

Modern English School Cairo



Artwork by Habiba Al Ayouti DP12R

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Curriculum Guide 2025-2027





MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

An Introduction

MES Cairo's International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) has been running successfully since 2006. It is now well-established as an appealing option for students who are highly motivated and who seek to be cared for, challenged and inspired in their final two years of Secondary School.

Our IBDP graduates describe the programme as a 'lifestyle'! It is more than a course, a set of examinations or a diploma certificate alone. It compels you to think differently about yourself and the world around you. You will engage in credited experiences beyond the classroom; you will make a difference for the benefit of yourselves and others. The international educators who designed the programme over 50 years ago were motivated by practical considerations but also by a clear vision: they believed that students all over the world should share a rich academic experience that emphasises critical thinking, intercultural awareness and internationalism. The realisation of their aim lives in the hearts and minds of all students who successfully complete their IB Diploma.

The IB has shown over the course of its history that IB Diploma Programme students are well prepared for success at university. They are accepted by universities all over the world; universities in Cairo give IB Diploma graduates automatic entry into certain courses. MES Cairo IBDP alumni are currently studying at prestigious universities abroad including, Bath, Edinburgh, Surrey, Southampton, York, London School of Economics, Queens College London, British University of Columbia, Manchester; McGill, Berkeley, MIT, etc.

The attraction of the IBDP is its breadth and depth; students are compelled to maintain their studies across disciplines, whilst delving deeply into academic content, skills and application. Students have an element of choice in the options which comprise their timetable and can identify particular areas of interest by nominating relevant subjects as Higher Level options (as opposed to Standard Level). This Information booklet provides much more detail about the elements of the IBDP Diploma Programme at MES Cairo and the subjects we offer here at MES Cairo.





MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

THE SIX ACADEMIC SUBJECTS

IB Diploma Programme students study six subjects. They must select one subject from each of the six groups. At least three and not more than four are taken at Higher Level, while the remaining are taken at Standard Level.

The IB recommends a minimum of 240 teaching hours for HL courses and 150 hours for SL courses. At MES Cairo we have generously timetabled IB Diploma courses to more than meet these requirements.

GROUP ONE: First Language A - Literature

More than 80 languages have been offered for examination as part of the IBO's policy of encouraging students to develop their first language. Modern English School Cairo offers English A Literature and Arabic Language and Literature and we will endeavour to offer any other language to meet the needs of students in our IB Diploma Programme. School supported self-study is available for other mother tongue languages but only at SL and in Literature only. It is also possible for students to take two Language A courses, which will result in them being awarded a Bilingual Diploma.

GROUP TWO: Second Language B or *ab initio*

All Diploma students are examined in a second language. Several options are available:

- Language B – is for genuine second language learners with significant previous experience of learning the target language
- *ab initio* Language – is for students with little or no previous experience of learning the language

Modern English School Cairo offers:

Arabic B HL
Arabic B SL
French B HL
French B SL
French Ab Initio
Spanish B HL
Spanish B SL
Spanish ab initio SL

GROUP THREE: Individuals and Societies

All students are examined in a Humanities subject. Modern English School Cairo offers, Global Politics, Economics, Business Management and Psychology.

GROUP FOUR: Experimental Sciences

The group includes Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Practical laboratory skills are developed and collaborative learning is encouraged through a Group 4 project involving the three sciences. At Modern English School Cairo we offer all three sciences, but students must choose either Biology or Physics and Chemistry can be studied in addition to either.



GROUP FIVE: Mathematics

All IB Diploma students are required to complete a Mathematics course. At Modern English School Cairo, we offer 'Mathematics Analysis and Approaches' at Higher or Standard Level, or, 'Mathematics Applications and Interpretations' also at Higher or Standard Level. Your Coordinator and Maths teachers will advise you on the course that is best suited to your university aspirations. An A or A* grade at GCSE or an A at Honors Mathematics is required for HL Mathematics courses.

GROUP SIX: The Arts and Electives

All IB Diploma students are encouraged to take one of the Group Six Arts subjects, but students may choose either Chemistry or History instead. The availability of the above courses is contingent upon uptake at a minimum of three students per course and availability of staffing. At Modern English School Cairo we offer Theatre and Visual Arts in this group.

THE CORE REQUIREMENTS

Theory of Knowledge: This course is an inter-disciplinary requirement intended to stimulate critical reflection about the knowledge and experience gained inside and outside the classroom. The course challenges students to question the bases of knowledge, to be aware of subjective and ideological bias and to develop the ability to analyse evidence.

Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS): The IBO's goal is to educate the whole person and foster responsible and compassionate citizens. The CAS component encourages students to share their energy and special talents with others. It encourages students to develop greater awareness of themselves, concern for others and the ability to work cooperatively.

Extended Essay: Students are required to research a topic of special interest to them personally and present their findings in the form of an academic essay. The research should represent a minimum of 40 hours and the final essay should be around 4,000 words.

ASSESSMENT

All IB Diploma subjects are assessed through a combination of external examinations and internal assessment. The final grade for each subject is based on a scale of 1-7; 7 represents the highest attainable grade. In order to gain an IB Diploma students must obtain a minimum of 24 points out of a possible total of 45, at least 12 of these must come from HL subjects; they must also meet the requirements of the Extended Essay, the TOK course and the CAS programme.



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

IBDP Student Profile and Entry Requirements

In order to be eligible for a place on the IB Diploma Programme at MES Cairo for the 2025 - 2027 course students must demonstrate exceptional performance and commitment in the following three aspects of school life:

1. Academics
2. Work Ethic and Attitude to Studies
3. Contribution to the School, Local and/or Global Communities

Academics

The IB Diploma Programme at MES Cairo is a rigorous pre-university course requiring a high level of academic ability and achievement. The minimum entry requirement for Higher Level subjects is a grade A or B at IGCSE or a grade A on the final report in Grade 10 from the American Section. The minimum entry requirement for Standard Level subjects is a grade C from either IGCSE or Grade B on the final report in Grade 10 from the American Section. If a subject has not been studied previously in Year/Grade 9 or 10 then it is unlikely the student will be eligible to study this subject as part of the IBDP. In certain circumstances, exceptions to the above prerequisites may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Work Ethic and Attitude to Studies

The IBDP requires students to be well-organised and fully committed to the programme if they are to succeed. This means consistency throughout the two years of the course. We expect the reports of prospective IBDP students in Grade/Year 9 and 10 to indicate consistent effort and good behaviour. This will also be supported by Teacher and Homeroom Teachers' recommendations and comments.

Contribution to School, Local and/or Global Communities

The IBDP is more than just a rigorous academic programme. It is a complete educational package designed to promote the best characteristics in students. It is designed to engender an international outlook and compassion and concern for others. In this aspect what students put into the programme determines what they get out of it, and our hope is that all IBDP students maximise their opportunities to contribute to school life and to the local and global community throughout the IBDP learning journey.



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: English A Literature HL/SL

In Group 1, it is assumed that students are highly competent in the target language, whether or not it is their mother tongue. Students completing this course will have a thorough knowledge of a range of texts and an understanding of cultural perspectives. They will also have effectively developed skills of analysis and the ability to support an argument in clearly expressed writing, sometimes at significant length. The course will enable them to succeed in a wide range of university courses particularly in literature but also in subjects such as philosophy, law and language.

Aims:

1. engage with a range of texts, in a variety of media and forms, from different periods, styles, and cultures
2. develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, presenting and performing
3. develop skills in interpretation, analysis and evaluation
4. develop sensitivity to the formal and aesthetic qualities of texts and an appreciation of how they contribute to diverse responses and open up multiple meanings
5. develop an understanding of relationships between texts and a variety of perspectives, cultural contexts, and local and global issues, and an appreciation of how they contribute to diverse responses and open up multiple meanings
6. develop an understanding of the relationships between studies in language and literature and other disciplines
7. communicate and collaborate in a confident and creative way
8. foster a lifelong interest in and enjoyment of language and literature

Objectives:

Know, understand and interpret:

- a range of texts, works and/or performances, and their meanings and implications
- contexts in which texts are written and/or received
- elements of literary, stylistic, rhetorical, visual and/or performance craft
- features of particular text types and literary forms

Analyse and evaluate:

- ways in which the use of language creates meaning
- uses and effects of literary, stylistic, rhetorical, visual or theatrical techniques
- relationships among different texts
- ways in which texts may offer perspectives on human concerns

Communicate

- ideas in clear, logical and persuasive ways
- in a range of styles, registers and for a variety of purposes and situations

Internationalism

The English A1 programme is international in nature and includes translated works from around the globe and from various points in human history. Two of the works studied are by French authors, the course also looks at American literature, as well as other European texts throughout the two years. The course is broken into three areas of exploration including **readers writers and texts time and space and intertextuality**.



