

## A Glossary of IB Terms and Abbreviations

Every organization has its jargon; IB is no exception. Below are some of the terms you may hear your children or your children's teachers using. The glossary below refers to some of the general terms used by IB. For subject-specific terms and explanations, please see the subject overviews.

**Anticipated:** students in the junior year of IB (11<sup>th</sup> grade) are sometimes referred to as "anticipated" students, in that they are anticipating completion of the IB DP in the following year. Likewise, any IB exams taken at the end of a student's junior year are called "anticipated exams" but still count toward completion of the Diploma. Students can take no more than 2 anticipated exams and only in SL courses.

**AP:** Advanced Placement, an examination system run by the College Board which offers credit by examination for college courses. Some IB classes are co-seated with AP classes.

**Candidate:** this is the term used by IB to refer to students who are in the IB diploma program; they are candidates for the IB diploma until their exam results are finalized, usually well after graduation

**Candidate number:** every IB candidate is assigned a candidate number, which will change between a student's junior and seniors year (so don't get too comfortable with it). The first 4 digits are the AHS school code, 2340 followed by a 2-digit number that usually goes alpha-numeric.

**CAS:** Creativity, Action, Service. This is the major "out of class" requirement for the IB students. Essentially, students in grades 11 and 12 are required to complete at least 150 hours of documented activities in the areas of creativity, action and service and meet 8 learning outcomes.

**Certificate:** this is the old term used for students taking only individual IB courses; the new term is "Diploma Program Course Students." Students who do not achieve the full Diploma will still receive scores and earn a certificate verifying their scores in each subject.

**Coordinator:** the title of the person who oversees the day to day operations of the IB program, arranges schedules and examinations, counsels students and communicates the IB philosophy to students, faculty and parents.

**Diploma:** Students taking six IB subjects are pursuing the IB Diploma, sometimes called the "full Diploma." The subjects include the core of math, science, English and history, plus a World language and an IB elective, and completion of TOK, EE and CAS (see below)

**DP:** Diploma Program, or the final 2 years of high school for an IB student pursuing the full diploma.

**EE:** Extended Essay. During the two years of the IB Diploma Program, students write an original essay including research of up to 4000 words on a topic of their choice with supervision from an IB teacher.

**Groups (1 – 6):** What we often call subjects, IB refers to as groups. Group 1: language and literature. Group 2: second language (French, Chinese, Italian, Spanish). Group 3: individuals and societies (social studies). Group 4: experimental sciences. Group 5: mathematics. Group 6: arts and electives.

**Group 4 project:** This is an inter-disciplinary science project designed and carried out by the students with the supervision of their science teachers.

**HL/SL: Higher Level/Standard Level.** Diploma students take a combination of 6 IB courses: 3 Higher Level (HL) and 3 Standard Level (SL) courses. Higher Level courses are always two-year courses culminating in May of the senior year, and entail at least 240 hours of instructional time. Standard level courses may take one or two years, with exams in either in the junior and/or seniors year, and entail at least 150 hours of instructional time.

**IA:** Internal Assessment. These refer to various assignments in each subject that are conducted during the course, assigned and evaluated by the teacher, and then a sample set is sent off to a moderator to validate or modify the marks assigned by the classroom teachers. In history, for example, the IA is a Historical Investigation on a topic of the student's choice; in science, the IA is the documented record of the student's labwork.

**IB:** International Baccalaureate, a shorthand for the International Baccalaureate Organization which authorized schools around the world to offer the IB Diploma Program, as well as the IB Middle Years Program, the IB Primary Years Program, and the IB Career-Related Certificate.

**IB Diploma:** Specifically, this refers to the piece of paper students earn when they achieve certain scores in six IB subjects. IB students in grade 11 and 12 taking all 6 subjects are commonly referred to as "diploma students". Students who achieve satisfactory scores on IB exams and complete CAS/TOK/EE will earn the IB Diploma.

**Moderation:** The process by which IB validates or moderates the marks on internal assessment that are graded by the classroom teacher. We send the moderators samples of graded work on each IA and those marks are then moderated up or down to arrive at final marks/grades for that component.

**Papers (1, 2, 3):** This is essentially an IB term for examination papers. Each subject takes at least 2 and sometimes 3 papers as part of the IB exam for that subject. Almost all of these are essay questions (sciences have one multiple choice paper out of 3 papers total).

**Predicted grades:** IB teachers submit predicted scores for each student in their classes. The predicted score is submitted to IB, but is NOT factored into a student's actual, final score. Predicted scores are used to gauge the classroom teacher's standards against those of IB examiners and moderators. Teachers arrive at the predicted scores (1-7) based on the students' overall classroom performance, quality of their IAs and professional judgment of the student's ability in the subject.

**Scores:** Sometimes referred to as **grades** or **marks**, the scores for each IB subject range from 1 – 7, with 7 being the highest. The IB scores for a subject is achieved by a combination of the student's

performance on both internal assessment (IA) and external assessment, usually called exams, which students take in May at the end of the course. A passing score in a subject is a 4, which represents “satisfactory” work. Students generally need to achieve a minimum overall score of 24 (6 subjects x 4) to earn the IB Diploma although there are several exceptions and conditions. For example if a student earns a grade of E on the TOK or EE, he or she cannot earn the diploma regardless of points earned on the exam.

**TOK:** Theory of Knowledge. Students complete a TOK presentation and TOK essay as part of the course.