



Understanding the IB Diploma Programme Acronyms and Vocabulary



- 1. International Baccalaureate (IB) (also IBO, International Baccalaureate Organization)**
- 2. Diploma Programme (DP)**
 - A two-year comprehensive programme, designed for ages 16 – 19 or grades 11 and 12.
- 3. Theory of Knowledge (TOK)**
 - An interdisciplinary course that examines the ways of knowing and allows students to see connections between their classes, explore themselves as learners, and tackle a knowledge issue relevant in their lives.
 - Structured through DP Core Studies throughout 11th and 12th grades.
 - Assessed with a paper and presentation.
- 4. Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)**
 - Allows students to exemplify the IB Learner Profile in meaningful ways.
 - Supported through DP Core Studies throughout 11th and 12th grades.
 - Involvement and completion is ongoing.
 - Cannot begin until the start of the 11th grade.
- 5. Extended Essay (EE)**
 - This opportunity of college level research and writing ties together student's studies and interests in a topic of their choice. In some cases, students receive Composition credit at university.
 - The Extended Essay process begins in the spring of 11th grade with topic selection and supervisor assignment.
 - Students begin the research process over the summer between 11th and 12th grades.
 - Extended Essay is structured through DP Core Studies throughout 11th and 12th grades.
 - Students submit the EE paper in December of 12th grade.
 - **Imperative that this essay be 100% student work without any outside editing!**
- 4. Internal Assessments (IA)**
 - IB required assessments provided by the teacher. Depending on the subject the IA could be oral exams, projects, essays, experiments, case studies, etc. that are scored by the teacher. IB externally moderates to ensure quality. A randomly selected sample of these assessments are sent to IB to ensure that the IB teacher is scoring according to the IB rubric.
 - Internal Assessments occur in each class, throughout the two years of the programme.
 - Teachers predict the grade they believe each candidate will attain in the forthcoming examination session for a subject and level.
- 5. External Assessments (EA)**
 - Most DP External Assessments take place during May of their senior year and cover the content of the 2 years in DP.
- 6. Higher Level (HL)**
 - A course of study with increased depth and breadth of subject in comparison to a Standard Level (SL) course. All HL courses are a two year course sequence with examinations the senior year.
 - A diploma student must take 3 HL courses and 3 SL courses over the junior and senior years.
- 7. Standard Level (SL)**
 - A course study of study consisting of less depth and breadth when compared to a higher level course. It should consist of 150 hours. Many courses are one year in length, but some do occur over two years. (Students may take up to two SL tests after one year of study. This is dependent on course availability and student level of study in a subject area.) A diploma student must take 3 HL courses and 3 SL courses over the junior and senior years.

8. ab initio

- "From the Beginning": A Standard Level World Language Course. The ab initio language exam must be taken at the end of grade 12 and is equivalent to three language levels

9. Diploma Candidate

- A senior student who is completing the requirements for the IB Diploma.

10. Anticipated Student

- A junior student who is completing the requirements for the IB Diploma.

11. Course Student

- A junior or senior student who is not working toward the IB Diploma, but is taking an IB course and therefore is taking an IB exam.

12. Certificate

- A document issued by the IBO once a student has taken an IB exam for an IB course.