

AMMAN ACADEMY

THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME



PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK

2015/2016



Our Mission Statement

Amman Academy is an IB World School and a center of academic excellence and creativity. Our core strategic objective is to prepare our graduates to join the finest universities in the world.

AA aims to prepare principled future leaders who are tolerant, caring and responsible. Our graduates are disciplined life-long learners capable of making a positive impact on the world around them.

Amman Academy students are proud of their national heritage and its contributions whilst appreciating and respecting other cultures.

This handbook was developed to address parents' and students' frequently asked questions about the IB Diploma Programme at Amman Academy.

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The IB Diploma Programme at Amman Academy

Amman Academy has been an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School since 2006, when we were authorized to begin teaching the IB Diploma Programme. Since then, seven graduating classes have successfully completed the IB DP at AA.

So, what is the IB?

Founded in 1968, the International Baccalaureate Organization is a non-profit educational foundation that centers on developing programmes that help students thrive in the classroom and connect their knowledge to the world around them.



As stated in the IB mission statement:

“The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end, the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.”

The organization offers four high quality and challenging programmes at schools worldwide:

- Primary Years Programme: Pre-KG - Grade 4 at AA (Candidate Status)
- Middle Years Programme: Grades 5-10 at AA
- Diploma Programme: Grades 11-12 at AA
- Career-related Certificate: Not offered at AA

The IB currently works with over 4,000 schools in 146 countries to develop and offer the four programmes to over a million students. Amman Academy is one of ten schools in Jordan to currently offer the IB DP.

What distinguishes the IB programmes?

- Programmes are globally recognized around the world, allowing mobility for students.
- Curriculum focuses on international perspectives of learning and teaching, while insisting that students fully explore their home culture and language.
- IB World Schools, such as AA, must undergo an extensive authorization and re-evaluation process in order to offer one or more of the programmes, which includes a study of the school's resources and commitment to the IB mission and philosophy.
- Teachers participate in a variety of professional development opportunities to continuously update their knowledge and share their expertise.
- Students graduating from the Diploma Programme find that it enhances their opportunities at university. The IB works closely with universities around the world to continue to gain recognition for IB programmes.
- The core components of IB programmes encourage students to reflect at a personal and academic level.

What does the Diploma Programme entail?

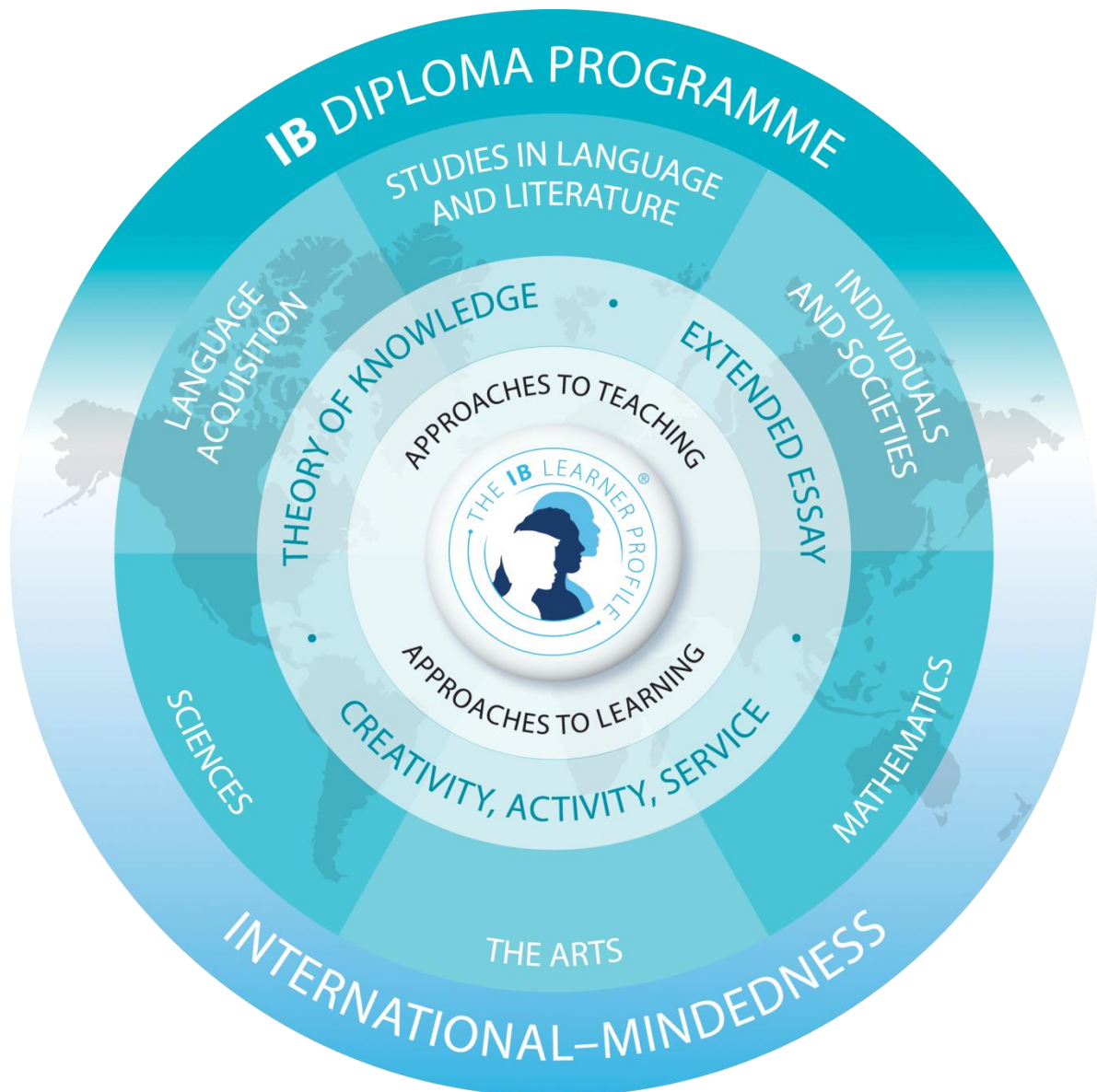
The IB DP is an academically challenging programme for students in grades 11 and 12. It consists of a rigorous pre-university curriculum wherein students study six subjects over the course of two years, complete internal assessments that are moderated abroad, and sit for external examinations in each subject at the end of the programme.



