

Subject Guide

Queensland Academies - Health Sciences Campus

Introduction

The curriculum for the Queensland Academy - Health Sciences Campus is the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is a highly regarded, internationally recognised certification leading to tertiary study anywhere in the world. It is part of the philosophy of the IB Diploma that all students study a traditional, broadly focused curriculum with the study of languages, maths, science and humanities being compulsory for all students.

Founded in the 1960s, the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) evolved from an international effort by schools to establish a common curriculum and university entry credential for geographically mobile students. The IB Diploma now has wide acceptance and is held in high esteem throughout the world. It is a two year programme in the final secondary years of education, designed to:

- prepare students for tertiary studies
- provide students with a balanced education
- foster critical thinking skills
- encourage cultural understanding and tolerance
- enable students to move between countries and cultures without affecting their education
- develop international awareness and broadened perspectives

A student who is awarded the IB Diploma has demonstrated a strong commitment to learning, both in terms of mastery of the subject content and in the development of the skills and discipline necessary for success in a competitive world. IB Diploma students enjoy ready acceptance and success in university studies in Queensland and throughout the world.

Who is the IB Diploma for?

The IB is a good choice of programme for any student who wishes to study at a University and is interested in:

- studying a sound comprehensive curriculum recognised for both depth and breadth of academic studies
- participating in activities that encourage a sense of adventure, self-discovery, social responsibility and international awareness

The IB Diploma Programme

To be eligible for the award of the IB Diploma, students are required to:

- Study six academic subjects, one from each of the groups represented by the diagram below (exceptions for group 6 apply)
- Complete at least three (and not more than four) of these at the Higher Level and the remainder at the Standard Level;
- Satisfactorily complete the following additional core requirements:
 - Theory of Knowledge (ToK)
 - Extended Essay (EE)
 - Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)

The Award of the IB Diploma

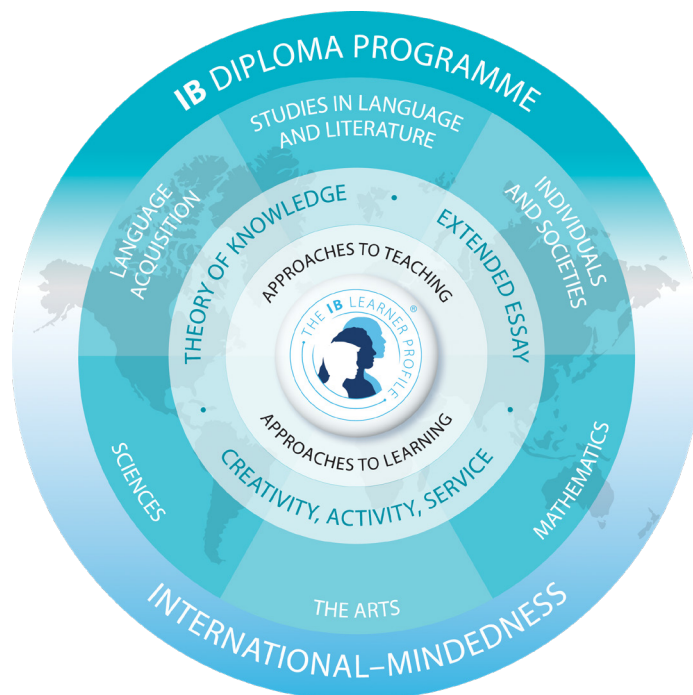
The award of the Diploma requires:

- A minimum total of 24 points (with a maximum of 45 points possible); and
- The satisfactory completion of the Extended Essay, ToK and CAS; and
- The completion of one subject from each of the six groups (exceptions for group 6 – students may instead, study a second science or humanities subject) with three of the subjects at Higher Level (HL) and the others at Standard Level (SL)

Curriculum Offerings

International Baccalaureate Diploma Framework

The Academy's three year learning programme will have as its essential core, the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The Diploma Programme has a traditional time frame of two years. Year 10 is a pre IB year whereby essential skills are developed in preparation for the commencement of the Diploma Programme in Year 11.



