



**QUARTZ HILL
HIGH SCHOOL**



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

Guide to the Diploma Program



Quartz Hill High School
6040 W. Avenue L, Quartz Hill, CA 93536
(661) 718-3100



International Baccalaureate Education for Life

On July 13, 1998, Quartz Hill High School joined the prestigious International Baccalaureate Organization, which offers academically talented and motivated high school students an opportunity to earn an internationally recognized diploma. As of 2024, 152 countries are home to over 3323 participating IB schools with over 940 of those schools in the United States. Quartz Hill High School is proud to be one of only 115 high schools in California to offer the IB Diploma Program.

At Quartz Hill High School, ninth and tenth-grade students take recommended honors and other courses in preparation for the junior and senior IB Diploma program. Students take courses and sit for examinations in six academic areas. Additionally, these students will complete an interdisciplinary core program consisting of the Theory of Knowledge class, the extended essay, and Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS) experiential learning.



Why should an American high school student choose the I.B. Programme?

To be a student in the IB Program means taking part in a challenging, broad-based curriculum which opens a student to issues affecting the community and the world. Choosing this program allows students:

- ❖ To be prepared for rigorous course of studies offered at the finest colleges and universities
- ❖ To earn college credit and/or advanced standing at many colleges and universities
- ❖ To enhance chances of admission to those institutions
- ❖ To work toward earning an internationally recognized and acclaimed diploma
- ❖ To enhance a sense of community and international awareness

IB Student are:



Students must fulfill examination requirements in six curricular areas:

- Language A (English)
- Language B (French, Mandarin, or Spanish)
- Individuals and Societies
- Experimental Sciences
- Mathematics
- Sixth Subject Option, your choice of:
 - Visual/Performing Arts Course
 - Additional Experimental Science Course
 - Additional Individuals and Societies Course

Theory of Knowledge

- Offered second semester of 11th grade and first semester of 12th grade
- Course prepares the student to write the extended essay

The Extended Essay

- A work of independent research on a topic of the student's choice.
- Approximate length: 4,000 words

Creativity – Action – Service (CAS)

CAS complements academic requirements by asking students to develop personal creativity, engage in new physical or athletic activities, and volunteer in the community. Students keep a portfolio of their personal growth over the course of their junior and senior years.

QHHS IB Diploma Programme

Recommended Course of Study

Summer School before 9th grade: Healthful Living

Grade 9:

- English 9 Honors
- French 1 Honors, Mandarin 1, or Spanish 1 Honors
- Appropriate Math Class
- Biology Honors
- World History AP
- PE 1

March/April of grade 9: See Counseling regarding PE 2 – to be taken in grade 10 via Virtual Academy

Grade 10:

- English 10 Honors
- French 2 Honors, Mandarin 2, or Spanish 2 Honors
- Appropriate Math Class
- Chemistry or Chemistry AP
- AP Elective: Art History AP (fulfills fine art requirement), European History AP, Human Geography AP, or Computer Science AP
- PE 2 taken through Virtual Academy
- Fulfill Fine Art Requirement

Recommended Course of Study (cont.)

Grade 11:

- English IB HL 1
- History of the Americas IB HL 2
- French 3 Honors, Mandarin 3, or Spanish 3 Honors
- Math IB SL or appropriate math class
- Biology IB HL 1
- IB 6th Subject Option: Choice of: Visual Arts IB HL or SL, Psychology IB SL, Art History IB SL (Note that Visual Arts IB SL and HL are two-year courses)
- Theory of Knowledge (TOK): 2nd Semester after school, on Tuesdays.

Grade 12:

- English IB HL 2
- TOK: 1st Semester, after school, on Tuesdays.
- French IB SL, Mandarin IB, or Spanish IB SL
- Math IB SL if not taken in 11th grade
- Biology IB HL 2
- History of the Americas IB HL 1
- IB 6th Subject Option: Choice of 2nd year Visual Arts IB HL or SL, Psychology IB SL, Art History IB SL. (If single-year 6th Subject Option is completed junior year, student may take an elective)

IB courses designated HL are two-year courses.

IB courses designated SL are one-year courses. *

IB examinations are taken at the end of each course.

Two SL exams may be taken in 11th grade; this is encouraged.

* Visual Arts SL is a two-year course

Program Options at QHHS

- **Full Diploma:** Students meet all of the above requirements and are awarded the IB diploma. They must take a minimum of three or a maximum of four IB higher-level classes and the remaining classes at the standard level. Recognition or credit for the IB diploma varies; an IB diploma typically yields one year's college credit.
- **Certificates:** Students take IB exams in selected subjects and are awarded a certificate from IB for each Higher or Standard Level Exam passes. College recognition or credit per institutional policy.
- **AP:** Students may take AP exams, in addition to IB exams, and receive college credit.