Subjects are offered at two levels: Higher Level or Standard Level. Grades are given on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest) based on subject-specific assessment criteria and grade boundaries.

Each Diploma Programme (DP) or Diploma Courses (DC) student can receive a maximum of 42 points in total for the six subjects. Diploma Programme students have an opportunity to gain three additional points depending on their Extended Essay (EE) and Theory of Knowledge (TOK) grades, thereby allowing for a maximum of 45 points (42 points for six subjects + 3 extra points for TOK and EE).

The programme model divides the IB subjects across six academic areas (groups) surrounding the core, Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Extended Essay (EE) and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS), as well as the approaches used in the classroom to deliver the programme.



What subjects are offered at AA?

The subjects we offer are carefully chosen to enable serious students to obtain the highest marks and/or Tawjihi equivalency that will allow them to join stellar universities in Jordan and abroad.

We offer the following IB DP subjects per subject area (group):

Subject Areas	Subjects Offered
Studies in Language and Literature	Arabic A Literature SL English A Literature SL English A Language and Literature SL
Language Acquisition	Arabic B HL/SL English B HL/SL Arabic ab initio SL
Individuals and Societies	Business Management HL/SL Economics HL/SL Psychology SL
Sciences	Biology HL/SL Chemistry HL/SL Physics HL/SL Design Technology HL/SL
Mathematics	Math HL Math SL Math Studies SL
The Arts	Visual Arts: Option A HL/SL

What is the difference between Higher Level and Standard Level?

The main difference between subjects taken at higher or standard level is the number of hours allocated to teaching. Standard level courses are taught over 150 hours, while 240 hours are reserved for higher level courses over the two years of the programme. Since studying a subject at higher level requires more teaching time, students cover more topics and receive an extension to concepts taught at standard level.

How is the DP organized at AA?

At AA, there are two streams within grades 11 and 12: the IB Diploma Programme and the IB Diploma Courses. Students are streamed according to academic strengths, teacher recommendations, and students' plans for university majors.

Diploma Programme and Diploma Courses students share the same subject classes, according to higher or standard level. Both qualify for either Scientific or Literary equivalency from the Ministry of Education. Also, both DP and DC students attend the same CAS activities and expeditions organized by the school's CAS Coordinator.

It is important to note that Diploma Programme and Diploma Courses students have an excellent chance of receiving high Tawjihi equivalency and entering top universities locally and abroad. Both, the DP and DC are highly respected by universities worldwide, contingent upon a student's academic standing in grades 10, 11 and 12.

What is the difference between Diploma Programme and Diploma Courses?

