

IBDP Core



Introduction:

The IBDP (International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme) Core is designed to help students develop essential skills for both further education and the professional world. It combines academic learning with practical experience, helping to give students real experience that they can draw upon when they apply to universities, apprenticeships and jobs. The IBDP Core includes three components: Theory of Knowledge, the Extended Essay and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS). Through these, students will enhance their critical thinking, collaboration, and intercultural understanding, and be prepared to succeed in their chosen career paths as globally minded citizens. The IBDP Core is **mandatory for all students taking the DP**.

Course structure:

The course is structured into four parts:

- **Theory of Knowledge (TOK):** This is an introductory philosophy course that deals with the philosophy of knowledge: what do we know and how do we know it. TOK develops highly important critical thinking skills by teaching students to challenge what they hear, and only accept that which is well-grounded.
- **Extended Essay (EE):** This is a 4000-word research project on a topic of your choice. It helps to develop academic writing, critical thinking and research skills, and serves as an excellent way to demonstrate subject interest to university admissions tutors.
- **Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS):** This is about developing and applying skills to real-world contexts by engaging in creativity (such as poetry or art), activity (such as regular sports) and service (such as volunteering or running an awareness-raising project).

Entry requirements:

- This is a **compulsory course** for all students studying the IBDP programme, so the entry requirements are the same as the overall CP: six GCSE grades at 6+ including English and mathematics.

Careers:

The IBDP Core develops a range of essential skills for successful careers, including:

- Critical thinking.
- Communication.
- Problem solving.
- Collaboration.
- Time management.
- Ethical decision-making.
- Cultural awareness.

It also helps to demonstrate your subject interest and your wider skills to university admissions tutors.

Assessment:

Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

- Internal assessment (33%)
- External assessment (67%)
Students complete a 1500-word essay on one of six prescribed titles.

Community Engagement

- Formation of a student learning journal which both supports and documents their learning journey and personal development, with 3 supervised review points.

Reflective Project

- External assessment of final project and written reflection.

Language and Cultural Studies

- Formation of a student learning journal which both supports and documents their learning journey and personal development, with 3 supervised review points.