



How to Earn the IB Diploma at Lamar High School

1. To be awarded the IB Diploma, the following requirements must be completed successfully:

Test in six different IB subject areas:

- Group 1—Language A (English)
- Group 2—Second Language
- Group 3—Individuals & Societies
- Group 4—Experimental Sciences
- Group 5—Mathematics
- Group 6—The Arts*

Three additional components:

- Creativity / Activity / Service (CAS)
- Extended Essay (EE)
- Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

2. The IB exams are administered on two different levels:

- **Standard Level (SL)** = one year of instruction and can be taken in the 11th **or** 12th grade. Traditionally, these are the subjects in which the student does not feel as strong.
- **Higher Level (HL)** = two years of instruction in the same subject but can only be taken in the 12th grade. Traditionally, these are the subjects in which the student feels strongest.
- A student must have a minimum of 3 HL courses (12-point min. total for diploma).
- Two SL exams may be taken in the 11th grade year.
- A student may take more than 6 IB exams; however, the additional exams will be considered “extra;” that is, above and beyond the required 6 exams and will not count toward the diploma.
- Please note: PreIB courses do not have IB exams (this includes PreIB PreCalculus).

3. **THE COURSES:** Below is a list of courses that apply to each subject area and if SL or HL is offered in each:

Group 1 Language A	English – HL
Group 2 Language B (Second Language)	Chinese – SL / HL French – SL / HL Italian – SL / HL Spanish – SL / HL
Group 3 Individuals & Societies	Business Management – HL (counts as a magnet elective; 2-year course) History of the Americas – HL (12th grade only) Economics – SL / HL (counts as a magnet elective) World Religions – SL Art History – SL
Group 4 Experimental Sciences	Biology – SL / HL Chemistry – SL / HL Physics – SL / HL Environmental Systems – SL Computer Science – SL / HL

<p>Group 5 Mathematics</p>	<p>Math Studies – SL (Pre-Calculus prerequisite) Mathematics – SL (Pre-Calculus prerequisite) Mathematics – HL (SL Math prerequisite)</p> <p><i>Please note: All of the IB maths have a statistics component; however, Math Studies has more than the other two.</i></p>
<p>Group 6 The Arts</p>	<p>Dance – SL / HL Film – HL Theatre Arts – SL / HL Visual Arts – HL</p> <p><i>Please note: Dance, Film, Visual Arts, and Theatre Arts are two-year courses regardless of SL or HL.</i></p> <p>*May substitute a second Group 2, 3, or 4 to fulfill the Group 6 requirement</p>

4. THE SCORING

- IB exams are scored on a scale of 1 – 7. A score of 4 is generally considered passing, and a score of 7 is considered a gift from a higher power! Every university is different in terms of what scores and courses for which they offer credit.
- Students are required to earn a minimum score of 24 points to receive the IB Diploma. Ideally, if a student scores a 4 on all six exams, that equals 24. 12 of the 24 must come from HL courses.
- Bonus points (3 points maximum) are awarded for “excellent” Extended Essays and TOK Papers.
- The highest number of points a student can earn is 45 (42 exam points + 3 bonus).

5. HOW THE SCORE IS DETERMINED

- The Internal Assessment (IA): the application of knowledge learned in an IB subject. This may take the form of oral commentaries (English, foreign languages, theatre), written commentaries, investigation papers, projects, dossiers, etc.
- Each IB exam consists of two or more parts (known as “papers”). The fine arts are assessed through performance review and reflections of the creative process.
- Each component (the IA and each “paper”) receives a percentage of the overall grade. Each component is assessed by a different examiner located in a different part of the world.
- In addition, the IB instructor is required to submit a predicted grade (PG); that is, what the instructor believes the student’s final score will be.

6. TEXAS IB LEGISLATION (JUNE 2005)

A minimum of 24 hours of college credit will be awarded to any student who earns the IB Diploma and attends a public college or university in Texas. However, the student must earn a score of at least **4** on each IB exam taken for the IB Diploma. The college credit earned must be applied to the student’s degree plan unless the college/university does not have an equivalent course available. In that case, elective credit may be awarded. There is similar legislation in Florida, Colorado, Georgia, and California.

