



## What does the IB Courses pathway offer?

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Courses (IB Courses), combined with the High School Diploma, is a **flexible pathway** that offers our students the opportunity to explore multiple disciplines at a level of their choosing. This programme is designed for students who enjoy **agency and variety** in their learning.

IB Courses allows students to tailor their own subject selection to meet their passions and interests. The programme is designed to ensure that each student is given autonomy over their learning, whilst paving a clear pathway for progression to university.



## What are the academic components of the IB Courses pathway?

Students can study up to **six subjects** concurrently in the IB Courses. Our current selection of subjects at DP level are divided into six groups and are outlined below\*:

Group 1 Language and Literature	Group 2 Language Acquisition	Group 3 Individuals and Societies	Group 4 The Sciences	Group 5 Mathematics	Group 6 The Arts
Language and Literature	French B	Business Management	Biology	Maths Analysis and Approaches	Visual Arts
Literature	Spanish B	Economics	Chemistry	Maths Applications and Interpretation	Theatre
Literature and Performance (SL Only)		Geography	Computer Science		
		History	Design Technology		
		Psychology	Physics		
			Sports Science		

\*Selection is subject to change - final course selection will be dependent on demand and resourcing.

Students are able to choose both the subjects and the level at which they wish to study. If students wish to specialise in a particular discipline, they are able to study up to three subjects at Higher Level (HL), although this is not a requirement. Of course students are also able to study each of the subjects at Standard Level (SL). In order to fulfil the requirements of the ACS Egham High School Diploma, we recommend that students take one Language and Literature class (Group 1), one Individuals and Societies class (Group 3), one Science class (Group 4) and one Mathematics class (Group 5). This can be at Standard or Higher level. Students can also choose to not sit the externally examined components of the course. The subject will then be recognised on the High School Diploma transcript, but will not receive an IB certificate.

## Where will the IB Courses take you?

ACS Egham students leave us 'Ready' for the next step in their journey. The IBDP equips students with the fundamental academic skills needed for university study, further education and their chosen profession. The programme is designed to support the development of values and life skills which are needed to live a fulfilled and purposeful life.

- IB Courses are widely recognised by colleges in the **United States**. At US High Schools, it is extremely common for students to add academic rigour to their High School Diploma by choosing IB Courses. In fact, in the United States, IB Courses are more common than the IB Diploma for university admission.
- In the **United Kingdom**, IB Courses are recognised by a large and growing body of universities. The British UCAS application portal publishes a qualifications conversion system called UCAS Tariff Points, and IB Courses compare favourably with British equivalent qualifications. Students need to ensure their preferred university will accept UCAS Tariff Points before choosing the IB Courses pathway.
- There are many **European** private or applied science/technical universities which will accept IB Courses when presented with the ACS Egham High School Diploma.
- If there are other countries you are considering for university, our University Counsellors will be happy to provide one-to-one guidance.

## What are the core elements?

There are three elements of the core, Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) and the Extended Essay (EE). TOK and EE are **optional** to our IB Courses students.

- **Theory of Knowledge** is a course that is about critical thinking and inquiry into the process of knowing, rather than about learning a specific body of knowledge. The TOK course examines the nature of knowledge and how we know what we claim to know. TOK emphasises connections between areas of shared knowledge and links them to personal knowledge in such a way that an individual becomes more aware of their own perspectives and how they might differ from others.
- **Creativity, Activity, Service** contributes to the International Baccalouratte's mission to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. The three strands of CAS are **Creativity** (exploring and extending ideas leading to an original or interpretive product or performance), **Activity** (physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle) and **Service** (collaborative and reciprocal engagement with the community in response to an authentic need).
- **Extended Essay** offers the opportunity for students to investigate a topic of special interest, in the form of a 4,000-word piece of independent research. The EE acquaints students with the independent research and writing skills expected at university. This leads to a major piece of formally presented, structured writing, in which ideas and findings are communicated in a reasoned and coherent manner, appropriate to the subject or subjects chosen. It is intended to promote high-level research and writing skills, intellectual discovery and creativity.

\*In order to fulfil the requirements of the High School Diploma, ACS Egham advises students to complete TOK in Grade 11 and CAS in both Grades 11 and 12. When taking an IB Courses pathway, the EE is no longer required.

## Subject selection

Combining all components of the IB Courses programme, the table below shows an example of subject selection by a DP student.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Core
IBDP English Literature (SL)	IBDP French B (SL)	ACS Egham Psychology (G11 only)	IBDP Computer Sciences (HL)	ACS Egham Mathematics Analytics & Approaches (G11 only)	ACS Egham Economics (HL)	CAS & TOK (G11 only)

If you are interested in joining us on this exciting journey, or if you would just like to hear more about the pathway, we would love to hear from you. For our existing family members, please contact the DP coordinator via our High School Office. If you are a prospective family, please contact our admissions team on [egadmissions@acs-schools.com](mailto:egadmissions@acs-schools.com).