Students choose one from each Group unless otherwise stated

IB Diploma Group	Year 10	Years 11-12
Group 1 Studies in Language and Literature	English Language and Literature	English A: Language and Literature (SL & HL)
Group 2 Language B	Introduction to French, Mandarin or Spanish, or continuation of French or Mandarin if already a competent speaker (eg. student has come from an immersion programme)	French ab initio (Beginner SL) Mandarin ab initio (Beginner SL) Spanish ab initio (Beginner SL) French B (SL & HL) Mandarin B (SL & HL)
Group 3 Individuals and Society	Introduction to Business Management Introduction to Psychology Introduction to Economics	Business Management (HL) Psychology (HL) Economics (HL)
Group 4 Experimental Sciences	Biology Chemistry Computer Science Physics Sports, Exercise & Health Science	Biology (HL) Chemistry (SL & HL) Computer Science (HL) Physics (HL) Sports, Exercise & Health Science (HL)
Group 5 Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics Applications and Interpretations (SL & HL) Mathematics Analysis and Approaches (SL & HL)
Group 6 Arts or Second Science or Psychology or Business Management or Economics	Students cannot choose a science previously chosen in Group 4 Music Biology Chemistry Computer Science Physics Sports, Exercise & Health Science Introduction to Psychology Introduction to Business Management Introduction to Economics	Music (HL) Biology (HL) Chemistry (SL & HL) Computer Science (HL) Physics (HL) Sports, Exercise & Health Science (HL) Psychology (HL) Business Management (HL) Economics (HL)
Core All compulsory	Global Learners - Introduction to Theory of Knowledge (TOK) concepts, Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) & research skills.	Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Creativity, Activity and Service CAS) Extended Essay (4000 word original research paper) (EE)

GROUP 1 - Studies in Language and Literature

English A: Language and Literature SL and HL

The aims of the Language and Literature course at standard and higher level are to:

- enable students to understand and use the language they have studied in a range of contexts and for a variety of purposes
- engage with a range of texts, in a variety of media and forms, from different periods, styles, and cultures
- develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, presenting and performing
- develop skills in interpretation, analysis and evaluation
- develop sensitivity to the formal and aesthetic qualities of texts and an appreciation of how they contribute to diverse responses and open up multiple meanings
- develop an understanding of relationships between texts and a variety of perspectives, cultural contexts, and local and global issues and an appreciation of how they contribute to diverse responses and open up multiple meanings
- develop an understanding of the relationships between studies in language and literature and other disciplines
- communicate and collaborate in a confident and creative way
- foster a lifelong interest in and enjoyment of language and literature.

In the English A: Language and Literature course students will learn about the complex and dynamic nature of language and explore both its practical and aesthetic dimensions. They will explore the crucial role language plays in communication, reflecting experience and shaping the world. Students will also learn about their own roles as producers of language and develop their productive skills.

Throughout the course, students will explore the various ways in which language choices, text types, literary forms and contextual elements all effect meaning. Through close analysis of various text types and literary forms, students will consider their own interpretations, as well as the critical perspectives of others, to explore how such positions are shaped by cultural belief systems and to negotiate meanings for texts.

Students will engage in activities that involve them in the process of production and help shape their critical awareness of how texts and their associated visual and audio elements work together to influence the audience/reader and how audiences/readers open up the possibilities of texts. With its focus on a wide variety of communicative acts, the course is meant to develop sensitivity to the foundational nature, and pervasive influence, of language in the world at large.

In this course, students study a wide range of literary and non-literary texts in a variety of media. By examining communicative acts across literary form and textual type alongside appropriate secondary readings, students will investigate the nature of language itself and the ways in which it shapes and is influenced by identity and culture. Approaches to study in the course are meant to be wide ranging and can include literary theory, sociolinguistics, media studies and critical discourse analysis among others.

