



Each IB World School operates within the boundaries set by the IB, including the ability to co-seat Standard Level (SL) and Higher Level (HL) exam students. SL and HL designation refers to the level of content tested at the end of the course. IB Diploma Candidates must sit for six exams and/or complete portfolio pieces for submission at the end of the course of study. A balance of at least 3 HL subjects and 3 SL subjects is needed to earn a minimum point total of 24 (*exams are scored on a 1-7 scale*), with at least 9 points earned in SL exams and at least 12 points earned from HL exams. (*Students can sit for four HL exams with permission from the IB Coordinator.*)

At Portledge we value a growth mindset and encourage students to push themselves to learn aspects of a discipline they may not otherwise have exposure to. IB courses at Portledge are populated by our strongest students, and they will experience both SL *and* HL topics in the first year of all two-year courses.\* This allows students to gain insight and to make an informed decision regarding exam-level choice.

In certain disciplines such as math, science, world languages, and the arts students will “declare” their SL or HL exam choices at the end of the first semester in the junior year. These choices are declared in English, and history at the start of senior year. This practice is to best prepare students for the internal assessments associated with each class, as they may differ between Standard and Higher Levels. The IB Coordinator will conference with all teachers and students to confirm the appropriate exam placement.

It is also important to emphasize that the IB Program builds on the rigorous curriculum already established at Portledge., As a result, some HL topics will be covered and assessed, even after students declare their exam track, as we aim to prepare all of our students for college-level work.

**The following is the most updated list of courses offered as SL/HL:**

IB Biology SL/HL - 2-Year Course  
IB Physics SL/HL - 2-Year Course  
IB History SL/HL - 2-Year Course  
IB English Literature SL/HL - 2-Year Course  
IB World Language B SL/HL, offered in Spanish, French, and Mandarin - 2-Year Course  
IB Mathematics Applications and Interpretations SL/HL - 2-Year Course  
IB Mathematics Analysis and Approaches SL/HL - 2-Year Course  
IB Visual Arts SL/HL - 2-Year Course

IB Theatre SL/HL - 2-Year Course  
IB Music SL/HL - 2-Year Course

**The following are offered only at the Standard Level**

IB Film - 1-Year Course  
IB Economics - 1-Year Course  
IB Digital Society - 1-Year Course  
\*IB Environmental Systems Studies - 2-Year Course  
\*IB French ab initio - 2-Year Course