

# How to earn an I.B. Diploma

## Key vocabulary:

- I.B.O: International Baccalaureate Organization. A Nonprofit educational organization based out of Geneva, Switzerland.
- HL: Higher Level—I.B. courses that take students two full years to complete. PHS offers the following courses at Higher Level:
  - English, Spanish, French, History, Philosophy, Biology, Visual Arts, and Music Theory.
- SL: Standard Level—I.B. courses that take students one or two full years to complete.
  - The following courses are standard level options that take only one year to complete:
    - Mathematics, Math Studies
  - The following courses are standard level options that students can take for one *or* two full years:
    - Spanish, French, Philosophy, Biology, Physics, Visual Arts, Music Theory
- Core: The core of the I.B. Diploma Program is made up of three elements: Theory of Knowledge (ToK), Extended Essay, and CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service).
  - Theory of Knowledge is a one- or two-year long course students take as seniors or during their junior and senior years.
  - Extended Essay is an independent research paper students write over the course of their junior and senior years. It is approximately 4,000 words long and represents about 40 hours of independent work on the student's part, and is done with the supervision and mentoring of I.B. teachers.
  - Creativity, Activity, Service is a project meant to stretch students' abilities in non-academic ways. There are eight learning objectives that students meet while participating in activities requiring creativity, (physical) activity, and service. Most of these activities can cross over with other work students are doing: National Honor Society, playing on a sports team, etc. Students propose activities to meet the eight learning objectives and keep track of how each of those activities go.
- Internal Assessment (IA): I.B. exams (essays, presentations, recorded presentations, lab work) that are completed at Palmer High School, scored by PHS I.B. teachers, and then sent to the I.B.O. to be re-scored and moderated.
  - Moderated: I.B. Examiners re-grade a sample of the work we send in to assure that we're scoring student work accurately. If the examiner's scores are consistently higher or lower than ours, the entire class's grades are adjusted accordingly.
- External Assessment: I.B. exams (essays, exams in May) that are completed at Palmer High School and then uploaded or mailed to the I.B.O. to be scored.

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## Basic Requirements for the I.B. Diploma:

- 3 HL Courses
- 3 SL Courses
- Completion of the Core

## Course Requirements:

- Of your six classes, you need to take:
  - English, a Second Language, Social Studies, Experimental Science, Math, + one more of your choice.

## Scoring:

- Exams are scored on a scale of 0-7, with 4 being the average score. ToK and EE are scored on an F-A scale.
- On your HL exams, you can receive no lower than a 3.
- On your SL exams, you can receive no lower than a 2.
- You cannot fail Theory of Knowledge or Extended Essay
- There are 45 points possible for an I.B. Diploma. You need at least 24 points total—an average of 4 on all exams.

\*A more detailed list of conditions for the I.B. Diploma is available from Ms. Henry

## Sample Course Combinations:

1. English HL	1. English HL	1. English HL	1. English HL
2. French HL	2. Spanish SL	2. French SL	2. Spanish HL
3. History HL	3. History HL	3. Philosophy HL	3. Philosophy SL
4. Biology SL	4. Biology HL	4. Physics SL	4. Biology SL
5. Math Studies SL	5. Mathematics SL	5. Math Studies SL	5. Mathematics SL
6. Philosophy SL	6. Physics SL	6. Music Theory HL	6. Visual Arts HL
7. Core	7. Core	7. Core	7. Core