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# Harare International School

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## International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme

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### *Course Selection Guide*

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2019 -2020



The IB Diploma Programme at HIS.....	4
Course Offerings for the HIS IB Diploma Programme .....	6
<i>Scheduling</i> .....	6
<i>Assessments</i> .....	6
<i>Course Offerings</i> .....	7

# The IB Diploma Programme at HIS

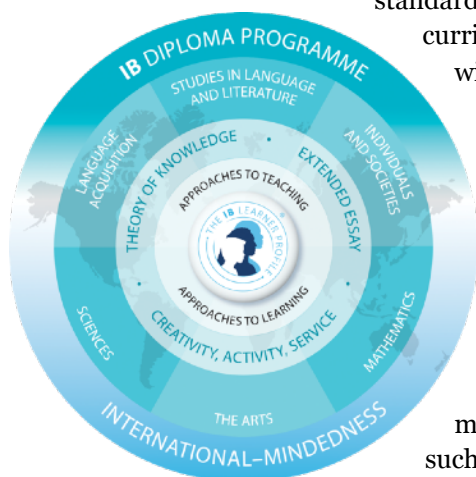
As part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) continuum of international education, Harare International School (HIS) is proud to have an authorized Diploma Programme (DP).

The three IB programmes (PYP, MYP, DP) share a common philosophy and a commitment to a high quality, international education that HIS believes promotes our ability to thrive and reach for excellence. Across the continuum, our teachers are committed to the principles of an IB education, promoting inquiry-based teaching strategies and conceptual-based learning that support the IB Learner Profile and foster students' growth in the Approaches to Learning (AtLs).

As the culminating program in the continuum, the DP is designed for students in grades 11 and 12. It is a comprehensive, two-year program that uses a standardized curriculum

within the IB framework. As with the PYP and the MYP, DP students are at the center of the program model and, as such, we recognize their

importance in the learning process through our instructional strategies.



The DP is a rigorous academic program, emphasizing critical thinking, intercultural understanding, and exposure to a variety of points of view. It encourages students to ask challenging questions, develop a strong sense of their own identity and culture, learn how to learn and develop the ability to communicate with and understand people from other countries and cultures. Additionally, DP students continue to refine their transferable, 21st Century skills through the approaches to Learning (ATLs).

At HIS, all students entering Grade 11 are expected to pursue the full IB Diploma. Students who meet the requirements of the two-year IB Diploma Programme are awarded an IB Diploma by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). All students at HIS are also eligible to earn the HIS High School Diploma.

## *Diploma Programme Overview*

### Diploma Programme Expectations

<b>Grade 10</b>	In consultation with HIS's DP faculty, students select the DP courses of their choice.
<b>Grade 11</b>	6 IB courses (3 HL, 3 SL) Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) Theory of Knowledge (ToK) Extended Essay (EE)
<b>Grade 12</b>	Complete the full IB DP, including all elements listed above, and final IB exams in May.

### Upon completion of coursework and exams:

June: Graduation with HIS Diploma  
July: Release of IB Diploma results from the IBO

In the full DP, students study six subjects concurrently over two years. Three subjects are chosen at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL). Students may apply through the IB counselor and coordinator to take four HL and two SL subjects.

Students must choose a course from each of the subject groups, 1 to 5, thus ensuring breadth of experience. \*The sixth subject may be in the Arts (Group 6) or another course from group 2, 3, or 4.

Group 1     Studies in Language & Literature

Group 2     Language Acquisition

Group 3     Individuals & Societies

Group 4     Sciences

Group 5     Mathematics

Group 6\*    *The Arts*



## *The IB DP Core*

In addition to their HL and SL subjects, students engage in the three elements of the IB Diploma Programme Core: Theory of Knowledge (TOK), the Extended Essay and Creativity, Action, Service (CAS).

Creativity,  
Activity,  
Service  
(CAS)

As part of developing skills in critical thought about their role in the world and their many choices, students develop their own CAS program, engaging in new challenges and actively reflecting on new skills. The CAS program must provide a balance of sports, creative learning and community service with a consideration of global applications. This is assessed through students' goal setting, planning and reflection.