Students are required to look at the text from a cultural, historical and political context broadening their understanding of the impact of the written word to be a critique of the time and place in which it was written.

Course content: Students will undertake literary study of 9 texts common to both SL and HL, with an additional 4 texts studied at HL.

Readers, Writers and Texts

1. Chronicle of a Death Foretold - Gabriel Garcia Marquez - SL/HL
2. The Outsider - Albert Camus - SL/HL
3. Essays - George Orwell - HL

Time and Space

1. Poetry Collection - Maya Angelou/Carol Ann Duffy - SL/HL
2. Short Stories - Rabindranath Tagore - SL/HL
3. Persepolis - Marjane Satrapi - HL

Intertextuality

1. A View from the Bridge - Arthur Miller - SL/HL
2. Julius Caesar - William Shakespeare - SL/HL
3. Antigone - Sophocles - SL/HL
4. Poetry - Robert Frost/Teacher's Free Choice - SL/HL



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: Arabic A Language and Literature HL/SL

In Group 1, it is assumed that students are highly competent in the target language, whether or not it is their mother tongue. Students completing this course will have a thorough knowledge of a range of texts and an understanding of cultural perspectives. They will also have effectively developed skills of analysis and the ability to support an argument in clearly expressed writing, sometimes at significant length. The course will enable them to succeed in a wide range of university courses particularly in literature but also in subjects such as philosophy, law and language.

Aims:

1. engage with a range of texts, in a variety of media and forms, from different periods, styles, and cultures
2. develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, presenting and performing
3. develop skills in interpretation, analysis and evaluation
4. develop sensitivity to the formal and aesthetic qualities of texts and an appreciation of how they contribute to diverse responses and open up multiple meanings
5. develop an understanding of relationships between texts and a variety of perspectives, cultural contexts, and local and global issues, and an appreciation of how they contribute to diverse responses and open up multiple meanings
6. develop an understanding of the relationships between studies in language and literature and other disciplines
7. communicate and collaborate in a confident and creative way
8. foster a lifelong interest in and enjoyment of language and literature

Objectives:

Know, understand and interpret

- a range of texts, works and/or performances, and their meanings and implications
- contexts in which texts are written and/or received
- elements of literary, stylistic, rhetorical, visual and/or performance craft
- features of particular text types and literary forms

Analyse and evaluate

- ways in which the use of language creates meaning
- uses and effects of literary, stylistic, rhetorical, visual or theatrical techniques
- relationships among different texts
- ways in which texts may offer perspectives on human concerns

Communicate

- ideas in clear, logical and persuasive ways
- in a range of styles, registers and for a variety of purposes and situations

Course content: Students will undertake literary study of 9 texts common to both SL and HL, with an additional 4 texts studied at HL.



The text list is as follows:

Readers, Writers and Texts (For Individual Oral)

Yehia Hakki	The Lamp of Umm Hashem	HL/SL
Ado Farass El Hamadani	Prisoner's Complaint	HL/SL
Naguib Mahfouz	The Thief and The Dogs	HL
Tawfik El Hakim	By the light of the Sun of Thought	HL/SL

Time and Space (For Coursework Essay)

Henrik Ibsen	A Doll's House	HL/SL
Naguib Mahfouz	Children of Gebelawi	HL/SL
Tawfik El Hakim	Princess Shams	HL/SL
Charlotte Bronte	Jane Eyre	HL/SL
Sophocles	Antigone	HL

Intertextuality (For Paper 2)

Naguib Mahfouz	Midaq Alley	HL/SL
Taha Hussein	The Days	HL/SL
Tawfeek El Hakim	Diaries of a Countryside Deputy	HL/SL

Assessment

Paper 1 Examination (HL 2hrs 15/SL 1hr 15)	35%
Paper 2 Examination (HL and SL 1hr 45)	35% (SL) 25% (HL)
Coursework Essay (HL only)	20%
Individual Oral Examination	30% (SL) 20% (HL)

Ahmed Hassan
Head of Arabic (IBDP)
ahassan@mescairo.com



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: English Language B SL/HL

Aims:

Language B is an additional language-learning course designed for students with some previous learning of that language. The main focus of the course is on language acquisition and development of language skills. These language skills should be developed through the study and use of a range of written and spoken material. Such material will extend from everyday oral exchanges to literary texts and should be related to the culture(s) concerned. The material should be chosen to enable students to develop mastery of language skills and intercultural understanding. The English B Course has as its ultimate aim the development of students' linguistic skills such that they can speak and understand the spoken word as well as read and write the language to a high level of competence while always bearing in mind that for these students English is a foreign language. Students need to feel confident at this level in the four language skills of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. The course also develops students' knowledge and understanding of the culture and way of life of French and Spanish speaking countries.

Objectives:

- Speaking: Choosing the correct register depending on social and cultural context, using relevant vocabulary, employing correct grammar and syntax.
- Listening: Picking up the register depending on social and cultural context, understanding dialects and world variations, supplying unknown vocabulary from the context, detecting humour and irony.
- Reading: Understanding a wide range of factual and fictional written material, appreciating different types of fiction, coping with a range of newspapers and magazines, facing very different types of humour (most of the set texts have been chosen for their humour as well as their factual content or style).
- Writing: Developing the ability to write a wide variety of documents – letters, both formal and informal, a diary, a short story, etc.

Internationalism:

The study of an additional language adds to the international dimension of the Diploma Programme. Within Group 2, intercultural understanding is a major cohesive element of the syllabus. While learning English the student becomes aware of the similarities and differences between his or her own culture(s) and those of the English culture one only. With this awareness, a greater respect for other peoples and the way in which they lead their lives is fostered. Within the course framework, through the study of authentic texts, students investigate and reflect on cultural values and behaviours. Furthermore, the course will enable students to learn about the societies in which English is spoken.

Course Content:

Five Prescribed themes:

1. Identities
2. Experiences
3. Human Ingenuity
4. Sharing the Planet
5. Social Organisation



Assessment Outline SL

External Assessment (3 hours) 75%

Paper 1 (1 hour 15 minutes) 25%

- One writing task of 250-400 words (30 marks)

Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes) 50%

- Listening comprehension (45 minutes) (25 marks)
- Reading comprehension (1 hour) (40 marks)

Individual oral Assessment 25%

A conversation with the teacher, based on an extract from one of the literary works studied in class, followed by discussion based on one or more of the themes from the syllabus. (30 marks)

Assessment Outline HL

External Assessment (3 hours 30 minutes) 75%

Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes): 25%

- One writing task of 450-600 words (30 marks)

Paper 2 (2 hours) 50%

- Listening comprehension (1 hour) (25 marks)
- Reading comprehension (1 hour) (40 marks)

Individual oral Assessment 25%

A conversation with the teacher, based on an extract from one of the literary works studied in class, followed by discussion based on one or more of the themes from the syllabus. (30 marks)



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: French Language B HL/SL or Spanish Language B SL/HL

Aims:

Language B is an additional language-learning course designed for students with some previous learning of that language. The main focus of the course is on language acquisition and development of language skills. These language skills should be developed through the study and use of a range of written and spoken material. Such material will extend from everyday oral exchanges to literary texts, and should be related to the culture(s) concerned. The material should be chosen to enable students to develop mastery of language skills and intercultural understanding. The French B/Spanish B Course has as its ultimate aim the development of students' linguistic skills such that they can speak and understand the spoken word as well as read and write the language to a high level of competence while always bearing in mind that for these students French or Spanish is a foreign language. Students need to feel confident at this level in the four language skills of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. The course also develops students' knowledge and understanding of the culture and way of life in Spanish speaking countries.

Objectives:

- Speaking: Choosing the correct register depending on social and cultural context, using relevant vocabulary, employing correct grammar and syntax.
- Listening: Picking up the register depending on social and cultural context, understanding dialects and world variations, supplying unknown vocabulary from the context, detecting humour and irony.
- Reading: Understanding a wide range of factual and fictional written material, appreciating different types of fiction, coping with a range of newspapers and magazines, facing very different types of humour (most of the set texts have been chosen for their humour as well as their factual content or style).
- Writing: Developing the ability to write a wide variety of documents – letters, both formal and informal, a diary, a short story, etc.

Internationalism:

The study of an additional language adds to the international dimension of the Diploma Programme. Within Group 2, intercultural understanding is a major cohesive element of the syllabus. While learning French/ Spanish, the student becomes aware of the similarities and differences between his or her own culture(s) and those of the French or Spanish culture. With this awareness, a greater respect for other peoples and the way in which they lead their lives is fostered. Within the course framework, through the study of authentic texts, students investigate and reflect on cultural values and behaviours. Furthermore, the course will enable students to learn about the societies in which French/Spanish is spoken.