The model for English A: Language and Literature is the same at SL and HL but there are significant quantitative and qualitative differences between the levels. SL students are required to study four literary works and a number of non-literary texts that is equivalent in teaching and learning time, whereas HL students are required to study six literary works and a number of non-literary texts that is equivalent in teaching and learning time.

GROUP 2 - Language B

French, Mandarin (Chinese) or Spanish

The aims of group 2 are to:

- enable students to understand and use the language they have studied in a range of contexts and for a variety of purposes
- enable students to use the language appropriately
- encourage, through the study of texts and through social interaction, an awareness and appreciation of the different perspectives of people from other cultures
- develop students' awareness of the role of language in relation to other areas of knowledge
- provide the opportunity for enjoyment, creativity and intellectual stimulation through knowledge of a language
- provide students with a basis for further study, work and leisure through language
- develop students' awareness of the relationship between the languages and cultures with which they are familiar

The study of a modern language entails acquiring a language system and applying it in four active and interrelated ways: through listening, speaking, reading and writing. These four skills involve exchanging ideas and effective communication.

Effective communication, in turn, involves the intellectual process of understanding how ideas can best be expressed to the audience concerned. Understanding ideas, and expressing them clearly and convincingly, demands an awareness of the cultural characteristics of the audience.

Language Ab Initio

The language ab initio courses are language learning courses for beginners, designed to be followed over the Diploma by students who have no previous experience of learning the target language. The main focus of the courses is on the acquisition of language required for purposes and situations usual in everyday social interaction. Language ab initio courses are only available at standard level.

Language ab initio courses aim to develop a variety of linguistic skills, and a basic awareness of the culture(s) using the language, through the study of a core syllabus and language-specific syllabuses is for a beginner who has little or no previous experience of the language.

Language B Standard Level

The language B courses are language learning courses for students with some previous experience of learning the target language. The main focus of these courses is on language acquisition and the development of skills considerably beyond those expected of an ab initio candidate, to a fairly sophisticated degree.

Language B courses give students the opportunity to reach a high degree of competence in a language and explore the culture(s) using the language. The range of purposes and situations for which and in which the language is used extends well beyond those at ab initio, to the domains of work, social relationships, and the discussion of abstract ideas, for example. The types of language needed for these purposes and situations are more refined. Language B is for a student who has 2 to 5 years experience of the target language.

GROUP 3 - Individuals and Societies

Business Management

The aims of the Business Management course are to:

- encourage a holistic view of the world of business
- empower students to think critically and strategically about individual and organizational behaviour
- promote the importance of exploring business issues from different cultural perspectives
- enable the student to appreciate the nature and significance of change in a local, regional and global context
- promote awareness of the importance of environmental, social and ethical factors in the actions of individuals and organizations
- develop an understanding of the importance of innovation in a business environment

Business Management is a rigorous, challenging and dynamic discipline in the individuals and societies subject group. Although business management shares many skills and areas of knowledge with other humanities and social sciences, it is distinct in a number of ways. Business Management studies business functions, management processes and decision-making in contemporary contexts of strategic uncertainty.

The Diploma Programme Business Management course is designed to develop students' knowledge and understanding of business management theories, as well as their ability to apply a range of tools and techniques. Emphasis is placed on strategic decision-making and the operational business functions of human resource management, finance and accounts, marketing and operations management. The course encourages the appreciation of ethical concerns, as well as issues of corporate social responsibility (CSR), at both a local and global level.

Developing international-mindedness is at the heart of the Diploma Programme Business Management course. The course encourages the use of contemporary examples and case studies at a variety of levels, from the local to the global, as well as from smaller-scale businesses to multinational ones. The course promotes the ideals of international cooperation and responsible citizenship. Students are encouraged to make sense of the forces and circumstances that drive and restrain change in an interdependent and multicultural world. The Diploma Programme Business Management course contributes to students' developments as critical and effective participants in local, national and world affairs.