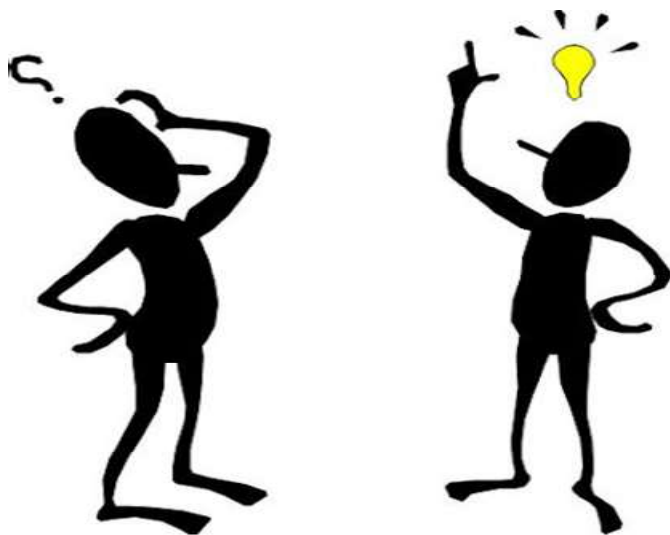
Acceptance into the Program

Program admission is based on grades, standardized test scores, and school recommendations. Students should be "A" or "B" students, test in the 65th percentile or higher in Reading and Mathematics, and have good work habits.

Incoming 9th graders may submit applications to the program in January of the preceding year. Applications request student test results in English and Mathematics, a recent report card, and a positive recommendation from the middle school. A short interview and an opportunity for us to meet the parents is also required.

If an incoming tenth or eleventh-grade student would like to join the program, they must also submit an application available in January of the preceding year.

IB		AVUHSD		UC	
Diploma Requirements		Graduation Requirements		Admissions Requirements	
Subject	Years	Subject	Years	Subject	Years
English	4	English	4	English	4
Math	3	Math	3	Math	3
History	3	History	3	History	2
(World, HOTA, 20th Cent. Wrld HST)		(World, US, & Civics)			
Science (Lab)	3-4	Science	2	Science (Lab)	2
IB Biology (Or Chemistry when offered)					
Foreign Language	4	Foreign Language	2	Foreign Language	2
		or Arts			
TOK	1	Health	1	VAPA	1
1st Sem. Jr. year, 2nd Sem. Sr. year				Visual and Performing Arts	
6th Subject Options		P.E.	2		
Visual Art, Psychology, or additional IB courses from					



IB TERMS DECODED

New to the IB Diploma Programme (DP)? We know that understanding this IB programme is important for parents and guardians who want to support their child throughout their studies. These fifteen terms will help you stay ahead of the curve.

The full IB diploma

The IB diploma is a globally-recognized qualification awarded to students who fulfill all required components of the two-year IB Diploma Programme (DP). To receive the full IB diploma, students must 1) take three higher level (HL) and three standard level (SL) courses and exams, 2) complete the DP core requirements, and 3) be awarded a minimum total score of 24 out of 45 possible points.

The DP core

In addition to completing courses in six subject areas, full IB diploma candidates are required to complete the three core components: creativity, activity, service (CAS), the extended essay (EE), and theory of knowledge (TOK).

Creativity, activity, service (CAS)

For CAS, a student completes activities that allow their learning to extend beyond the classroom. Many students choose to fulfill CAS requirements through community service or athletics, but additional possibilities exist so long as the project includes one of the three categories: creativity, activity or service. Throughout CAS, students reflect on their experiences and explain how their activities help them achieve specific learning outcomes.

Extended essay

The extended essay is a written research project of no more than 4000 words. Students choose their own topics and the completed essay is sent to IB moderators around the world for grading. For additional support, students select a supervising teacher to help identify a topic and provide guidance while research and writing.

Theory of knowledge (TOK)

TOK is a course in which students discuss and examine the concept of knowledge– its worth, veracity, and forms. TOK requires DP students to submit an essay for external assessment.

DP courses

All IB Diploma Programme (DP) students participate in DP courses. The strength of the DP is the way in which learning is interconnected across individual subjects. Combined with the core requirements, DP courses are one part of the DP's holistic approach to teaching. However, schools may allow students to selectively complete IB courses and/or sit for individual exams rather than opt to complete the full IB diploma. In any given course, students will complete a

subject's coursework regardless of their status as a course student or a full diploma candidate.

External assessment

These assessments are graded by trained IB examiners. External assessments include the written IB exams taken by the student at the end of a DP course, normally in their second year of the Diploma Programme. In some courses, including film, the external assessment is a textual analysis. In visual arts, studio work is assessed.

Higher level (HL)

HL courses are a two-year course with at least 240 hours of study. These courses allow students to explore areas of interest within the subject in greater depth when compared to Standard Level (SL) Courses. Passing scores on HL exams earn college credit, although the type of credit awarded by colleges varies by institution and the college major of the students.

Standard level (SL)

SL Courses are usually taught over the course of one year. SL exams are shorter than HL Exams. Passing scores on SL exams help students earn the IB diploma and may earn college credit as well depending on the institution.

