



Bellaire High School International Baccalaureate Diploma Program



What Is International Baccalaureate?

The IB diploma program is an interdisciplinary course of study, which results in earning the *International Baccalaureate* Diploma. A student enters the IB level of the program in 11th grade and finishes the program in 12th grade. In addition, to the courses of study, students will complete *internal assessment* components within each course that becomes part of the total exam scores. Students also participate in *Theory of Knowledge* course at 8th period, designed to examine philosophical trends as well as help complete the *extended essay*. The extended essay is supervised by a mentor teacher within the IB program, in an area of the teacher's course and the student's selection.

What does the diploma mean?

The International Baccalaureate diploma is the highest level of educational achievement that is available in the K-12 school system. This is an internationally recognized program, initially designed to allow students to attend foreign universities and colleges with the same preparation. The exams and scores are recognized by many US universities and colleges and award college credit for higher level courses. The Texas legislature passed a law that requires the awarding of 24 credit hours for any student earning an IB diploma and attending any State university in Texas.

When do you test?

The diploma requires that you test in each of the Groups 1-5 and either in Group 6 or complete a second exam area from Groups 1-5. You can only test for IB in 11th and 12th grade. In 11th grade you can take up to 2 standard level exams. In 12th grade you can take a minimum of 3 higher level exams and no more than 3 standard level exams. Most students will take 4 higher level exams in 12th grade and 1-2 standard level exams in 11th grade. However, all exams can be taken in 12th grade if desired. The IB organization does not allow a student to take any exams in 9th or 10th grade. A student must be enrolled in an IB course to be a diploma candidate.

Speaking IB-ese...

IBO: International Baccalaureate Organization www.IBO.org

EE: Extended Essay: Completed in 12th grade year, under the supervision of a mentor IB teacher in a testing area of your choice.

CAS: Community, Action, Service: volunteer service within the school and community required as part of the diploma program. This commitment is organized and carried out by the student over the course of their tenure at BHS. IB requires 150 hours of CAS activities.

IA: Internal Assessment: Work completed in each of the testing areas within in the course and under the direction of the content IB teacher.

TOK: Theory of Knowledge: Required for all diploma candidates in the Spring of 11th and both semesters of the 12th grade year

HL: Higher level: These are courses and exam areas that you can test in, in 12th grade

SL: Standard level: These are courses and exam area that you can test in, in either 12th or 11th grade.

PreIB: This is the designation for 9/10th graders that have already committed to pursuing the IB diploma program

What are the requirements?

Students must examine in the 6 exam groups. See below...

Extended Essay: Independent research and writing at the university level conducted with a mentor teacher

Theory of Knowledge: an interdisciplinary course designed to explore the nature of knowledge while encouraging an appreciation of cultural perspectives

CAS: Creativity, Action, Service: 150 hours of service, artistic pursuits, and sports that foster student awareness and appreciation to live outside the academic arena

What Courses are offered at BHS for the Diploma?

All courses must be taken at the IB level to be qualified to complete the diploma/certificate process.

All prerequisite courses are in addition and must be completed prior to enrollment in these courses.

Group 1: Language A1: English

AP English SL	11 th grade only
AP English HL/SL	12 th grade only

Group 2: Second Language: Foreign Language

Arabic SL, HL	Italian SL, HL
Chinese SL, HL	Japanese SL, HL
French SL, HL	Latin SL, HL
German SL, HL	Russian SL, HL
Hebrew SL	Spanish SL, HL
Hindi SL, HL	

*** SL/HL exam depends on level of course completed, most must be at least the 4th year*

Group 3: Individuals & Societies: Social Studies

Economics SL, HL	12 th grade	Micro & Macro Economics
AP Geography (IB) SL/HL	11 th or 12 th grade	2 semesters required
IB Environmental Sys. & Soc.	11 th or 12 th grade	2 semesters required
AP Psychology (IB) SL	11 th or 12 th grade	2 semesters required

Group 4: Experimental Sciences: Science

AP Biology SL, HL	AP Computer Science: SL only
AP Chemistry SL, HL	IB Astronomy SL
AP Physics SL, HL	IB Environmental Sys. & Soc.

Group 5: Mathematics

Math Studies SL only	no calculus required
SL Math: SL only	BC or AB Calculus required
IB Math: HL	12 th grade only; BC or AB Calculus required

Group 6: The Arts **

Require performance/exhibition as applicable

IB Art SL, HL	
Music Performance SL, HL	Band & Orchestra

**** Or the 6th Exam can be taken in:**

- ❖ Foreign language different from the one previously examined
- ❖ Economics or Environmental Sys. or Geography or Psychology
- ❖ Biology or Chemistry or Physics or Environmental Sys.
- ❖ Computer Science

Questions:

When do I begin the IB program? Students enter as anticipated candidates in their junior year. Students must be enrolled in the IB level classes, which means that any prerequisites must have been completed. PreIB students are in 9/10th grade and entry at this level is based on academic performance and request to participate. Enrollment in a class that is labeled IB does not mean one is a potential IB candidate.

Do I have to be in TOK in 11th & 12th grade? Yes, it is part of the diploma program and helps to oversee the completion of the requirements. TOK is 3 semesters, beginning in the spring semester of the Junior year.

Are there transfers to BHS for IB? Yes. This is based on review of previous work and potential ability to complete the courses required. Contact Ann Linsley at akennedy@houstonisd.org for information, contract and transfer form.

Who do I contact for more information?

Ann Linsley, IB Coordinator, akennedy@houstonisd.org;