Psychology

The aims of the psychology course are to:

- develop an awareness of how psychological research can be applied for the benefit of human beings
- ensure that ethical practices are upheld in psychological inquiry
- develop an understanding of the biological, cognitive and sociocultural influences on human behaviour
- develop an understanding of alternative explanations of behaviour
- understand and use diverse methods of psychological inquiry

Psychology is the systematic study of behaviour and mental processes. Psychology has its roots in both the natural and social sciences, leading to a variety of research designs and applications, and providing a unique approach to understanding modern society.

IB Psychology examines the interaction of biological, cognitive and sociocultural influences on human behaviour, thereby adopting an integrative approach. Understanding how psychological knowledge is generated, developed and applied enables students to achieve a greater understanding of themselves and appreciate the diversity of human behaviour. The ethical concerns raised by the methodology and application of psychological research are key considerations in IB Psychology.

IB Psychology takes a holistic approach that fosters intercultural understanding and respect. In the core of the IB psychology course, the biological level of analysis demonstrates what all humans share, whereas the cognitive and sociocultural levels of analysis reveal the immense diversity of influences that produce human behaviour and mental processes. Cultural diversity is explored and students are encouraged to develop empathy for the feelings, needs and lives of others within and outside their own culture. This empathy contributes to an international understanding.

Economics

The aims of the Economics course are to:

- develop an understanding of microeconomic and macroeconomic theories and concepts and their real-world application
- develop an appreciation of the impact on individuals and societies of economic interactions between nations
- develop an awareness of development issues facing nations as they undergo the process of change.

Economics is a dynamic social science, forming part of the individuals and societies subject group. The study of economics is essentially about dealing with scarcity, resource allocation and the methods and processes by which choices are made in the satisfaction of human wants. As a social science, economics uses scientific methodologies that include quantitative and qualitative elements.

The IB Diploma Programme economics course emphasizes the economic theories of microeconomics, which deal with economic variables affecting individuals, firms and markets, and the economic theories of macroeconomics, which deal with economic variables affecting countries, governments and societies. These economic theories are not to be studied in a vacuum—rather, they are to be applied to real-world issues. Prominent among these issues are fluctuations in economic activity, international trade, economic development and environmental sustainability.

The ethical dimensions involved in the application of economic theories and policies permeate throughout the economics course as students are required to consider and reflect on human end-goals and values. The economics course encourages students to develop international perspectives, fosters a concern for global issues, and raises students' awareness of their own responsibilities at a local, national and international level. The course also seeks to develop values and attitudes that will enable students to achieve a degree of personal commitment in trying to resolve these issues, appreciating our shared responsibility as citizens of an increasingly interdependent world.

GROUP 4 - Experimental Sciences

The aims of all courses in group 4 are to enable students to:

- provide opportunities for scientific study and creativity within a global context that will stimulate and challenge students
- provide a body of knowledge, methods and techniques that characterise science and technology
- enable students to apply and use a body of knowledge, methods and techniques that characterize science and technology
- develop an ability to analyse, evaluate and synthesize scientific information
- engender an awareness of the need for, and the value of, effective collaboration and communication during scientific activities
- develop experimental and investigative scientific skills
- develop and apply the students' information and communication technology skills in the study of science
- raise awareness of the moral, ethical, social, economic and environmental implications of using science and technology
- develop an appreciation of the possibilities and limitations associated with science and scientists
- encourage an understanding of the relationships between scientific disciplines and the overarching nature of the scientific method.

Group 4 students at standard level (SL) and higher level (HL) undertake a common core syllabus, a common Internal Assessment (IA) scheme and have some overlapping elements in the options studied. They are presented with a syllabus that encourages the development of certain skills, attributes and attitudes, relevant to each discipline.

While the skills and activities of Group 4 Science subjects are common to students at both SL and HL, students at HL are required to study some topics in greater depth, to study additional topics and to study extension material of a more demanding nature in the common options. The distinction between SL and HL is one of breadth and depth.