Course Content:

Five Prescribed themes:

1. Identities
2. Experiences
3. Human Ingenuity
4. Sharing the Planet
5. Social Organisation



Assessment Outline SL

External Assessment (3 hours) 75%

Paper 1 (1 hour 15 minutes) 25%

- One writing task of 250–400 words (30 marks) from a choice of three, each from a different theme, choosing a text type from among those listed in the examination instructions.

Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes) 50%

- Listening comprehension (45 minutes) (25 marks)
- Reading comprehension (1 hour) (40 marks)

Individual Oral Assessment 25%

- A conversation with the teacher, based on a visual stimulus, followed by discussion based on an additional theme. (30 marks)

Assessment Outline HL

External Assessment (3 hours 30 minutes) 75%

Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes): 25%

- One writing task of 450-600 words (30 marks) from a choice of three, each from a different theme, choosing a text type from among those listed in the examination instructions.

Paper 2 (2 hours) 50%

- Listening comprehension (1 hour) (25 marks)
- Reading comprehension (1 hour) (40 marks)

Individual oral Assessment 25%

A conversation with the teacher, based on an extract from one of the literary works studied in class, followed by discussion based on one or more of the themes from the syllabus. (30 marks)



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: Arabic B SL/HL

Aims:

Language B is an additional language-learning course designed for students with some previous learning of that language. The main focus of the course is on language acquisition and development of language skills. These language skills should be developed through the study and use of a range of written and spoken material. Such material will extend from everyday oral exchanges to literary texts, and should be related to the culture(s) concerned. The material should be chosen to enable students to develop mastery of language skills and intercultural understanding. The Arabic B Course has as its ultimate aim the development of students' linguistic skills such that they can speak and understand the spoken word as well as read and write the language to a high level of competence while always bearing in mind that for these students Arabic is a foreign language. Students need to feel confident at this level in the four language skills of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.

Objectives:

- Speaking: Choosing the correct register depending on social and cultural context, using relevant vocabulary, employing correct grammar and syntax.
- Listening: Picking up the register depending on social and cultural context, understanding dialects and world variations, supplying unknown vocabulary from the context, detecting humour and irony.
- Reading: Understanding a wide range of factual and fictional written material, appreciating different types of fiction, coping with a range of newspapers and magazines, facing very different types of humour (most of the set texts have been chosen for their humour as well as their factual content or style).
- Writing: Developing the ability to write a wide variety of documents – letters, both formal and informal, a diary, a short story, etc.

Internationalism:

The study of an additional language adds to the international dimension of the Diploma Programme. Within Group 2, intercultural understanding is a major cohesive element of the syllabus. While learning Arabic, the student becomes aware of the similarities and differences between his or her own culture(s) and those of the Arabic culture. With this awareness, a greater respect for other peoples and the way in which they lead their lives is fostered. Within the course framework, through the study of authentic texts, students investigate and reflect on cultural values and behaviours. Furthermore, the course will enable students to learn about the societies in which Arabic is spoken.

Course Content:

Five Prescribed themes:

1. Identities
2. Experiences
3. Human Ingenuity
4. Sharing the Planet
5. Social Organisation



Assessment Outline SL

External Assessment (3 hours) 75%

Paper 1 (1 hour 15 minutes) 25%

- One writing task of 250-400 words (30 marks)

Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes) 50%

- Listening comprehension (45 minutes) (25 marks)
- Reading comprehension (1 hour) (40 marks)

Individual oral Assessment 25%

A conversation with the teacher, based on an extract from one of the literary works studied in class, followed by discussion based on one or more of the themes from the syllabus. (30 marks)

Assessment Outline HL

External Assessment (3 hours 30 minutes) 75%

Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes): 25%

- One writing task of 450-600 words (30 marks)

Paper 2 (2 hours) 50%

- Listening comprehension (1 hour) (25 marks)
- Reading comprehension (1 hour) (40 marks)

Individual Oral Assessment 25%

A conversation with the teacher, based on an extract from one of the literary works studied in class, followed by discussion based on one or more of the themes from the syllabus. (30 marks)



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: Spanish or French *ab initio* SL

Aims: The Language *ab initio* SL aims to:

- enable students who know very little or have no previous knowledge to develop a knowledge of the language and the relevant oral linguistic skills so that at the end of the course they can communicate effectively in everyday situations
- enable students to develop the necessary written linguistic skills so that they can write Spanish or French of a standard that allows communication and read the language at a similar level

Objectives Candidates will be expected to demonstrate the ability to:

- communicate information and some basic ideas clearly and effectively, in a limited range of situations
- understand and use accurately the essential spoken and written forms of the language in a limited range of situations
- understand and use a limited range of vocabulary in common usage
- use a register that is generally appropriate to the situation
- show an awareness of some elements of the culture of Spanish or French speaking countries around the world.

Internationalism:

The *ab initio* SL programme aims to promote internationalism in two main ways. Firstly, by definition learning a new language is a journey of exploration into a different culture and a means of seeing the world through very different eyes. Secondly, Spanish or French is not just spoken in Spain or France but is the first or second language of many other countries each of which has a unique culture. The course tries to open a window on several of those cultures by using texts written by members of those cultures.

Course Content:

Five Prescribed themes:

1. Identities
2. Experiences
3. Human Ingenuity
4. Sharing the Planet
5. Social Organisation

Each theme has a list of topics that provide the students with opportunities to practise and explore the language as well as to develop intercultural understanding. Through the development of receptive, productive and interactive skills, students should be able to respond and interact appropriately in a defined range of everyday situations. Language *ab initio* is available at SL only.

Vocabulary is introduced and consolidated, grammar is reinforced, pronunciation guided and intonation improved by as wide a range of activities as possible. Conversation galore, videos, role play, Advertisements, children's books – anything and everything that helps students to acquire Spanish language skills will be used. Students are introduced to a wide range of texts from guide books to telephone directories, from cartoons to restaurant menus. Students are also encouraged to use e-mail facilities with students in a Spanish or French IB schools.



Course Overview: Spanish or French Ab Initio

Course Outline is organised into three themes:

Assessment:

External assessment:

Paper 1 – Writing (1 Hour) – 70 - 150 Words – 30 Marks	25%
--	-----

Paper 2 – Listening – (45 min.) – 25 Marks	
Reading – (1 Hour) – 40 Marks	50%

Internal assessment: (7-10 min) – 30 Marks	25%
--	-----

Discussion on a visual stimulus followed by a discussion on individual themes.

Isabelle Niscemi
Head of IB World Languages
iniscemi@mescairo.com



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: History HL/SL

Aims: The main aims of the History course are to promote:

- the acquisition and understanding of historical knowledge in breadth and in depth, and from different cultures
- a developing appreciation and understanding of history as a discipline, including the nature and diversity of its sources, methods and interpretations
- international awareness and understanding of people living in a variety of places at different times
- a better understanding of the present through an understanding of the past
- an ability to use and communicate historical knowledge and understanding
- a lasting interest in history.

Objectives: Candidates are expected to be able to:

- comprehend, analyse, evaluate and integrate source material critically as historical evidence
- demonstrate historical understanding of 20th century world history through the acquisition, selection, effective use and synthesis of knowledge
- explain different approaches to, and interpretations of, historical events and topics
- place events in their historical context
- explain the causes and effects of historical continuity and change
- present arguments that are clear, coherent, relevant and well substantiated
- present historical explanations from an international perspective
- plan, organise and present an individual historical investigation
- demonstrate an in-depth historical understanding of approximately 100 years of history (from between circa 1750 to 1995) of one region, through the acquisition, selection, effective use and synthesis of knowledge.

Internationalism:

The History course approaches internationalism by encouraging the study of global affairs throughout the course of the 20th century. The course will also consider the significance and impact of events in Europe and the Middle East in a global context.

Course content:

- The move to Global War.
- The Cold War.
- Authoritarian states: Hitler, Mussolini, Castro.
- Regional option (HL only): History of Europe.
- Historical investigation: A historical investigation of a chosen topic. This will provide students with an opportunity to utilize skills in researching, presenting information, handling evidence, fieldwork and identifying interpretations.

Assessment:

External Assessment (SL in brackets)

- Paper 1: (1 hour) **20% (30%)**
Four short answer/Structured questions based on sources.
All four questions on the selected Prescribed Subject (move to Global War) to be answered



- **Paper 2: (1½ hours)**
An essay paper based on the 20th century world history topics

• The Cold War.
• Authoritarian states: Hitler, Mussolini, Castro.
• Students are required to answer two extended response questions from
a choice of five on each world history topic

25% (45%)
- **Paper 3 (HL Only): (2½ hours)**
An essay paper based on the regional option (Europe)
Students respond to three extended response questions.

35%
- Internal Assessment (SL in brackets)**

• Historical Investigation
Candidates must undertake a historical investigation.
Internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated.