Theory of  
Knowledge  
(TOK)

This course enables students to reflect on the nature of knowledge and how it is constructed. Studies in this course take place through discussion and investigation into different ways of knowing, which forges links within and between the different IB Diploma subject courses that the students elect to take. These reflections involve critically examining real-life situations. The course is assessed through a presentation and a TOK Essay.

Extended  
Essay (EE)

This 4000-word essay is an opportunity for students to engage in in-depth independent research relating to one of the subjects they are studying. Students are required to develop their own research question and respond with a logical argument through academic research and analysis.

## *Earning the Full IB Diploma*

The maximum score a student can earn on the IB Diploma is 45 points. The minimum point threshold for earning the IB Diploma is 24, under which the Diploma is not awarded. The additional requirements for awarding the IB Diploma are:

- CAS requirements have been met.
- There is no "N" awarded for TOK, the EE or for a contributing subject.
- There is no grade E awarded for TOK and/or the EE.
- There is no grade 1 awarded in a subject/level.
- There are no more than two grade 2s awarded (HL or SL).
- There are no more than three grade 3s or below awarded (HL or SL).
- The candidate has gained 12 points or more on HL subjects (for candidates who register for four HL subjects, the three highest grades count).
- The candidate has gained 9 points or more on SL subjects (candidates who register for two SL subjects must gain at least 5 points at SL).
- The candidate has not received a penalty for academic misconduct from the Final Award Committee.

(Diploma Programme Assessment Procedures 2018. International Baccalaureate Organisation.)

# Course Offerings for the HIS IB Diploma Programme

## *Scheduling*

In an 8-day school rotation, students attend four lessons for their higher level courses and four lessons for their standard level courses. Please see the sample schedules below:

### *Sample DP Schedule: Juniors*

<u>Theory of Knowledge A Yr 1 (Grade 11)</u> 7:45AM - 9:10AM Lionel McCauley	<u>Language &amp; Literature SL Yr 1 (Grade 11)</u> 7:45AM - 9:10AM Laura Hogg
<u>Biology HL Yr 1 (Grade 11)</u> 9:25AM - 10:55AM John Danaher	<u>Business &amp; Management SL Yr 1 (Grade 11)</u> <u>Business &amp; Management HL Yr 1 (Grade 11)</u> 9:25AM - 10:55AM Derek Gresko
<u>Math SL Yr 1 (Grade 11)</u> 11:10AM - 12:40PM Anne Rail	<u>Chemistry HL Yr 1 (Grade 11)</u> <u>Chemistry SL Yr 1 (Grade 11)</u> 11:10AM - 12:40PM Joy Biswas
<u>Study Hall H (Grade 11)</u> 1:20PM - 2:50PM Sky Riber LMC	<u>French B HL Yr 1 (Grade 11)</u> 1:20PM - 2:50PM Josias Maririmba

<u>Language &amp; Literature HL Yr 2 (Grade 12)</u> 7:45AM - 9:10AM Lionel McCauley	<u>Study Hall E (Grade 12)</u> 7:45AM - 9:10AM Sky Riber LMC
<u>History HL Yr 2 (Grade 12)</u> 9:25AM - 10:55AM Misheck Muchatuta	<u>French B HL Yr 2 (Grade 12)</u> 9:25AM - 10:55AM Josias Maririmba
<u>Math SL Yr 2 (Grade 12)</u> 11:10AM - 12:40PM Anne Rail	<u>Environmental Systems &amp; Societies Yr 2 SL (Grade 12)</u> 11:10AM - 12:40PM John Danaher
<u>Theory of Knowledge A Yr 2 (Grade 12)</u> 1:20PM - 2:50PM Marguerite (Buzzy) Impey	<u>Music SL Yr 2 (Grade 12)</u> 1:20PM - 2:50PM Bernie Henderson

### *Sample DP Schedule: Seniors*

## *Assessments*

In line with our IB framework for teaching and learning, we believe assessment is a continuous, ongoing process to be used for 1) the assessment of student learning and growth, i.e. summative assessment, and 2) for the purposes of shaping student learning experiences and teacher planning, i.e. formative assessment. We have, therefore, organized our conceptual understanding of assessment around the broad ideas of formative and summative assessment. While these two categories of assessment provide us with a framework for shaping our assessment philosophy and practices, we acknowledge that assessment is much more than the brief definitions provided above.

