



A Glossary of IB Terms and Abbreviations

Adapted from Ironwood High School

Every organization has its jargon; IB is no exception. Below are some of the terms you may hear your student or your student's teachers using. The glossary below refers to some of the general terms used by IB.

Anticipated: students in the junior year of IB (11th grade) are 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: Students who are in the IB diploma program; they are candidates for the IB diploma until their exam results are finalized in July, after their senior year.

Candidate number: every IB candidate is assigned a candidate number for the session in which they test (May 2023). The candidate number begins with the LHS IB school code: 000916 followed by a - and then another number. (Ex: 000916-0025- *the last number usually refers to the order in which they were registered*)

CAS: Creativity, Activity, Service. Over the course of their Jr. and Sr. year, students participate in and record their participation in activities that push them Creatively, Physically and provide Service to the community. Students are required to complete a One Month Project at some point over the two years. Students submit a CAS Portfolio at the end of their Jr. and Sr. year.

Certificate: This refers to the Certificate a student receives for an IB course score not associated with the Diploma. If a student takes an extra IB course, above and beyond the 6 courses required for the Diploma, they earn a Certificate for that course. Also, students who do not earn the full Diploma earn certificates in the subjects in which they tested. These are treated much like AP scores and can earn the student college credit.

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

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 foreign language, an IB elective, and completion of TOK, EE and CAS.

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 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 who mentors them in the research for the essay. At LHS, students begin work on their EE in Jan. of their Jr. year and it is due in Oct. of their Sr. year.

External Assessment: Assessments that are sent directly to IB to score, most prominently the Papers (exams) students take in May. In English the HL essay is done in class with teacher help, but scored externally by IB examiners.

Groups (1 – 6): What we often call subjects, IB refers to as groups.

Group 1: Language and Literature.

Group 2: Second Language (French, Spanish, Chinese).

Group 3: Individuals and Societies (social studies).

Group 4: Experimental Sciences.

Group 5: Mathematics.

Group 6: Arts and Electives.

Group 4 Project An interdisciplinary science group project designed and presented by the students with the supervision of their science teacher.

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 270 hours of instructional time. SL courses in World Language are 2 years, but all other SL courses are 1 year (although they may have a prerequisite course).

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 research project on a topic of the student's choice; in science, the IA is the documented record of the student's lab work.

IB: International Baccalaureate, a shorthand for the International Baccalaureate Organization

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 assessments 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 the school cohort earns for that particular 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 in science).

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. Generally, teachers do not share their predicted scores with students.

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 are 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. Students must earn a total of 24 points (total of their subject scores) to earn the Diploma. They must earn at least 12 points in their HL course and at least 9 points in their SL courses. Other conditions which must be met:

- There is no score of 1 in any subject
- Student may not earn more than 2 2s or 3 3s
- Student must pass CAS, EE and TOK
- Student has no record of academic misconduct

TOK: Theory of Knowledge. This is the "capstone" course of the IB program. While each class touches on aspects of TOK, the actual course is taken in the senior year. Students complete a TOK presentation and TOK essay as part of the course.