has elected to take fewer than six subjects, is awarded a certificate for the examinations completed. Students who complete more than six subjects receive an extra certificate for the additional subject(s).

How to interpret IB grades and transcripts

A student's examination performance in individual subjects is scored on a scale of 1–7 points with a further 3 points available based on a matrix of performance in the [theory of knowledge](#) (TOK) and the [extended essay](#) components. Students who display satisfactory levels of performance across all subject areas and achieve a minimum of 24 points (out of a possible 45) are awarded the IB diploma. All others receive a certificate of results for the subjects examined. Subjects are marked according to the following scale:

- 7** Excellent
- 6** Very good
- 5** Good
- 4** Satisfactory
- 3** Mediocre
- 2** Poor
- 1** Very poor
- N** No grade

The TOK course and the extended essay are graded according to the following scale.

- A** Excellent
- B** Good
- C** Satisfactory
- D** Mediocre

E Elementary

N No grade

Examination results are available in early July following the May examination session. Results are made available to universities either in electronic format or as a transcript of grades, as appropriate. The results indicate the grade a candidate has been awarded for each subject, including the additional diploma requirements of theory of knowledge and the extended essay. The results also indicate the completion of creativity, action, service (CAS) and total number of points for the diploma, if a diploma has been awarded.

Diploma awarded, Bilingual diploma awarded or Certificate(s) awarded will appear on the results.

Bilingual diplomas are awarded for:

- two languages A1, or
- a language A1 taken together with a language A2, or
- a group 3 or 4 subject taken in a language other than the candidate's language A1, or
- an extended essay in a group 3 or group 4 subject written in a language other than the candidate's language A1.