20% (25%)

MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO



International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: Global Politics SL/HL

Aims:

DP global politics is a course for students who want to understand more about how the world they live in works, and what makes it change (or prevents it from changing). The course draws on a variety of disciplinary traditions in the study of politics and international relations, and more broadly in the social sciences and humanities. Students build their knowledge and understanding of the local, national, international, and global dimensions of political activity and processes by critically engaging with contemporary political issues and challenges. The course integrates concepts, content and contexts through inquiry.

- Concepts such as power, sovereignty, legitimacy and interdependence are explored and examined critically throughout the course.
- Content informs inquiries through a variety of global politics topics, encompassing political systems and actors, power interactions, frameworks, treaties and conventions, terminology, and analysis models.
- Contexts diversify, shape and channel inquiries through contemporary real-world examples and cases. The flexible syllabus allows educators to build the course around their students' contexts and interests, as well as contemporary events and developments in global politics. Thinking, analysis and research skills are fostered through guided and independent inquiries into political issues and challenges, with a special focus on identifying and engaging with diverse perspectives.

Objectives:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of, power relationships, political concepts, political issues and challenges.
- Apply relevant concepts and tools to analyse contemporary political issues and challenges in a variety of contexts.
- Identify and analyse information, claims and perspectives in source material and relevant evidence to formulate, present and sustain an argument.
- Synthesise and evaluate evidence (including source material) about global politics, perspectives and approaches to global politics and perspectives on political beliefs, positions, and biases.
- Research and investigate political issues and challenges, communicate analysis of political issues and challenges and reflect on the process and results of research and investigation.

Course Content:

- **Core**
 - Understanding power and global politics
- **Thematic studies**
 - Rights and justice
 - Development and sustainability
 - Peace and conflict
- **Internal assessment**
 - Engagement project
 - HL extension: global political challenges



Assessment outline—SL

External assessment (2 hours 45 min) **70%**

Paper 1 (1 h 15 min) **30%**

Source-based questions that address topics from the global politics core in an integrated way **40%**

Paper 2 (1 h 30 min)

Extended response questions based on prescribed content from the thematic studies

Internal assessment (25 hours)

Engagement activity **30%**

A written report on a political issue explored through engagement and research

Assessment outline—HL

External assessment (4 hours 15 min) **80%**

Paper 1 (1 h 15 min) **20%**

Source-based questions that address topics from the global politics core in an integrated way

Paper 2 (1 h 30 min) **30%**

Extended response questions based on prescribed content from the thematic studies

Paper 3 (1 h 30 min) **30%**

Stimulus-based questions related to the HL extension syllabus (global political challenges)

Internal assessment (115 Hours) **20%**

Engagement activity **20%**

A written report on a political issue explored through engagement and research



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: IB Psychology SL/HL

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour.

Aims: The aims of the Psychology course at SL and at HL are to:

- Develop an awareness of how psychological research can be applied for the benefit of human beings Ensure that ethical practices are upheld in psychological inquiry
- Develop an understanding of the biological, cognitive and sociocultural influences on human behaviour
- Develop an understanding of alternative explanations of behaviour
- Understand and use diverse methods of psychological inquiry

Objectives: Students are assessed in Psychology on the following key skills, relevant and applicable to all other subjects within the IBDP and for further study:

- Knowledge and understanding of specified content including, key concepts, psychological research methods, theories, studies and applications
- Application and analysis of research and concepts in order to formulate an argument
- Synthesis and evaluation of psychological theories and empirical studies

Course content:

Part 1: Core (SL/HL) 40% of total mark at HL, 50% of total mark at SL

- The biological level of analysis
- The cognitive level of analysis
- The sociocultural level of analysis

Part 2: Options (SL/HL) 20% of total mark at HL, 25% of total mark at SL

Higher level students study both options, standard level students study one.

- Abnormal psychology
- Psychology of human relationships

Part 3: Research methodology (HL only) 20% of total mark

- Qualitative and quantitative research in psychology

Part 4: Simple experimental study (SL/HL) 25% of total mark at SL and 20% of total mark at HL

- Introduction to experimental research methodology (1,800 to 2,200 word in length)

Assessment

External Assessment

Paper 1 (2 hours) Section A: Three 9 mark compulsory questions on part 1 of the syllabus.

Section B: Three 22 mark questions on part 1 of the syllabus. Students choose one 22 mark question to answer in essay form. (49 marks)



Paper 2 (1 hour at SL/2 hours at HL)

Fifteen 22 mark questions on part 2 of the syllabus. Students choose **one 22 mark question** to answer in essay form from one option at SL and two 22 mark questions on the two options studied at HL.

Paper 3 (1 hour) HL ONLY

Three compulsory questions based on an unseen text, covering part 3 of the syllabus. (24 marks)

Internal Assessment

A report of a simple experimental study conducted by the student (between 1,800 and 2,200 words in length).



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: Business Management HL/SL

Aims:

The main aim of the Business Management course is to provide the students with core knowledge of Business and Management and the ability to think critically about the subject. To promote an awareness and understanding of internationalism is also one of the main aims. We will achieve these aims by exploring business issues from different cultural perspectives.

Objectives:

Candidates should:

- develop an understanding and knowledge of business concepts and theories
- identify social and cultural factors and ethical considerations in the actions of organisations
- select, interpret and analyse data and recommend solutions to problems

A key objective throughout is the ability to apply theories to real-life situations.

Internationalism:

Developing international-mindedness is at the heart of the Diploma Programme Business Management course. Of all organizations and actors in society, businesses are among those most affected by and have influence on globalization. Many businesses operate across national borders, and even seemingly local businesses are influenced by international competition. The Business Management course helps students understand and evaluate the implications of business activity in an interconnected, global market.

Course Content:

The following four concepts underpin the Diploma Programme Business Management course:

- Change
- Creativity
- Ethics
- Sustainability

All teachers will integrate this conceptual approach to their teaching of the course content.

- Unit 1: Introduction to Business Management
- Unit 2: Human resources management
- Unit 3: Accounts and Finance
- Unit 4: Marketing
- Unit 5: Operations Management
- Business Management Toolkit
- Internal Assessment

HL Assessment:

External Assessment: Higher Level

- **Paper 1: (1 hour and 30 mins)** **25%**



Based on a pre-released statement that specifies the context and background for the unseen case study.

Syllabus content: Units 1-5 excluding HL extension topics.

- **Paper 2: (1 hour and 45 mins)** **30%**

Based on the unseen stimulus material with a quantitative focus.

Syllabus content: Units 1-5 including HL extension topics.

- **Paper 3: (1 hour and 15 mins)** **25%**

Based on unseen stimulus material about a social enterprise.

Syllabus content: Unit 1–5 including HL extension topics.

- **Internal Assessment: Higher Level** **20%**

This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.

Business research project

Students produce a research project about a real business issue or problem facing a particular organization using a conceptual lens. Maximum 1,800 words. (25 marks)

SL Assessment:

External Assessment: Standard Level

- **Paper 1: (1 hour and 30 mins)** **35%**

Based on a pre-released statement that specifies the context and background for the unseen case study.

Syllabus content: Units 1–5 excluding HL extension topics.

- **Paper 2: (1 hour and 30 mins)** **35%**

Based on unseen stimulus material with a quantitative focus.

Syllabus content: Units 1–5 excluding HL extension topics.

- **Internal Assessment: Standard Level** **30%**

This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.

Business research project

Students produce a research project about a real business issue or problem facing a particular organization using a conceptual lens. Maximum 1,800 words. (25 marks)

Steve Hawkins

Head of Humanities & Commercial Studies (British and IB)

shawkins@mescairo.com



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: Economics HL/SL

Aims:

The aims of the Economics course are to enable students to:

- develop a critical understanding of a range of economic theories, models, ideas and tools in the areas of microeconomics, macroeconomics and the global economy
- apply economic theories, models, ideas and tools and analyse economic data to understand and engage with real-world economic issues and problems facing individuals and societies
- develop a conceptual understanding of individuals' and societies' economic choices, interactions, challenges and consequences of economic decision-making.

Objectives:

Candidates will be expected to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of current economic issues and data, and specific content.
- apply economic concepts and theories to real-world situations.
- examine, discuss and evaluate economic concepts, information and theories.
- produce well-structured written material, using appropriate economic theory, concepts and terminology, quantifiable data and the news media.

Internationalism:

The economics course promotes international mindedness through a curriculum that allows for the exploration of economics within a decidedly global context. Throughout the course, teachers have the freedom to choose a range of both local and global examples, case studies and inquiries that are most relevant to their student populations in order to animate the main content. This flexibility ensures that the course remains relevant and responsive to the rapidly changing global environment.

Course Content:

The following key concepts underpin the Diploma Programme Economics course:

Scarcity, Choice, Efficiency, Equity, Economic well-being, Sustainability, Change, Interdependence and Intervention. Teachers will integrate this conceptual approach to their teaching of the courses content.