IB exam results

IB exams, regardless of whether they are HL or SL, are graded between 1-7, with 1 being the lowest and 7 being the highest level. Many schools and universities describe IB exam levels as IB exam scores, however, each of the seven grade levels offer a detailed description of student performance and understanding.

Internal assessment (IA)

An IA is an individual assessment evaluated by the subject teacher with a list of criteria and is usually focused on some subject-related work. Alongside the criteria, samples of the student's work (oral performances, portfolios, lab reports, and essays) are also submitted to the IB.

Descriptors

These are course-specific expectations or criteria for performance evaluation used by the teacher. They exist in every subject to aid in the grading of IAs.

Moderation

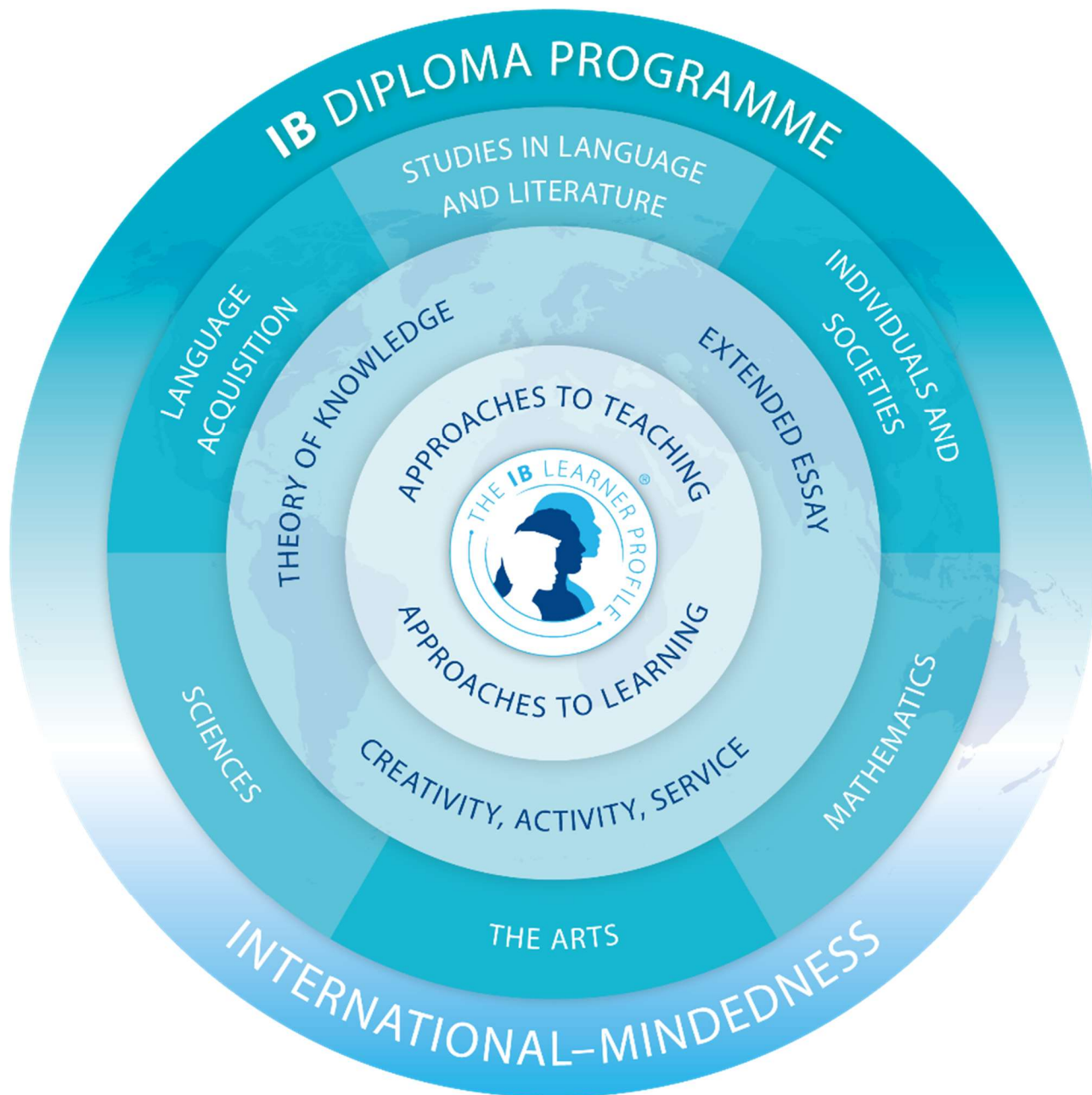
This is the process of evaluation for internal assessments (IA's) used by an appointed IB assessor. Moderation ensures that the IB's reliable global standards are maintained at all IB World Schools.

Learner profile

The IB learner profile is a list of traits that the IB wishes to nurture in its students. These traits are centered around international-mindedness, inquiry, and reflection.

Predicted grades

These are submitted scores that teachers believe each student will achieve on their DP exam in a given subject.



For additional information on how the IB Diploma Programme is the ideal preparation for university – please scan the QR Code below.

