

## IB Diploma Programme

*The International Baccalaureate Organisation's Diploma Programme (DP), created in 1968, is a demanding pre-university course of study that leads to examinations. It is designed for highly motivated secondary school students aged 16-19.*

The programme has earned a reputation for rigorous assessment, giving IB Diploma holders access to the world's leading universities. The IBO's goal is to provide students with values and opportunities that will enable them to develop sound judgement to make wise choices, and respect others in the global community.

SSHL was one of the first schools in Sweden to introduce this programme in 1982. The Diploma Programme equips students with the skills and attitudes necessary for success in higher education and employment.

Depending on age and educational background, a student can apply to high school to either grade 10 or 11. Grade 10 is the final year of the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP), a good preparatory year for the DP, and an equivalent to the same grade in an American educational system and the final GCSE year in the United Kingdom. The courses are intended to provide a firm foundation. The MYP is presented on a separate information sheet.

In order to be accepted, students must present adequate assessments and school reports. In addition, students may be required to take entrance tests in Mathematics and English and a diagnostic test in Swedish. To be accepted directly into grade 11 demands that a student has achieved good results in grade 10.

Many of our well-qualified teachers are native English speakers, with extensive international teaching experience. In addition, some members of staff are IB subject examiners. Teachers regularly participate in international workshops and conferences.

**The curriculum contains 6 subjects together with a core which is made up of the 3 elements:**

- Theory of Knowledge (ToK)
- Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) and the
- Extended Essay (EE).

This is illustrated by the programme model:



## Subjects

In the IB Diploma Programme, year 11-12, students can choose their six subjects from each of the groups 1-6. Each subject is usually offered at two levels: Higher and Standard. The difference can be measured in both qualitative and quantitative terms. Three subjects are studied at Higher Level. All subjects are offered at Higher and Standard Level, unless otherwise stated:

- Group 1: English A Literature, Swedish A Literature, English A Language and Literature, Language A Literature school supported Self-taught SL.
- Group 2: English B, Swedish B, Swedish Ab Initio SL
- Group 3: Business Management, Economics, Global Politics, History, Philosophy.
- Group 4: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Systems and Societies, Sports Exercise and Health Science (SEHS).
- Group 5: Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches, Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation SL.
- Group 6: Visual Arts and/or an additional subject from group 1-4

Due to technicalities of timetabling, it is necessary to block certain subjects together. The possible combinations for the current academic year are available on a separate information sheet.

## DP Core

The following core components are part of the IB philosophy and are also included in the Diploma Programme:

**Theory of Knowledge** is a course, which stimulates reflection on the nature of knowledge and its acquisition. In addition, the course covers a large number of fundamental, ethical, moral and philosophical problems.

**Creativity, Action and Service (CAS)** fosters activity and responsibility beyond the classroom, in accordance with the views held by the founders of the IB. All students participate in CAS. The activities are not graded but have to be fulfilled to receive the Diploma, and they serve as a counter balance to academic weight of the DP subjects.

The **Extended Essay** is a separate piece of written work of not more than 4000 words in length, on a topic, which the students choose from one of their subjects.

## Examinations

The majority of the grades are determined by written exams which are externally assessed and are taken at the end of the course. 20-30 % of the grade is determined by coursework which is completed throughout the second year of the course. Grades are awarded on a seven-point scale per subject, with the possibility of three bonus points being awarded for creditable achievement in Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay. The maximum Diploma score is 45 points; a minimum of 24 points is required for the award of a Diploma.

## Further information

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