Unit 1: Introduction to economics

Unit 2: Microeconomics

Unit 3: Macroeconomics

Unit 4: The global economy

Internal Assessment

HL Assessment

External Assessment: Higher Level

- **Paper 1: (1 hour and 15 mins)** **20%**
An extended response paper (25 marks).
Syllabus content including HL extension material.



- **Paper 2: (1 hour and 45 mins)** **30%**

A data response paper (40 marks).

Syllabus content excluding HL extension material. Includes some quantitative questions.

- **Paper 3: (1 hour and 45 mins)** **30%**

A policy paper (60 marks).

Syllabus content including HL extension material. Includes both quantitative and qualitative questions.

- **Internal Assessment: Higher Level** **20%**

This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.

Students produce a portfolio of three commentaries, based on different units of the syllabus (excluding the introductory unit) and on published extracts from the news media. Each of the three commentaries should use a different key concept as a lens through which to analyse the published extracts.

Maximum 800 words for each commentary (45 marks)

SL Assessment

External Assessment: Standard Level

- **Paper 1: (1 hour and 15 mins)** **30%**

An extended response paper (25 marks).

Syllabus content excluding HL extension material.

- **Paper 2: (1 hour and 45 mins)** **40%**

A data response paper (40 marks).

Syllabus content excluding HL extension material. Includes some quantitative questions.

- **Internal Assessment: Standard Level** **30%**

This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.

Students produce a portfolio of three commentaries, based on different units of the syllabus (excluding the introductory unit) and on published extracts from the news media. Each of the three commentaries should use a different key concept as a lens through which to analyse the published extracts.

Maximum 800 words for each commentary (45 marks)

Steve Hawkins

Head of Humanities & Commercial Studies (British and IB)

shawkins@mescairo.com



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: Biology HL/SL

Aims:

1. Develop conceptual understanding that allows connections to be made between different areas of the subject, and to other DP sciences subjects
2. Acquire and apply a body of knowledge, methods, tools and techniques that characterize science
3. Develop the ability to analyse, evaluate and synthesize scientific information and claims
4. Develop the ability to approach unfamiliar situations with creativity and resilience
5. Design and model solutions to local and global problems in a scientific context
6. Develop an appreciation of the possibilities and limitations of science
7. Develop technology skills in a scientific context
8. Develop the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively
9. Develop awareness of the ethical, environmental, economic, cultural and social impact of science.

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of terminology, facts and concepts. Apply the skills, techniques and methodologies of Biology
2. Understand and apply knowledge of terminology, concepts, skills, techniques and methodologies.
3. Analyse, evaluate, and synthesize experimental procedures, primary and secondary data, trends, patterns and predictions.

International Mindedness:

The Biology course approaches global perspectives by considering the work and communication of scientists all over the world, in addition to discussing several global economic and environmental problems which are of great interest to us all.

Syllabus content:

A: Unity and diversity

B: Form and function

C: Interaction and interdependence

D: Continuity and change

Experimental programme:

Practical work

Collaborative sciences project

Scientific investigation



Assessment SL/HL:

- Paper 1 (1 hour and 30 minutes) 36%

Paper 1A—Multiple-choice questions

Paper 1B—Data-based questions

- Paper 2 (1 hour and 30 minutes) 44%

Section A—Data-based and short answer questions

Section B—Extended-response questions

- Internal assessment (10 hours) 20%

The internal assessment consists of one task: the scientific investigation. This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: Chemistry HL/SL

Aims:

1. Develop conceptual understanding that allows connections to be made between different areas of the subject, and to other DP sciences subjects
2. Acquire and apply a body of knowledge, methods, tools and techniques that characterize science
3. Develop the ability to analyse, evaluate and synthesize scientific information and claims
4. Develop the ability to approach unfamiliar situations with creativity and resilience
5. Design and model solutions to local and global problems in a scientific context
6. Develop an appreciation of the possibilities and limitations of science
7. Develop technology skills in a scientific context
8. Develop the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively
9. Develop awareness of the ethical, environmental, economic, cultural and social impact of science.

Objectives:

Demonstrate knowledge of terminology, facts and concepts. Apply the skills, techniques and methodologies of Chemistry

1. Understand and apply knowledge of terminology, concepts, skills, techniques and methodologies.
2. Analyse, evaluate, and synthesize experimental procedures, primary and secondary data, trends, patterns and predictions.

International Mindedness:

The Chemistry course approaches global perspectives by considering the work and communication of scientists all over the world, in addition to discussing several global economic and environmental problems which are of great interest to us all.

Syllabus content:

Structure 1. Models of the particulate nature of matter

Structure 2. Models of bonding and structure

Structure 3. Classification of matter

Reactivity 1. What drives chemical reactions?

Reactivity 2. How much, how fast and how far?

Reactivity 3. What are the mechanisms of chemical change?

Experimental programme:

Practical work

Collaborative sciences project

Scientific investigation



Assessment SL/HL:

- Paper 1 (1 hour and 30 minutes) 36%

Paper 1A—Multiple-choice questions

Paper 1B—Data-based questions

- Paper 2 (1 hour and 30 minutes) 44%

Section A—Data-based and short answer questions

Section B—Extended-response questions

- Internal assessment (10 hours) 20%

The internal assessment consists of one task: the scientific investigation. This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: Physics HL/SL

Aims:

- Develop conceptual understanding that allows connections to be made between different areas of the subject, and to other DP sciences subjects
- Acquire and apply a body of knowledge, methods, tools and techniques that characterize science
- Develop the ability to analyse, evaluate and synthesize scientific information and claims
- Develop the ability to approach unfamiliar situations with creativity and resilience
- Design and model solutions to local and global problems in a scientific context
- Develop an appreciation of the possibilities and limitations of science
- Develop technology skills in a scientific context
- Develop the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively
- Develop awareness of the ethical, environmental, economic, cultural and social impact of science.

Objectives:

- Demonstrate knowledge of terminology, facts and concepts. Apply the skills, techniques and methodologies of Physics
- Understand and apply knowledge of terminology, concepts, skills, techniques and methodologies.
- Analyse, evaluate, and synthesize experimental procedures, primary and secondary data, trends, patterns and predictions.
- International Mindedness:
- The Physics course approaches global perspectives by considering the work and communication of scientists all over the world, in addition to discussing several global economic and environmental problems which are of great interest to us all.

Syllabus content:

- A. Space, time and motion
- B. The particulate nature of matter
- C. Wave behaviour
- D. Fields
- E. Nuclear and quantum physics

Experimental programme:

- Practical work
- Collaborative sciences project
- Scientific investigation

Assessment SL/HL:

Paper 1 (1 hour and 30 minutes)
 Paper 1A—Multiple-choice questions
 Paper 1B—Data-based questions

36%



Paper 2 (1 hour and 30 minutes) 44%

Section A—Data-based and short answer questions

Section B—Extended-response questions

Internal assessment (10 hours) 20%

The internal assessment consists of one task: the scientific investigation. This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course

Brendan Rainford
IBDP coordinator and Head of Science (IBDP Section)
brainford@mescairo.com



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches HL/SL

Aims:

This course recognizes the need for analytical expertise in a world where innovation is increasingly dependent on a deep understanding of mathematics. This course includes topics that are both traditionally part of a pre-university mathematics course (for example, functions, trigonometry, calculus) as well as topics that are amenable to investigation, conjecture and proof, for instance the study of sequences and series at both SL and HL, and proof by induction at HL.

The course allows the use of technology, as fluency in relevant mathematical software and hand-held technology is important regardless of choice of course. However, Mathematics: Analysis and approaches has a strong emphasis on the ability to construct, communicate and justify correct mathematical arguments. The main aims of the Mathematics HL course are to enable students to:

- develop a curiosity and enjoyment of mathematics, and appreciate its elegance and power
- develop an understanding of the concepts, principles and nature of mathematics
- communicate mathematics clearly, concisely and confidently in a variety of contexts
- develop logical and creative thinking, and patience and persistence in problem solving to instill confidence in using mathematics
- employ and refine their powers of abstraction and generalisation
- take action to apply and transfer skills to alternative situations, to other areas of knowledge and to future developments in their local and global communities
- appreciate how developments in technology and mathematics influence each other
- appreciate the moral, social and ethical questions arising from the work of mathematicians and the applications of mathematics
- appreciate the universality of mathematics and its multicultural, international and historical perspectives
- appreciate the contribution of mathematics to other disciplines, and as a particular “area of knowledge” in the TOK course
- develop the ability to reflect critically upon their own work and the work of others
- independently and collaboratively extend their understanding of mathematics.