For specific details on assessment, please refer to our HIS Secondary School Assessment Policy, as well as our HIS Academic Honesty Policy.

# Course Offerings

We are proud to offer a wide-variety of Diploma Programme (DP) courses within each of the subject groups. Those subject groups and courses are described on the following pages. The final courses we offer in each subject group are dependent upon many factors, including student enrollment and scheduling.

Group 1	Studies in Language & Literature	<p><b>Language &amp; Literature: English</b> is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.</p> <p><b>School-Supported Self-Taught</b> is offered only at standard level (SL).</p> <p><b>Language B: English</b> is offered only at standard level (SL)</p>
Group 2	Language Acquisition	<p><b>French Ab initio</b> is offered only at standard (SL) level.</p> <p><b>French B</b> is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.</p> <p><b>Spanish Ab initio</b> is offered only at standard level (SL).</p> <p><b>Spanish B</b> is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.</p>
Group 3	Individuals & Societies	<p><b>Business and Management</b> is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.</p> <p><b>Economics</b> is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.</p> <p><b>Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS)</b> is offered only at standard (SL) level.</p> <p><b>History</b> is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.</p> <p><b>Information Technology in a Global Society (ITGS)</b> is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.</p>
Group 4	Sciences	<p><b>Biology</b> is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.</p> <p><b>Chemistry</b> is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.</p> <p><b>Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS)</b> is offered only at standard (SL) level.</p> <p><b>Physics</b> is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.</p>
Group 5	Mathematics	<p><b>Mathematical Studies</b> is offered only at standard (SL) level.</p> <p><b>Mathematics</b> is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.</p>
Group 6*	The Arts	<p><b>Film</b> is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.</p> <p><b>Music</b> is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.</p> <p><b>Visual Arts</b> is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL)) level.</p>

In addition to the courses listed above we partner with Pamoja, an IB authorized online course provider. Through Pamoja, students have access to IB DP courses that we do not offer at HIS. *All costs associated with Pamoja courses are paid for by the student's family.*





Credit: L. Dhliwayo

## Group 1 - Studies in Language & Literature (Language A)

At HIS the IB Diploma Programme Studies in Language & Literature offers a first language course in English. The course is designed to develop the student's writing, speaking, and analytical skills concerning literature and language. The literature content of the course exposes students to a range of genres, contexts and writers. In doing so, it is hoped that students develop an appreciation for literature by finding and creating connections between literature and life. The language content of the course encourages students to question the meaning generated by language and texts, and, by extension, attempt to understand how language shapes culture and society.

To fulfill their Group 1 requirement, students may also choose to study Language A: Literature. This course introduces students

*I tell my students, it's not difficult to identify with somebody like yourself, somebody next door who looks like you. What's more difficult is to identify with someone you don't see, who's very far away, who's a different color, who eats a different kind of food. When you begin to do that then literature is really performing its wonders. - Chinua Achebe*

to the analysis of literary works from a variety of genres, periods, and cultures. It is organized into four parts, each focused on a different group of literary texts. Through this course, students will reflect critically on literature and present their analyses of it through oral and written communication.

Students may also choose, following consultation with the HIS faculty and final approval from the IB DP Coordinator, to study the literature of their mother tongue language. This is a self-taught course that requires the appointment of a tutor by the family and will result in the student sitting final examinations alongside other students in May of Year 2 of the program.

In rare cases, where Diploma Programme students have just begun learning English, they may be placed, following consultation with the MYP/DP Principal, MYP/DP coordinator, MYP/DP Counselor, and the English Language Development teachers in Language B: English.

**Language & Literature: English** is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.

**Literature A: English** is offered at higher level (HL).

**School-Supported Self-Taught** is offered only at standard level (SL).

**Language B: English** is offered only at standard level (SL).

*A voice is a human gift; it should be cherished and used, to utter fully human speech as possible. Powerlessness and silence go together. - Margaret Atwood*

## Group 2 - Language Acquisition (Language B)



Credit: H. Petros

The aim of studying modern languages at HIS is to promote an understanding of another culture(s) through the study of a second language.

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, in the target language.

Understanding ideas, and expressing them clearly and convincingly, demands an awareness of the cultural characteristics of the audience. Therefore, the main emphasis of modern language courses is on language acquisition and use in a range of contexts and for different purposes.