Biology

Biologists have accumulated huge amounts of information about living organisms, and it would be easy to confuse students by teaching large numbers of seemingly unrelated facts. In the Diploma Programme Biology course, it is hoped that students will acquire a limited body of facts and, at the same time, develop a broad, general understanding of the principles of the subject.

Although the Diploma Programme Biology course has been written as a series of discrete statements (for assessment purposes), there are four basic biological concepts that run throughout; structure and function, universality versus diversity, equilibrium within systems, checks and balances and evolution. These four concepts serve as themes that unify the various topics that make up the three sections of the course: the core, the additional higher level (AHL) material and the options.

Chemistry

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. Apart from being a subject worthy of study in its own right, Chemistry is a prerequisite for many other courses in higher education, such as medicine, biological science and environmental science, and serves as useful preparation for employment.

The Diploma Programme Chemistry course includes the essential principles of the subject but also, through selection of options, allows teachers some flexibility to tailor the course to meet the needs of their students.

The course is available at both standard level (SL) and higher level (HL), and therefore accommodates students who wish to study science in higher education and those who do not.

Computer Science

Computers and technology are heavily embedded within our society and the understanding of this subject area is required for success in a diverse range of fields. It is a dynamic subject which continues to evolve quickly as technology and society's needs dictate.

The International Baccalaureate Computer Science course “requires an understanding of the fundamental concepts of computational thinking as well as knowledge of how computers and other digital devices operate” (IB Computer Science Guide, 2014). Students will develop their ability to think procedurally, adopt enquiry based experimental research skills, develop algorithms and solve computational based problems.

The varied skills required in the Computer Science course are indicative of the wide ranging usage of computers and technologies within our society. It draws on the skills and techniques within the Sciences and Mathematics, to develop problem solving skills specific to Computer Science and Technology. It is a rigorous, stimulating course which will prepare our IB students very well for future tertiary studies in Computer Science.

Physics

Physics is the most fundamental of the experimental sciences, as it seeks to explain the universe itself, from the very smallest particles—quarks (perhaps 10^{-17} m in size), which may be truly fundamental—to the vast distances between galaxies (1024 m).

Alongside the growth in our understanding of the natural world, perhaps the more obvious and relevant result of physics to most of our students is our ability to change the world. This is the technological side of physics, in which physical principles have been applied to construct and alter the material world to suit our needs, and have had a profound influence on the daily lives of all human beings—for good or bad. This raises the issue of the impact of physics on society, the moral and ethical dilemmas, and the social, economic and environmental implications of the work of physicists. These concerns have become more prominent as our power over the environment has grown, particularly among young people, for whom the importance of the responsibility of physicists for their own actions is self-evident.

Physics is therefore, above all, a human activity, and students need to be aware of the context in which physicists work. Illuminating its historical development places the knowledge and the process of physics in a context of dynamic change, in contrast to the static context in which physics has sometimes been presented. This can give students insights into the human side of physics: the individuals; their personalities, times and social milieux; and their challenges, disappointments and triumphs.

Sports, Exercise and Health Science

Over many decades scientific inquiry has accumulated a vast array of knowledge that contributes to our understanding of health and human performance in relation to sports and exercise. The Diploma Programme course in Sports, Exercise and Health Science involves the study of the science that underpins physical performance and provides the opportunity to apply these principles across the traditional disciplines of anatomy and physiology, biomechanics, psychology and nutrition.

Studying the course will allow students to develop skills in areas such as planning and implementing training programs, sports psychology, developing nutritional plans and understanding the complexities of human movement during sporting activity. As such a sports scientist has the ability to, no matter the activity, plan, develop and implement a full training program. Furthermore in a world where physical inactivity is increasing and contributing to chronic ill health a sports scientist should be equally comfortable in prescribing physical activity as part of a medical treatment plan.

As an experimental science the Sports, Exercise and Health Science Diploma Programme combines academic study with practical work and investigative skills in order to develop a range of transferable skills.