Objectives:

Having followed a DP mathematics course, students will be expected to demonstrate the following:

- Recall, select and use their knowledge of mathematical facts, concepts and techniques in a variety of familiar and unfamiliar contexts.
- Recall, select and use their knowledge of mathematical skills, results and models in both abstract and real-world contexts to solve problems.
- Transform common realistic contexts into mathematics; comment on the context; sketch or draw mathematical diagrams, graphs or constructions both on paper and using technology; record methods, solutions and conclusions using standardized notation; use appropriate notation and terminology.
- Use technology accurately, appropriately and efficiently both to explore new ideas and to solve problems.
- Construct mathematical arguments through use of precise statements, logical deduction and inference and by the manipulation of mathematical expressions.
- Investigate unfamiliar situations, both abstract and from the real world, involving organizing and analyzing information, making conjectures, drawing conclusions, and testing their validity.



Internationalism:

International-mindedness is a complex and multi-faceted concept that refers to a way of thinking, being and acting characterized by an openness to the world and a recognition of our deep interconnectedness to others.

One way of fostering international-mindedness is to provide opportunities for inquiry into a range of local and global issues and ideas. Many international organisations and bodies now exist to promote mathematics, and students are encouraged to access the resources and often-extensive websites of such mathematical organisations. This can enhance their appreciation of the international dimension of mathematics, as well as providing opportunities to engage with global issues surrounding the subject.

Course Content:

- number and algebra
- functions
- geometry and trigonometry
- probability and statistics
- calculus

Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches: Distinction between SL and HL

Students who choose Mathematics: analysis and approaches at SL or HL should be comfortable in the manipulation of algebraic expressions and enjoy the recognition of patterns and understand the mathematical generalization of these patterns. Students who wish to take Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches at Higher Level will have strong algebraic skills and the ability to understand simple proof. They will be students who enjoy spending time with problems and get pleasure and satisfaction from solving challenging problems.

Assessment SL:

External Assessment

- | | |
|--|------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1: (90 minutes)
Written Paper – no calculator allowed | 40% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 2: (90 minutes)
Written Paper – graphic display calculator (GDC) required | 40% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematical Exploration
A piece of individual written work which involves investigating an area of mathematics. The topic will be decided by the end of the first year and a first draft will be handed in at the beginning of the second year. The final essay will be completed by the end of the first term of the second year. | |

Assessment HL:

External Assessment

- | | |
|--|------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1: (2 hours)
Written Paper – no calculator allowed | 30% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 2: (2 hours)
Written Paper – graphic display calculator (GDC) required | 30% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 3: (1 hour)
Written Paper – extended response problem solving questions, GDC required | 20% |



Internal Assessment

20%

- **Mathematical Exploration**

A piece of individual written work which involves investigating an area of mathematics. The topic will be decided by the end of the first year and a first draft will be handed in at the beginning of the second year. The final essay will be completed by the end of the first term of the second year.

Note:

Since Mathematics HL is a particularly demanding course designed for students with a strong background in Mathematics, the ideal credentials for studying IBDP Mathematics HL are at least an A- for Algebra 2 Honors in Grade 10 for students enrolling from the American Section, and an A or A* in IGCSE Mathematics for students enrolling from the British Section. Students who do not meet these guidelines will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Some students may be required to sit an entry test prior to admission on the Mathematics HL course.

Brendan Rainford
IBDP Coordinator
brainford@mescairo.com



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: Mathematics: Application and Interpretation HL/SL

Aims:

This course recognizes the increasing role that mathematics and technology play in a diverse range of fields in a data-rich world. As such, it emphasizes the meaning of mathematics in context by focusing on topics that are often used as applications or in mathematical modelling. To give this understanding a firm base, this course also includes topics that are traditionally part of a pre-university mathematics course such as calculus and statistics. The course makes extensive use of technology to allow students to explore and construct mathematical models. Mathematics: Applications and interpretation will develop mathematical thinking, often in the context of a practical problem and using technology to justify conjectures.

- develop a curiosity and enjoyment of mathematics, and appreciate its elegance and power
- develop an understanding of the concepts, principles and nature of mathematics
- communicate mathematics clearly, concisely and confidently in a variety of contexts
- develop logical and creative thinking, and patience and persistence in problem solving to instill confidence in using mathematics
- employ and refine their powers of abstraction and generalization
- take action to apply and transfer skills to alternative situations, to other areas of knowledge and to future developments in their local and global communities
- appreciate how developments in technology and mathematics influence each other
- appreciate the moral, social and ethical questions arising from the work of mathematicians and the applications of mathematics
- appreciate the universality of mathematics and its multicultural, international and historical perspectives
- appreciate the contribution of mathematics to other disciplines, and as a particular “area of knowledge” in the TOK course
- develop the ability to reflect critically upon their own work and the work of others
- independently and collaboratively extend their understanding of mathematics.

Objectives:

Having followed a DP mathematics course, students will be expected to demonstrate the following:

- Recall, select and use their knowledge of mathematical facts, concepts and techniques in a variety of familiar and unfamiliar contexts.
- Recall, select and use their knowledge of mathematical skills, results and models in both abstract and real-world contexts to solve problems.
- Transform common realistic contexts into mathematics; comment on the context; sketch or draw mathematical diagrams, graphs or constructions both on paper and using technology; record methods, solutions and conclusions using standardized notation; use appropriate notation and terminology.
- Use technology accurately, appropriately and efficiently both to explore new ideas and to solve problems.



- Construct mathematical arguments through use of precise statements, logical deduction and inference and by the manipulation of mathematical expressions.
- Investigate unfamiliar situations, both abstract and from the real world, involving organizing and analyzing information, making conjectures, drawing conclusions, and testing their validity.

Internationalism:

International-mindedness is a complex and multi-faceted concept that refers to a way of thinking, being and acting characterized by an openness to the world and a recognition of our deep interconnectedness to others.

One way of fostering international-mindedness is to provide opportunities for inquiry into a range of local and global issues and ideas. Many international organisations and bodies now exist to promote mathematics, and students are encouraged to access the resources and often-extensive websites of such mathematical organisations. This can enhance their appreciation of the international dimension of mathematics, as well as providing opportunities to engage with global issues surrounding the subject.

Course Content:

- number and algebra
- functions
- geometry and trigonometry
- probability and statistics
- calculus

Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation: Distinction between SL and HL

Students who choose Mathematics: applications and interpretation at SL or HL should enjoy seeing mathematics used in real-world contexts and to solve real-world problems. Students who wish to take Mathematics: Applications and interpretation at Higher Level will have good algebraic skills and experience of solving real-world problems. They will be students who get pleasure and satisfaction when exploring challenging problems and who are comfortable to undertake this exploration using technology.

Assessment SL:

External Assessment

- **Paper 1: (90 minutes)** **40%**
Written Paper – short response questions, graphic display calculator (GDC) required
- **Paper 2: (90 minutes)** **40%**
Written Paper – extended response questions, graphic display calculator (GDC) required

Internal Assessment

20%

- Mathematical Exploration
A piece of individual written work which involves investigating an area of mathematics. The topic will be decided by the end of the first year and a first draft will be handed in at the beginning of the second year. The final essay will be completed by the end of the first term of the second year.

Assessment HL:

External Assessment

- **Paper 1: (2 hours)** **30%**
Written Paper – short response questions, graphic display calculator (GDC) required



- **Paper 2: (2 hours)** **30%**
Written Paper – extended response questions, graphic display calculator (GDC) required
- **Paper 3: (1 hour)** **20%**
Written Paper – extended response problem solving questions, GDC required

- Internal Assessment** **20%**
 - Mathematical Exploration

A piece of individual written work which involves investigating an area of mathematics. The topic will be decided by the end of the first year and a first draft will be handed in at the beginning of the second year. The final essay will be completed by the end of the first term of the second year.

Note:

Since Mathematics HL is a particularly demanding course designed for students with a strong background in Mathematics, the ideal credentials for studying IBDP Mathematics HL are at least an A- for Algebra 2 Honors in Grade 10 for students enrolling from the American Section, and an A or A* in IGCSE Mathematics for students enrolling from the British Section. Students who do not meet these guidelines will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Some students may be required to sit an entry test prior to admission on the Mathematics HL course.

MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate 2025 - 2027



Course Overview: Visual Arts HL/SL

Aims:

Education by means of the arts is so valuable because it fosters the development of the whole personality, uniting intellectual activity with physical skills, but fusing them in a creative process that is itself among the most precious attributes of man.

- Through the IBDP Art course students will extend their study of Art. They will continue to use a wide range of subject matter, symbols, meaningful images, and visual expressions. They will grow more sophisticated in their working knowledge of Art reflecting their feelings and emotions and will continue to expand their abilities to evaluate the merits of their efforts.
- Art ranges from crafts, drawing, and painting, to 3D design, from architecture to computer aided design and photographs; any of these can be used to help students meet the educational goals embodied in this course.
- Art complements literary, mathematical, scientific and factual subjects. It is especially concerned with the development of visual perception and aesthetic experience. It is a form of communication and a means of expressing ideas and feelings.
- IB Art should encourage personal expression through imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, and powers of observation, analytical ability and practical skills. It should lead to greater understanding of the role of art in the history of civilisations and widen cultural horizons and enrich the individual. The IBDP Art course aims to combine a breadth and depth of study so that it may accommodate a wide range of abilities and individual resources.