Diploma Programme students complete the Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge course and required Creativity, Activity, Service activities. Moreover, the ratio of higher to standard level subjects is usually 3:3 with a total of six subjects.

Courses students' ratio of higher to standard level subjects is typically 2:4 with a total of six subjects. To receive Tawjihi equivalency, students are required by the MOE to complete 120 hours of community service. However, Courses students **are not required** to complete the Extended Essay or TOK course.

What is required of an IB Diploma Courses student?

Diploma Courses students simply register for the courses which they intend to study throughout the duration of the DP.

At AA, Courses students are required to complete six courses of study, a minimum of two courses at higher level and a maximum of four courses at standard level. Depending on a student's academic record and/or university requirements, arrangements can be made regarding the number of higher and standard level courses.

Moreover, Courses students do not have to write the Extended Essay or complete the Theory of Knowledge course. By being released from the EE and TOK requirements, Diploma Courses students are provided with ample time to focus on their studies and can obtain better IB results and a higher Tawjihi equivalency from the Ministry of Education.

However, they are required by the Ministry of Education (MOE) in Jordan to complete 120 hours of service to receive their Tawjihi equivalency. Therefore, Courses students participate in planned CAS activities.

What is required of an IB Diploma Programme student?

Diploma Programme students complete six courses in DP. Students are allowed to take a minimum of three courses and a maximum of four courses at higher level and a minimum of two courses and a maximum of three courses at standard level.

Sample	Higher Level	Standard Level	Total Number of Classes
DP Student A	Max. of 4	Min. of 2	6 total
DP Student B	Min. of 3	Max. of 3	6 total

Along with the six subjects, students must successfully complete the Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge course, and complete all CAS requirements in order to receive their IB Diploma.

What is CAS and why is it important?

At AA, all IB students participate in CAS. For DP and DC students, the Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) counterbalances the academic pressures of the programme by allowing students to participate in activities that meet their interests and serve their community. CAS encourages students to be involved in artistic pursuits (Creativity), sports (Activity), and community service (Service). Moreover, CAS enriches students' awareness and appreciation for life outside the academic arena.



In addition to the benefits of CAS within the DP, universities today are looking for well-rounded, responsible individuals who can interact positively and contribute to the community around them and not just students with solid academic backgrounds.

How do students select their subjects?

All DP students at AA are required to take six courses, regardless of whether they are Diploma Programme or Diploma Courses students.

Here is some clarification on course selection:

- Students are to select one subject from each group, and may forego taking a subject in The Arts by taking an additional subject from Individuals & Societies or Sciences subject
- All students are required to take two languages: Diploma students are required to take at least one language from the Studies in Language and Literature subject area; Courses students take two languages from the Language Acquisition subject area

Please see the chart on the next page for options.

Subject Selection for Ministry of Education IB-Tawjihi Equivalency

	Science Stream:*	Art Stream:*
Diploma Courses Students	<p>Option A: 2 subjects from Language Acquisition 1 subject from Individuals and Societies 2 subjects from Sciences 1 subject from Mathematics (cannot take Math Studies) 0 subjects from The Arts</p>	<p>Option A: 2 subjects from Language Acquisition 2 subjects from Individuals and Societies 1 subject from Sciences 1 subject from Mathematics 0 subjects from The Arts</p> <p>Option B: 2 subjects from Language Acquisition 1 subject from Individuals and Societies 1 subject from Sciences 1 subject from Mathematics 1 subject from The Arts</p> <p>Option C: (allocation of HL/SL differs from Scientific Stream) 2 subjects from Language Acquisition 1 subject from Individuals and Societies 2 subjects from Sciences 1 subject from Mathematics 0 subjects from The Arts</p>
Diploma Programme Students	<p>Option A: 1 subject from Studies in Language and Literature 1 subject from Language Acquisition 1 subject from Individuals and Societies 2 subjects from Sciences 1 subject from Mathematics (cannot take Math Studies) 0 subjects from The Arts</p> <p>*Allocations of HL/SL will define whether a student is a Scientific or Arts Stream student according to Ministry of Education requirements. Please refer to the contents page for questions that clarify this point.</p>	<p>Option A: 1 subject from Studies in Language and Literature 1 subject from Language Acquisition 1 subject from Individuals and Societies 1 subject from Sciences 1 subject from Mathematics 1 subject from The Arts</p> <p>Option B: 1 subject from Studies in Language and Literature 1 subject from Language Acquisition 2 subjects from Individuals and Societies 1 subject from Sciences 1 subject from Mathematics 0 subjects from The Arts</p> <p>Option C: (allocation of HL/SL differs from Scientific Stream) 1 subject from Studies in Language and Literature 1 subject from Language Acquisition 1 subject from Individuals and Societies 2 subjects from Sciences 1 subject from Mathematics 0 subjects from The Arts</p>

What is the Extended Essay?