GROUP 5 - Mathematics

The aims of all courses in group 5 are to enable students to:

- appreciate the multicultural and historical perspectives of mathematics
- enjoy the courses and develop an appreciation of the elegance, power and usefulness of the subjects
- develop logical, critical and creative thinking
- develop an understanding of the principles and nature of the subject
- employ and refine their powers of abstraction and generalization
- develop patience and persistence in problem solving
- transfer skills to alternative situations and to future developments
- communicate clearly and confidently in a variety of contexts.

The nature of Mathematics can be summarized in a number of ways: for example, it can be seen as a well defined body of knowledge, as an abstract system of ideas, or as a useful tool. For many people it is probably a combination of these, but there is no doubt that mathematical knowledge provides an important key to understanding the world in which we live. Mathematics can enter our lives in a number of ways: we buy produce in the market, consult a timetable, read a newspaper, time a process or estimate a length.

Mathematics, for most of us, also extends into our chosen profession: artists need to learn about perspective; musicians need to appreciate the mathematical relationships within and between different rhythms; economists need to recognize trends in financial dealings; and engineers need to take account of stress patterns in physical materials. Scientists view mathematics as a language that is central to our understanding of events that occur in the natural world. Some people enjoy the challenges offered by the logical methods of mathematics and the adventure in reason that mathematical proof has to offer. Others appreciate mathematics as an aesthetic experience or even as a cornerstone of philosophy. This prevalence of mathematics in our lives provides a clear and sufficient rationale for making the study of this subject compulsory within the Diploma Programme.

Mathematics Applications and Interpretations

Applications and Interpretations is designed for students who enjoy describing the real world and solving practical problems using mathematics, those who are interested in harnessing the power of technology alongside exploring mathematical models and enjoy the more practical side of mathematics.

Applications and interpretation with an emphasis on statistics, modelling and use of technology. Appropriate for those with an interest in the applications of mathematics and how technology can support this. The course is available at both standard level (SL) which does not satisfy pre-requisite conditions for some university courses e.g. Biomedical Science, and higher level (HL).

This subject is aimed at students who will go on to study subjects such as Social Sciences, Health and Behavioural Sciences (Medicine, Biomedical Science, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science, Naturopathy, Speech Pathology, statistics, and business, some economics courses, psychology, and design.

Mathematics Analysis and Approaches

Analysis and Approaches is intended for students who wish to pursue studies in mathematics at university or subjects that have a large mathematical content; it is for students who enjoy developing mathematical arguments, problem solving and exploring real and abstract applications, with and without technology.

Analytic methods with an emphasis on calculus – appropriate for pure mathematicians, engineers, scientists, economists, those with an interest in analytic methods. The course is available at both standard level (SL) and higher level (HL).

This subject is aimed at students who will go on to study subjects with substantial mathematics content such as Mathematics and Physics, Engineering, Computing or some Economics courses.

GROUP 6 - The Arts

The aims of all subjects in group 6 are to enable students to:

- enjoy lifelong engagement with the arts
- become informed, reflective and critical practitioners in the arts
- understand the dynamic and changing nature of the arts
- explore and value the diversity of the arts across time, place and cultures
- express ideas with confidence and competence
- develop perceptual and analytical skills.
- develop their knowledge and potential as musicians, both personally and collaboratively.

Music

Music functions as a means of personal and communal identity and expression, and embodies the social and cultural values of individuals and communities. This scenario invites exciting exploration and sensitive study.

Music, and all of its associations, may vary considerably from one musical culture to another: yet music may share similarities. Such richness offers a variety of ways to encounter and engage with a constantly changing world. A vibrant musical education fosters curiosity and openness to both familiar and unfamiliar musical worlds.

Through such a study of Music we learn to hear relationships of pitch in sound, pattern in rhythm and unfolding sonic structures. Through participating in the study of music we are able to explore the similarities, differences and links in music from within our own culture and that of others across time. Informed and active musical engagement allows us to explore and discover relationships between lived human experience and specific sound combinations and technologies, thus informing us more fully of the world around us, and the nature of humanity.