Objectives:

- To develop students' thinking, working, communicating, problem-solving, reasoning, and investigating skills.
- To provide for their growing familiarity with the ideas, concepts, issues and knowledge important in Art, within national and global contexts.
- To understand the multifaceted interplay of different media, styles, forms, techniques, and processes in the creation of their work.
- To develop increasing abilities to use precise terminology and evaluate artistic aesthetic qualities in works of art, nature, and human-made environments. In doing so students can reflect on the nature of human involvement in art as a viewer, creator, and participant.

Internationalism:

Art has become an increasingly prominent factor in globalisation. Art is pivotal in the process of representation, reaction, and construction of global identities. How we view the spectrum from low art to high art, marginal to mainstream, is an underlying theme that is evolving.

The IBDP Art course includes a study of the various art forms of many different cultures over many periods of time. Art crosses all boundaries of space and time and every culture since the Palaeolithic period has produced artistic expressions of what it meant to be human for that group of people at that time. The IBDP Art course enables students to study the artistic work of those cultures and to reinterpret their insights.

The IBDP Art course consists of three linked compulsory parts, theoretical practice; art-making practice; and curatorial practice which are all reflected in the comparative study, process portfolio and the visual arts journal.



In common to each course are core elements which include the:

- Introduction to art concepts, criticism and analysis
- Acquisition of studio technical and media skills
- The relationship of art to socio-cultural and historical contexts.

Course Content:

- Personal culture
- Observational drawing and painting
- Interpretive painting
- City culture and built environment
- Portraits and Identity
- Social and political sculpture and installations
- Recycled art
- Artists and moral responsibility
- Personal projects of student's choice

Assessment (HL and SL):

External Assessment

(60%)

- Process portfolio – including artist research, experimentation with media and materials, development of ideas and proposals for large scale outcome. 13 – 25 pages in at least 3 different art making forms. (40 %)
- Comparative study – an in depth research project of 10-15 pages examining at least 3 three artworks from two or more artists. 3-5 pages evaluating how this research influences students' visual responses and a list of sources. **(20%)**

Internal Assessment

(40%)

- Exhibition – production, and curating of 8-11 resolved art works with a maximum 700 word statement to explain the rationale behind the work.

Michelle Parr
Head of Visual Arts (IBDP Section)
mparr@mescairo.com



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: Theatre HL/SL

Theatre is a dynamic, collaborative and live art form. It is a practical subject that encourages discovery through practical inquiry, experimentation, risk taking and the presentation of ideas to others. It results in the development of both theatre and life skills; the building of confidence, creativity and working collaboratively.

Aims

The Theatre course are to enable students to:

- Enjoy lifelong engagement with the arts
- Explore and value the diversity of the arts across time, place and cultures
- Express ideas with confidence and competence
- Develop perceptual and analytical skills.
- Explore theatre in a variety of contexts and understand how these contexts inform practice (theatre in context)
- Understand and engage in the processes of transforming ideas into action
- Develop and apply theatre production, presentation and performance skills, working both independently and collaboratively (presenting theatre)
- Understand and appreciate the relationship between theory and practice.

Theatre and CAS

Studying theatre provides excellent opportunities for students to make links with their CAS activities. The experiential nature of the subject combines effectively with a range of CAS activities which complement and counterbalance the academic rigour of the Diploma Programme.

Theatre and Theory of Knowledge

Students of the arts subjects study the various artistic ways through which knowledge, skills and attitudes from different cultural traditions are developed and transmitted. These subjects allow students to investigate and reflect on the complexities of the human condition. By exploring a range of materials and technologies, students should aim to develop an understanding of the technical, creative, expressive and communicative aspects of the arts.

Theatre and International-mindedness

International-mindedness represents an openness and curiosity about the world and its people. It begins with students understanding themselves in order to effectively connect and collaborate with others. The arts provide a unique opportunity for students to recognize the dynamic cultural influences around them and the significance of diversity in the making of theatre. The IB Diploma Programme theatre course gives students the opportunity to study a wide variety of performance styles, Theatre traditions, theatre theorists and play texts. Students are expected to explore and engage with theatre from a variety of contexts. Through creating, investigating, critically analysing and appreciating differing forms and styles, students deepen their understanding of theatre, as well as their knowledge, understanding and experience of the arts within the global community. They become more informed and reflective, and develop their abilities to become enriched practitioners, communicators, collaborators and creative thinkers. They learn to acknowledge the aspects that appear in all performance forms and theatre traditions, and also to recognise the unique ways in which particular cultures express and represent their values and identity through shared performance.



Prior learning

The Theatre course at both SL and HL requires no previous experience.

The course is designed to enable students to experience theatre on a personal level and achievement in this subject is reflected in how students develop, extend and refine the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for studying theatre. Students' individual ability to be creative and imaginative and to communicate in dramatic form will be developed and extended through the theoretical and practical content of the course.

Course Content

- Inquiring
- Developing
- Presenting
- Evaluating

Internal assessment

Task 1: Production Proposal (SL 30% and HL 20%)

Students at SL and HL choose a published play text they have not previously studied and formulate a vision for the design and theoretical staging of the entire play text for an audience. These ideas are presented in the form of a proposal. Each student submits the following:

1. A production proposal (a maximum of 12 pages of written text and images, with written text not exceeding 4,000 words) plus a list of all sources used.

External assessment

Task 2: Research Presentation (SL 30% and HL 20%)

Students at SL and HL plan, deliver and video record an individual research presentation (15 minutes maximum) in which they provide evidence of their academic and practical exploration and learning of a world theatre tradition they have not previously studied. Each student submits the following:

1. A video recording of the student's research presentation (15 minutes maximum).
2. A list of all sources cited and any additional resources used by the student during the presentation.

Task 3: Collaborative Project (SL 40% and HL 25%)

Students at SL and HL collaboratively create and perform an original piece of theatre (lasting 7–10 minutes maximum) created from a starting point of their choice. The piece is presented to an audience as a fully-realized production. Each student submits the following:

1. A project report (a maximum of 10 pages of written text and images, with written text not exceeding 4,000 words) plus a list of all sources used.
2. A video recording of the final piece (7–10 minutes maximum).

Task 4: Solo Theatre Piece (HL only 35%)

Students at HL research a theatre theorist they have not previously studied, identify an aspect(s) of theory and create and present a solo theatre piece (lasting 4–7 minutes maximum) that demonstrates the practical application of this theory to a theatre piece for an audience. Each student submits the following:

1. A report (2,500 words maximum) plus a list of all primary and secondary sources cited.
2. A continuous unedited video recording of the whole solo theatre piece (4–7 minutes maximum).

Daniel Greenwood

Head of Theatre (IBDP Section)

dgreenwood@mescairo.com



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOLCAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) Programme

Central to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is the premise that we are developing students who are well-rounded individuals, who are strong in academic studies, as well as having the drive and ability to empathise with others and who want to make their positive difference in society.

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) is at the heart of the Diploma Programme. It is one of the three essential elements of the Diploma Programme experience, alongside Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay, and provides an important counterbalance to a student's academic studies.

The three strands of CAS are:

Creativity: *arts, and other experiences that involve creative thinking and skill development.*

Activity: *physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle, complementing academic work elsewhere in the Diploma Programme.*

Service: *an unpaid and voluntary exchange that has a learning benefit for the student. The rights, dignity and autonomy of all those involved are respected.*

Successful completion of CAS is a **requirement** for the award of the IB Diploma. CAS is not formally assessed as such, but evidence and documentation must be provided to show that a student has organised and attended activities to enable them to achieve the seven learning outcomes over a continuous period of 18 months. In order to achieve this, students need to maintain an up-to-date online CAS folder on managebac that logs and records their CAS experience and requires that they show genuine self-reflection.

The seven learning outcomes for students in CAS are:

1. **Strength and Growth**
2. **Challenge and Skills**
3. **Initiative and planning**
4. **Commitment and Perseverance.**
5. **Collaborative Skills**
6. **Global Engagement**
7. **Ethics of Choices and Actions**

All seven outcomes must be present for students to complete the CAS requirement of the IB Diploma. Some may be demonstrated many times, in a variety of experiences; others less so. Students will demonstrate that they are meeting the learning outcomes through appropriate setting of activity goals, ongoing reflection and activity evaluation. The CAS experiences must include a minimum of one collaborative project of significance, lasting for a minimum of one month. This may be the CAS project trip



The CAS programme should be personalised so it is the student's own. Students should choose activities that they are passionate about and find fulfillment in. Students should challenge themselves by trying new endeavours and taking themselves outside of their comfort zone. CAS activities can be After School Activities (ASAs) and school projects, but students are expected and encouraged to initiate activities themselves and to get involved in projects/activities outside of school.

