

What are diploma “requirements” and “failing conditions”?

In order to achieve the IB Diploma a candidate must fulfil certain requirements; at its most basic a candidate must achieve at least 24 points from their combined grades in six subjects, together with their grades for theory of knowledge and the extended essay, and also complete the Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) element. However, to ensure a diploma reflects sufficient breadth in achievement across subjects and the core there are particular requirements stated in articles of the *General regulations: Diploma Programme*. These are the “requirements” and are phrased positively. The “failing conditions” are an interpretation of these requirements intended to indicate why a candidate has failed to achieve the diploma. The “failing conditions” are listed in the *Handbook of procedures for the Diploma Programme* and are shown for a candidate’s results on the IB information system (IBIS), if of course a (diploma or retake) candidate has not achieved the diploma.

Here is an example of one requirement for the diploma and its equivalent failing condition.

Requirement

Article 13.3g Overall, there are no more than three grades 3 or below.

Equivalent failing condition

Failing code 7 Grade 3 or below has been awarded four or more times.

From the May 2015 examination session

From the May 2015 session the following failing conditions and associated codes will replace those in current use.

1. CAS requirements have not been met.
2. Candidate’s total points are fewer than 24.
3. An N has been given for theory of knowledge, extended essay or for a contributing subject.
4. A grade E has been awarded for one or both of theory of knowledge and the extended essay.
5. There is a grade 1 awarded in a subject/level.
6. Grade 2 has been awarded three or more times (HL or SL).
7. Grade 3 or below has been awarded four or more times (HL or SL).
8. Candidate has gained fewer than 12 points on HL subjects (for candidates who register for four HL subjects, the three highest grades count).
9. Candidate has gained fewer than 9 points on SL subjects (candidates who register for two SL subjects must gain at least 5 points at SL).

Changes to the theory of knowledge/extended essay matrix

In addition to simplifying the list of requirements and failing conditions, the theory of knowledge/extended essay matrix will change from May 2015.

The following new matrix will be adopted from the May 2015 session.

| 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 | | | | |