The Diploma Programme Music course provides an appropriate foundation for further study in music at university level or in music career pathways. It also provides an enriching and valuable course of study for students who may pursue other careers. This course also provides all students with the opportunity to engage in the world of music as lifelong participants.

Core Requirements of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

All IB Diploma students must satisfy the following three core requirements in addition to their six chosen academic subjects:

Theory of Knowledge (ToK)

The aims of the TOK course are to:

- develop a fascination with the richness of knowledge as a human endeavour, and an understanding of the empowerment that follows from reflecting upon it
- develop an awareness of how knowledge is constructed, critically examined, evaluated and renewed, by communities and individuals
- encourage students to reflect on their experiences as learners, in everyday life and in the Diploma Programme, and to make connections between academic disciplines and between thoughts, feelings and actions
- encourage an interest in the diversity of ways of thinking and ways of living of individuals and communities, and an awareness of personal and ideological assumptions, including participants' own
- encourage consideration of the responsibilities originating from the relationship between knowledge, the community and the individual as citizen of the world.

The Theory of Knowledge (ToK) programme is central to the educational philosophy of the International Baccalaureate and so is a compulsory component. ToK develops the critical reasoning skills of students, and enables them to draw points of comparison as well as points of distinction, between the six subjects that make up their IB Diploma. The programme oscillates between exploration of areas of knowledge (History, Art, Mathematics, Science, Ethics, Politics and Religion) and understanding of the role that our filters of knowledge (language, perception, logic and emotion) play on our acceptance or rejection of knowledge within or between those areas. Its central question is 'How do I, or how do we, know that a given assertion is true, or a given judgment is well grounded?'

The TOK course, a flagship element in the Diploma Programme, encourages critical thinking about knowledge itself, to try to help young people make sense of what they encounter. Its core content is questions like these: What counts as knowledge? How does it grow? What are its limits? Who owns knowledge? What is the value of knowledge? What are the implications of having, or not having knowledge?

Extended Essay (EE)

The aims of the Extended Essay are to provide students with the opportunity to:

- pursue independent research on a focused topic
- develop research and communication skills
- develop the skills of creative and critical thinking
- engage in a systematic process of research appropriate to the subject
- experience the excitement of intellectual discovery

All IBO Diploma Programme students are required to undertake original research and write a fully referenced research essay of some 4,000 words. This offers the opportunity for students to investigate a topic of special interest to them and acquaints them with the kind of independent research and writing skills expected in university level studies.

The topic arises from one of the six subjects studied by the student and the essay is completed under the supervision of an appropriate mentor.

Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)

The CAS programme aims to develop students who are:

- reflective thinkers—they understand their own strengths and limitations, identify goals and devise strategies for personal growth
- willing to accept new challenges and new roles
- aware of themselves as members of communities with responsibilities towards each other and the environment
- active participants in sustained, collaborative projects
- balanced—they enjoy and find significance in a range of activities involving intellectual, physical, creative and emotional experiences

Creativity, activity, service (CAS) is at the heart of the Diploma Programme. It is one of the three essential elements in every student's Diploma Programme experience. It involves students in a range of activities alongside their academic studies throughout the Diploma Programme.

The three strands of CAS, which are often interwoven with particular activities, are characterized as follows.

- **Creativity:** arts, and other experiences that involve creative thinking.
- **Activity:** physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle, complementing academic work elsewhere in the Diploma Programme.
- **Service:** an unpaid and voluntary exchange that has a learning benefit for the student.

CAS enables students to enhance their personal and interpersonal development through experiential learning. At the same time, it provides an important counterbalance to the academic pressures of the rest of the Diploma Programme. The CAS programme will be both challenging and enjoyable, a personal journey of self discovery. Each individual student has a different starting point, and therefore different goals and needs, but for many their CAS activities include experiences that are profound and life changing. Successful completion of the CAS requirements is essential for the award of the Diploma.