We are delighted to share with you comments from the International Baccalaureate on our CAS Programme. Our CAS Programme was deemed *"excellent"* and both *"challenging and meaningful to all involved"*. MES Cairo was described as a *"school that has a well-structured and organised CAS programme."*

Ms Emma Dawes
CAS Coordinator
edawes@mescairo.com



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027

Course Overview: Theory of Knowledge

The **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)** programme is central to the educational philosophy of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. It challenges students to reflect critically on the different ways in which we know, or think and say that we know, and thus prompts them to consider the role which knowledge plays in different disciplines and different cultures. It encourages students to become aware of themselves as thinkers, to become aware of the complexity of knowledge, and to recognise the significance of the context.

Aims: The aims of the Theory of Knowledge programme are to:

- encourage students to reflect on the central question, “How do we know what we know?”, and to recognize the value of asking that question
- expose students to ambiguity, uncertainty and questions with multiple plausible answers
- equip students to effectively navigate and make sense of the world, and help / prepare them to encounter novel and complex situations
- encourage students to be more aware of their own perspectives and to reflect critically on their own beliefs and assumptions
- engage students with multiple perspectives, foster open-mindedness and develop intercultural understanding
- encourage students to make connections between academic disciplines by exploring underlying concepts and by identifying similarities and differences in the methods of inquiry used in different areas of knowledge
- prompt students to consider the importance of values, responsibilities and ethical concerns relating to the production, acquisition, application and communication of knowledge.

Objectives:

TOK students should be able to:

- demonstrate TOK thinking through the critical examination of knowledge questions
- identify and explore links between knowledge questions and the world around us
- identify and explore links between knowledge questions and areas of knowledge
- develop relevant, clear and coherent arguments
- use examples and evidence effectively to support a discussion
- demonstrate awareness and evaluation of different points of view
- consider the implications of arguments and conclusions.

Course Content:

- Knowledge and the Knower: This theme provides an opportunity for students to reflect on themselves as knowers and thinkers, and on the different communities of knowers to which we belong.
- Themes: Knowledge and technology, Language, Politics, Religion and Indigenous Societies
- Areas of Knowledge: History, Human Sciences, Natural Sciences, Arts and Mathematics

The course will largely be made up of discussions, thus student attendance and participation is key to success on the course. Students are required to be active in class debates, complete regular written assignments and prepare short presentations for the class.



Assessment:

There are two assessment tasks that contribute to a student's final grade in TOK. Throughout the course students will have opportunities to complete practice assessment tasks.

- TOK Exhibition (33%): An exploration of how TOK manifests in the world around us. Students are required to create an exhibition consisting of three objects, links to TOK themes, exploration of a IA prompt and a 950 word written commentary.
- TOK Essay (66%): Each student has to write an essay of approximately 1200 to 1600 words in length on one of six prescribed titles. This will normally be written in term one and two of DP12. Students are allowed to be given formal feedback from their TOK Teacher on one draft of their essay.

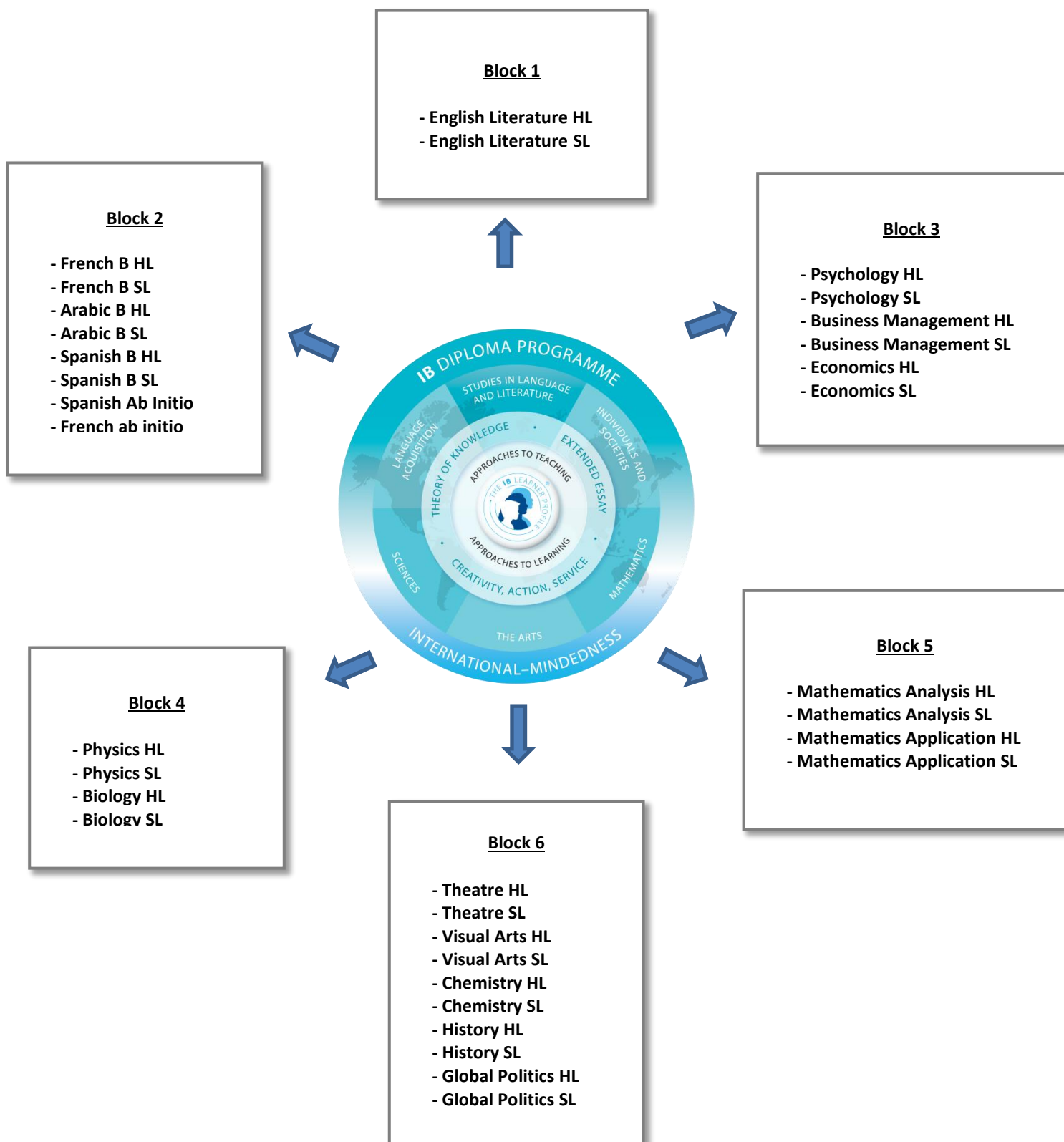
The marks from the TOK assessment are combined with the marks for the Extended Essay to award

Brendan Rainford
TOK Coordinator
brainford@mescairo.com

MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO



IBDP Learning Journey 2025 - 2027



MODERN ENGLISH SCHOOL CAIRO



International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2025 - 2027 Preliminary Options Survey

Please fill and return this form to Ms Amira Assem in SS1

Name of applicant: _____

Are you currently a student at MES Cairo? Yes/No

If yes, then please indicate your current Homeroom: _____

If no, then please provide the following details:

- Name of current school: _____
- Date of Birth: _____
- Current educational programme: British/American/MYP/Other _____
- Contact telephone number: 1- _____ 2- _____
- Student Mobile number: _____

Course Selection:

Identify your preferred IBDP pathway by choosing one subject from each of the 6 groups overleaf. You must choose at least 3 subjects at Higher Level (HL) and 3 at Standard Level (SL). If you are interested in pursuing a fourth Higher Level subject, then please indicate this below.

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6
- English Lit. HL/SL <u>Subject:</u> _____ Level: HL/SL	- French B HL/SL - Arabic B HL/SL - Spanish B HL/SL - French ab initio - Spanish Ab Initio <u>Subject:</u> _____ Level: HL/SL	- Psychology HL/SL - Bus. Man. HL/SL - Economics HL/SL <u>Subject:</u> _____ Level: HL/SL	- Physics HL/SL - Biology HL/SL <u>Subject:</u> _____ Level: HL/SL	Mathematics - Analysis HL - Analysis SL - Applied HL - Applied SL <u>Subject:</u> _____ Level: HL/SL	- Theatre HL/SL - Visual Arts HL/SL - Chemistry HL/SL - History HL/SL - Global Politics HL/SL <u>Subject:</u> _____ Level: HL/SL