The Extended Essay is a 4,000 word independent research paper covering a topic of interest within a subject area. Students are assigned a supervisor to refer to for guidance; however, the Extended Essay is the sole work of the DP student. Moreover, the essay is marked by an IB examiner. Please refer to the Diploma Points Matrix below for point allocation.

What does the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course cover?

The TOK course gives students the opportunity to evaluate their knowledge-base and question the origins and reliability of knowledge as it applies to different academic disciplines. Students complete an oral presentation and a 1,600 word essay, both of which are marked by IB examiners. Please refer to the Diploma Points Matrix below for point allocation.

ToK/EE	A	B	C	D	E
A	3	3	2	2	Failing condition
B	3	2	2	1	
C	2	2	1	0	
D	2	1	0	0	
E	Failing condition				

What are the conditions for the award of the Diploma by the IB?

The IB stipulates specific conditions for the award of the IB Diploma. Please read below for details:

Article 13 from the General Regulations: Diploma Programme: Award of the IB Diploma

13.1 All assessment components for each of the six subjects and the additional Diploma requirements must be completed in order to qualify for the award of the IB Diploma, except under the conditions stipulated in articles 18 and 19 of these regulations.

13.2 The IB Diploma will be awarded to a candidate provided all the following requirements have been met:

- a. CAS requirements have been met
- b. The candidate's total points are 24 or more
- c. There is no "N" awarded for theory of knowledge, the extended essay or for a contributing subject
- d. There is no grade E awarded for theory of knowledge and/or the extended essay
- e. There is no grade 1 awarded in a subject/level
- f. There are no more than two grade 2s awarded (HL or SL)
- g. There are no more than three grade 3s or below awarded (HL or SL)
- h. The candidate has gained 12 points or more on HL subjects (for candidates who register for four HL subjects, the three highest grades count)
- i. The candidate has gained 9 points or more on SL subjects (candidates who register for two SL subjects must gain at least 5 points at SL)

13.3 A maximum of three examination sessions is allowed in which to satisfy the requirements for the award of the IB Diploma. The examination sessions need not be consecutive.

What are the conditions for the award of Tawjihi equivalency by the Ministry of Education?

In order for students to receive Tawjihi equivalency from the Ministry of Education in Jordan, students must fulfill the following requirements:

- Students must receive a minimum of 21 out of 42 marks on their external examinations
- Students must receive a minimum of 3 out of 7 points in any **higher** level subject in the external examinations
- Students must receive a minimum of 2 out of 7 points in any **standard** level subject in the external examinations
- Students must take and pass at least **two** subjects at higher level
- Students must take and pass their Math and Science subjects
- Students must take and pass their Arabic Language course
- Students must receive at least 50% in all subjects taken at school

A document detailing these requirements will be sent home with DP students.

How is Tawjihi equivalency determined for DP and DC students?

IB students are granted Tawjihi equivalency based on external examination results. The Ministry of Education does not differentiate between a Diploma Programme or Diploma Courses student. All subjects carry the same weight, regardless if taken at higher or standard level.

Therefore, Diploma Programme and Diploma Courses students have an equal opportunity to enter universities and majors in Jordan. Moreover, both DP and DC students stand an equal chance of obtaining a high Tawjihi equivalency.

The following equivalency is approved by a committee representing the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Education and the Jordanian universities.

IB Grades	Tawjihi Equivalency
7	98
6	90
5	80
4	70
3	60
2	50
1	40

EE and TOK Points

Diploma Programme students who do well on their TOK essay and Extended Essay are awarded up to three extra points by the International Baccalaureate (detailed in the EE/TOK matrix on page 9).

In the event that a student receives extra points, the following percentage points will be added to his/her Tawjihi equivalency.

EE/TOK Extra Points	Additional Points on Tawjihi Equivalency
1	0.3
2	0.6
3	1.0

How is Science/Arts equivalency determined?

The IB does not provide a course list to suit a particular stream. However, in Jordan, the combination of subjects a student selects determines whether a student will obtain Scientific or Arts equivalency from the Ministry of Education. All students whether Diploma Programme or Diploma Courses can receive a Scientific or Arts equivalency from the MOE.

