

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Subject Brief

Creativity, activity, service

For students graduating in 2017 and after



The IB Diploma Programme (DP) is a rigorous, academically challenging and balanced programme of education designed to prepare students aged 16 to 19 for success at university and life beyond. The DP aims to encourage students to be knowledgeable, inquiring, caring and compassionate, and to develop intercultural understanding, open-mindedness and the attitudes necessary to respect and evaluate a range of viewpoints. Approaches to teaching and learning (ATL) are deliberate strategies, skills and attitudes that permeate the teaching and learning environment. In the DP, students develop skills from five ATL categories: thinking, research, social, self-management and communication.

To ensure both breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, students must choose six courses from six distinct groups: 1) studies in language and literature; 2) language acquisition; 3) individuals and societies, 4) sciences; 5) mathematics; 6) the arts. Students may choose to replace the arts course with a second course from one of the other five groups. At least three, and not more than four, subjects are taken at higher level (240 recommended teaching hours), while the remaining are taken at standard level (150 recommended teaching hours). In addition, three core elements—the extended essay, theory of knowledge and creativity, activity, service—are compulsory and central to the philosophy of the programme.



These DP subject briefs illustrate four key course components.

- I. Description and aims
- II. Programme overview

- III. Learning outcomes
- IV. Sample projects

I. Description and aims

Creativity, activity, service (CAS) is at the heart of the DP. With its holistic approach, CAS is designed to strengthen and extend students' personal and interpersonal learning from the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Middle Years Programme (MYP).

CAS is organized around the three strands of creativity, activity and service defined as follows.

- Creativity—exploring and extending ideas leading to an original or interpretive product or performance.
- Activity—physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle.
- Service—collaborative and reciprocal engagement with the community in response to an authentic need.

CAS aims to develop students who:

- enjoy and find significance in a range of CAS experiences
- purposefully reflect upon their experiences
- identify goals, develop strategies and determine further actions for personal growth
- explore new possibilities, embrace new challenges and adapt to new roles
- actively participate in planned, sustained and collaborative CAS projects
- understand they are members of local and global communities with responsibilities towards each other and the environment.

A CAS experience is a specific event in which the student engages with one or more of the three CAS strands. It can be a single event or an extended series of events. A CAS project is a collaborative series of sequential CAS experiences lasting at least one month. Typically, a student's CAS

programme combines planned/unplanned singular and ongoing experiences. All are valuable and may lead to personal development. However, a meaningful CAS programme must be more than just a series of unplanned/singular experiences. Students must be involved in at least one CAS project during the programme.

II. Programme overview

The CAS programme formally begins at the start of the DP and continues regularly for at least 18 months with a reasonable balance between creativity, activity and service.

A CAS experience must:

- fit within one or more of the CAS strands
- be based on a personal interest, skill, talent or opportunity for growth
- provide opportunities to develop the attributes of the IB learner profile
- not be used or included in the student's DP course requirements.

CAS students have guidance at the school level through a variety of resources including the school's CAS handbook, information sessions and meetings. In addition, students have three formal interviews with the school's CAS coordinator/adviser.

Typically, students' service experiences involve the following stages.

- Investigation, preparation and action that meets an identified need.
- Reflection on significant experiences throughout to inform problem-solving and choices.
- Demonstration allowing for sharing of what has taken place.

All CAS students are expected to maintain and complete a CAS portfolio as evidence of their engagement with CAS. The CAS portfolio is a collection of evidence that showcases CAS experiences and student reflections; it is not formally assessed.

A school's CAS programme is evaluated as part of the school's regular programme evaluation and self-study process that assesses the overall implementation of the DP.

III. Learning outcomes

Completion of CAS is based on student achievement of the seven CAS learning outcomes. Through their CAS portfolio, students provide the school with evidence demonstrating achievement of each learning outcome. Some learning outcomes may be achieved many times, while others may be achieved less frequently. In their CAS portfolio, students provide the school with evidence of having achieved each learning outcome at least once through their CAS programme.

| Learning outcome | Descriptor |
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| Identify own strengths and develop areas for growth. | Students are able to see themselves as individuals with various abilities and skills, of which some are more developed than others. |
| Demonstrate that challenges have been undertaken, developing new skills in the process. | A new challenge may be an unfamiliar experience or an extension of an existing one. The newly acquired or developed skills may be shown through new experiences or through increased expertise in an established area. |
| Demonstrate how to initiate and plan a CAS experience. | Students can articulate the stages from conceiving an idea to executing a plan for individual or collaborative CAS experiences. Students may show their knowledge and awareness by building on a previous experience or by launching a new idea or process. |
| Show commitment to, and perseverance in, CAS experiences. | Students demonstrate regular involvement and active engagement in CAS. |

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| Demonstrate the skills and recognize the benefits of working collaboratively. | Students are able to identify, demonstrate and critically discuss the benefits and challenges of collaboration gained through CAS experiences. |
| Demonstrate engagement with issues of global significance. | Students are able to identify and demonstrate their understanding of global issues, make responsible decisions and take appropriate action in response to the issue either locally, nationally or internationally. |
| Recognize and consider the ethics of choices and actions. | Students show awareness of the consequences of choices and actions in planning and carrying out CAS experiences. |

IV. Sample projects

- **Creativity:** A student group plans, designs and creates a mural.
- **Activity:** Students organize and participate in a sports team including training sessions and matches against other teams.
- **Service:** Students set up and conduct tutoring for people in need.
- **Service and activity:** Students plan and participate in the planting and maintenance of a garden with members of the local community.
- **Creativity, activity and service:** Students rehearse and perform a dance production for a community retirement home.

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For further information on the IB Diploma Programme, visit: www.ibo.org/en/programmes/diploma-programme/.

Complete subject guides can be accessed through the IB online curriculum centre (OCC) or purchased through the IB store: <http://store.ibo.org>.

For more on how the DP prepares students for success at university, visit: www.ibo.org/en/university-admission or email: recognition@ibo.org.