*Our language is the reflection of ourselves. A language is an exact reflection of the character and growth of its speakers. - Cesar Chavez*

Two options are available to accommodate students with different backgrounds. Ab initio courses are for beginners (that is, students who have little or no previous experience of learning the language they have chosen). These courses are only available at standard level. Language B courses are intended for students who have had some previous experience in learning the language. They may be studied at higher or standard level.

**French Ab initio** is offered only at standard (SL) level.

**French B** is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.

**Spanish Ab initio** is offered only at standard level (SL).

**Spanish B** is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.



## Group 3 - Individuals & Societies

Studying courses offered in Group 3 provides for the development of a critical appreciation of human experience and behavior, the varieties of physical, economic and social environments that people inhabit, and the history of social and cultural institutions. In addition, group 3 projects are designed to foster the capacity for students to identify, analyze critically, and evaluate theories, concepts and arguments relating to the nature and activities of individuals and societies.

**Business Management** is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.

**Economics** is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.

**Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS)** is offered only at standard (SL) level.

**History** is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.

**Information Technology in a Global Society (ITGS)** is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL).

A description of each of the Group 3 courses is listed below.



Credit: C. Braden

### Business Management

*In the business world, the rearview mirror is always clearer than the windshield. - Warren Buffett*

Business management is the rigorous and critical study of the ways in which organizations set and achieve goals. It is an academic discipline that examines how decisions are made and how these decisions impact individuals, societies and environments. The ideals of generating value, efficient management, international cooperation, and responsible citizenship are at the heart of the Business management course. Students will become familiar with the tools used to guide and manage a range of organizations.

### Economics

Economics is the study of how humans allocate resources to satisfy human wants, and the methods in which these decisions are made. The course looks at how these choices are made by individuals, firms, markets, governments and societies in the face of scarcity. Ethics and environmental sustainability are interwoven through the course as students consider human end-goals and values.

### Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS)

Unlike other courses, ESS is trans-disciplinary. ESS provides students with a coherent perspective of the interrelationships between environmental systems and societies; one that enables them to adopt an informed personal response to the wide range of pressing environmental issues that they will inevitably come to face.

As ESS is a trans-disciplinary course, it meets the IB requirement for Group 3 or Group 4. This unique distinction allows students taking ESS to choose whether they count it as a Group 3 or Group 4 course.

## History

History is more than the study of the past. It is the process of recording, reconstructing and interpreting the past through the investigation of a variety of sources. It is a discipline that gives people an understanding of themselves and others in relation to the world, both past and present. The Diploma Programme History course also aims to promote an understanding of history as a discipline, including the nature and diversity of its sources, methods and interpretations. It also helps students to gain a better understanding of the present through critical reflection upon the past.

*A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.*  
- Marcus Garvey

## Information Technology in a Global Society

ITGS looks at the nature of information technology (IT) systems and their impact on individuals and societies. While not a computer science course, ITGS focuses upon issues of social and ethical significance, the application of technology to a range of societal activities, and a balanced knowledge of the function of IT systems. The course pairs theoretical knowledge with a practical project, where students provide a technical solution to a client, drawing upon IT and project management skills.



Credit: N. Bhagat

## Group 4 - Experimental Sciences

*I am among those who think that science has great beauty. - Marie Curie*

In the experimental sciences, students explore the concepts, theories, models and techniques that underpin each of the sciences, which develops their understanding of the scientific method.

In addition to their in-depth study of a science, all DP students complete the group 4 project. This project encourages students to appreciate the environmental, social and ethical implications of science. This exercise is collaborative and interdisciplinary and provides an opportunity for students to explore scientific solutions to global questions.



Credit: K. Mooljee

**Biology** is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.

**Chemistry** is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.

**Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS)** is offered only at standard (SL) level.

**Physics** is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.

A description of each of the Group 4 courses is listed below.

### Biology

Biologists attempt to understand the living world at all levels using many different approaches and techniques. At one end of the scale is the cell, its molecular construction and complex metabolic reactions. At the other end of the scale biologists investigate the interactions that make whole ecosystems function.

### Chemistry

Chemistry is an experimental science that combines academic study with the acquisition of practical and investigational skills. It is often called the central science, as chemical principles underpin both the physical environment in which we live and all biological systems.