Equivalency	Ministry of Education Requirements
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students must take two Sciences and one Math• A minimum of two out of these three subjects must be taken at higher level
Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students must take one Science and one Math• Only one can be at higher level• Students taking Math Studies SL automatically qualify

How are students prepared for Grades 11 and 12?

The IB Middle Years Programme is considered to be the best preparation for its successor, the Diploma Programme.

Moreover, students should begin to contemplate where they plan to study university and which major they are most interested in studying, as these factors will tie directly into their course selection in the IB DP. Students can refer to the school's University Counseling Department or the IB Diploma Programme Coordinator for guidance.

What are the academic requirements for entering the DP?

Students must be in good academic standing to enter the IB DP. Moreover, there are specific requirements for entry into the programme as Diploma Programme or Diploma Courses students. Amman Academy will look at the students' profile as a whole, by studying students' marks and referring to teachers for recommendations, in order to determine students' candidacy.

Subject	Average
Arabic/English A SL	84
Biology HL	84
Chemistry HL	84
Design Technology HL	84
Physics HL	84
Math HL	84
Math SL*	74

***Students with an average of less than 74 will take Math Studies SL**

Students should aim to achieve or exceed the grade boundaries set in order to enter specific DP subjects at higher level.

How can my son/daughter best perform?

Positive efforts yield positive results in the IB DP. Therefore, serious-minded students perform best in the IB programme whether Diploma Programme or Diploma Courses students.

In general, all students are expected to study between 3-5 hours per day in order to review concepts taught in class and complete assignments. Moreover, students should prioritize their studies and meet deadlines set by teachers, supervisors, and the IB Diploma Programme Coordinator so as not to fall behind.

Students who exercise effective time-management and organization skills throughout the programme are less stressed and happier students. In return, they receive the full benefits of the programme and receive the best preparation for university. In the event that students need assistance or advice, they are free to meet with the IB Diploma Programme Coordinator at any time.

How can my son/daughter select a university that recognizes the IB?

IB Diploma Programme and Diploma Courses students are widely accepted at universities in Jordan and abroad. In fact, according to a recent study, IB Diploma students are more likely to be enrolled at one of the UK's top 20 higher education institutions than entrants holding other qualifications.

We are committed to assisting all of our students in finding the right university for them, whether locally or abroad. The University Counseling Department is designed to aid students and families in what can be a complicated and stressful process of university search, admissions and enrollment. University representatives from around the world are regularly invited to come in and have an open discussion with our students, while a wealth of resources is available for them in the University Counseling Department.



Can students gain university credit hours for DP courses?

Depending on the university a student is applying to and his/her school and external examination marks, DP and DC students can gain up to one year's worth of university credit hours.

In some cases, universities, mainly in the UK, will forego a student's foundation year if they complete the Diploma Programme and receive good marks. Please check with your university of interest or refer to our University Counselor for more information.

How does the IB DP compare to other academic programmes?

At the end of the day, when parents are spending a bundle on their son/daughter's education, they want to make sure that their child is able to attend the finest universities and are prepared to tackle the responsibilities of university life.

According to a recent study comparing the IB DP with the British A-Levels and equivalent qualifications, DP students are more likely to be enrolled in one of the UK's top 20 universities, and DP graduates are almost twice as likely to study medicine and dentistry. Moreover, a fifth of DP entrants at UK universities achieved first class honors when compared to their A-Level counterparts.



The study further points out that once students graduate from university, those who completed the IB DP are more likely to be employed in graduate level jobs and in higher paid occupations than A-Level and equivalent students. Therefore, parents can rest assured that the DP prepares students for success at university and beyond. Feel free to access this independent study conducted by the Higher Education Statistics Agency in the UK at: www.ibo.org/research/programmevalidation/index.cfm

How have Amman Academy's IB graduates performed compared to other IB students worldwide?

The graduates of the IB Diploma Programme at AA have received excellent results for the past seven years, ranking our school as a top school in Amman for IB DP averages, pass rates, and Tawijjhi equivalency.



Compared to thousands of other IB students who sat for the same examinations worldwide, our students highly exceeded the world averages for DP points awarded as well as the DP pass rate.

Average score per May examination session							
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
AA	35	34	34	37	38	40	39
Worldwide	29.6	29.5	29.7	29.7	29.9	30.0	30.1
Pass rate per May examination session							
AA	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Worldwide	79.0%	78.1%	78.1%	77.9%	78.5%	79.0%	79.3%

If you still have questions after reading this handbook, please contact our IB Diploma Programme Coordinator, Ms. Maram Sweis, at masweis@aa.edu.jo.