*To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science. - Albert Einstein*

### 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 ( $10^{24}$  m).

### Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS)

Unlike other courses, ESS is trans-disciplinary. ESS provides students with a coherent perspective of the interrelationships between environmental systems and societies; one that enables them to adopt an informed personal response to the wide range of pressing environmental issues that they will inevitably come to face.

As ESS is a trans-disciplinary course, it meets the IB requirement for Group 3 or Group 4. This unique distinction allows students taking ESS to choose whether they count it as a Group 3 or Group 4 course.



## Group 5 - Mathematics

At HIS, we offer three different mathematics courses that serve to accommodate the range of student needs, interests and abilities, and fulfill the requirements of various university and career aspirations. Students are also encouraged to appreciate the international dimensions of mathematics and the multiplicity of its cultural and historical perspectives.



Credit: S. Rungsung

The aims of these courses are to enable students to:

- develop mathematical knowledge, concepts and principles
- develop logical, critical and creative thinking
- employ and refine their powers of abstraction and generalization.

**Mathematical Studies** is offered only at standard (SL) level.

**Mathematics** is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.

A description of each of the Group 5 courses is listed below.

*Mathematics knows no races or geographic boundaries; for mathematics, the cultural world is one country.* - David Hilbert

### Mathematical Studies

This course is equivalent in status to Mathematics SL, but addresses different needs. It has an emphasis on applications of mathematics, the largest section of which is on statistical techniques. It is designed for students with varied mathematical backgrounds and abilities. It offers students opportunities to learn important concepts and techniques, and to gain an understanding of a wide variety of mathematical topics. It prepares students to solve problems in a variety of settings, develop more sophisticated mathematical reasoning and enhance their critical thinking. Students taking this course are well prepared for a career in social sciences, the humanities, languages or the arts.

### Mathematics SL

This course caters for students who already possess knowledge of basic mathematical concepts and who are equipped with the skills needed to apply simple mathematical techniques accurately. The majority of these students will expect to need a sound mathematical background as they prepare for future studies in subjects such as chemistry, economics, psychology and business administration.

### Mathematics HL

This course caters for students with a strong background in mathematics and who are competent in a range of analytical and technical skills. The majority of these students will be expecting to include mathematics as a major component of their university studies, either as a subject in its own right or within courses such as physics, engineering and technology. Others may take this subject because they have a strong interest in mathematics, enjoy meeting its challenges and engaging with its problems.

## Group 6 - The Arts

Group 6 courses offer students the opportunity to study one of the following three arts subjects:

**Film** is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.

**Music** is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.

**Visual Arts** is offered at standard (SL) and higher (HL) level.

A description of each of the Group 6 courses is listed below.



Credit: A. Isch

### Film

At the core of the HIS DP Film course lies a concern with clarity of understanding, critical thinking, reflective analysis, effective involvement and imaginative synthesis that is achieved through practical engagement in the art and craft of film.

Film is both a powerful communication medium and an art form. The creation, presentation and study of film requires courage, passion and curiosity: courage to create individually and as part of a team, to explore ideas through action and harness the imagination, and to experiment; passion to communicate and to act communally, and to research and formulate ideas eloquently; curiosity about self and others and the world, about different traditions, techniques and knowledge, about the past and the future, and about the limitless possibilities of human expression through the art form.

### Music

*As you begin to realize that every different type of music, everybody's individual music, has its own rhythm, life, language and heritage, you realize how life changes, and you learn how to be more open and adaptive to what is around us. - Yo Yo Ma*

Through the HIS DP Music course, students develop their knowledge and potential as musicians, both personally and collaboratively. Involving aspects of composition, performance and critical analysis of music, the course exposes students to forms, styles and functions of music from a wide range of historical and socio-cultural contexts. Students create, participate in, and reflect upon music from their own background and those of others. They develop practical and communicative skills that provide them with the opportunity to engage in music for further study, as well as for lifetime enjoyment.

### Visual Arts

The HIS DP Visual Arts course enables students to engage in practical exploration and artistic production, as well as in independent contextual, visual and critical investigation. The course is designed to enable students to study visual arts in higher education while also welcoming those students who seek to enrich their lives through visual arts.