



新东方国际双语学校
NEW ORIENTAL ACADEMY

DIPLOMA PROGRAMME HANDBOOK

2020-2021

The New Oriental Academy Vision:

To become an excellent, impactful, international, bilingual school that provides a Chinese-rooted and internationally-minded education for students.

The New Oriental Academy Mission:

New Oriental Academy will nurture students to have a global vision and the courage to assume social responsibilities while encouraging them to demonstrate distinguishing character and become active, life-long learners.

International-Mindedness at New Oriental Academy:

New Oriental Academy promotes a more peaceful world through international-mindedness, a belief that cultural respect celebrating diversity is essential in the creation of a more interconnected and caring future.

The International Baccalaureate Mission:

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.



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Welcome!

If you are reading this text, you are considering or are perhaps already destined for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. This programme, often referred to as the “IBDP” or simply “DP”, is a multi-faceted curriculum that challenges students around the globe with a highly regarded 11th and 12th grade experience. At New Oriental Academy, local Chinese teachers work side-by-side with experienced international educators to bring this programme to our little corner of Beijing.

Choosing to partake in the full DP experience is a big decision. This curriculum is not simply a single test, nor is it a single class. Instead, participants will have an entire set of classes and extra-curricular challenges based upon the IB’s principles of learning. In order to fully grasp the nature of the DP at NOA, this handbook has been made for all stakeholders. Please read on to learn more. For further questions regarding the DP experience at NOA, you may also consult with the school’s DP Coordinator.

Very best,

Colin McDonald
DP Coordinator, New Oriental Academy

What is the Diploma Programme?

The Diploma Programme is an intensive, full-spectrum curriculum designed by world class educators across the globe. This programme is designed to challenge grade 11 and 12 students with a selection of classes that build international-mindedness in the hopes of creating future citizens that may make the world a better and more peaceful place.

In practice, this curriculum takes the form of 6 classes built around 3 core aspects, utilizing various approaches to teaching and approaches to learning all rooted in the student's development of IB learner profile:



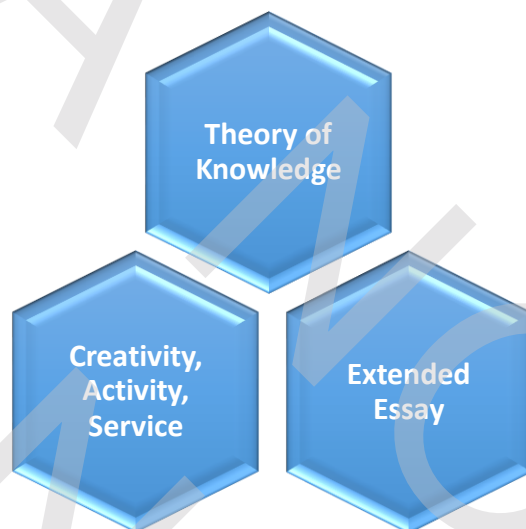
The IB Learner Profile:

There are 10 core traits that the students at NOA will develop throughout their educational experience. It is our firm belief that the development of these qualities is essential to creating citizens of the future that may change the world to become a better place.

Balanced	We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live
Caring	We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.
Communicators	We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.
Inquirers	We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.
Knowledgeable	We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.
Open-minded	We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience
Principled	We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.
Reflective	We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.
Risk-takers	We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.
Thinkers	We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

The IB Core:

The core of the IB Diploma Programme is built upon three essential experiences: Theory of Knowledge (ToK); Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS); and the Extended Essay (EE).



All students at New Oriental Academy that are pursuing the full IB Diploma are required to take all three elements of the core. Failure to perform in any of these aspects will prevent a student from achieving the IB Diploma.

Regardless of whether a student is a full IBDP candidate, all grade 11 and 12 students at NOA are required to participate in CAS as a part of their high school experience.

The following page provides a very brief overview of each of these aspects. Please consult the NOA Theory of Knowledge Handbook, the NOA Extended Essay Handbook, and the NOA CAS Handbook for more detailed information.

Theory of Knowledge (ToK)

Theory of Knowledge, often referred to as “ToK” is a class all full Diploma Programme candidates are required to take. This class meets occasionally (50+ hours/year) to discuss the nature of knowledge and “knowing”. To tackle such a task, ToK at NOA is a cross-disciplinary course that further explores the knowledge and ways of knowing students experience in their main curriculum subjects. A fundamental task of ToK is to ask learners to become more critical thinkers by challenging them to question *how* they know the content they learn in class.

Sample questions that may be explored in a ToK classroom:

- *What level of evidence do you need to make a diagnosis in the human sciences?*
- *Should speculation be a part of the scientific process?*
- *To what extent do stories in the press reflect our emotional need, rather than the truth?*
- *Why do historians have different opinions on who caused the First World War?*

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

Creativity, Activity, Service, often referred to as “CAS”, is an experience built around extra-curricular involvement on behalf of the student. At NOA, we expect each of our students to develop themselves in ways beyond academics. CAS hinges upon participation and reflection upon various activities students may be involved in beyond the classroom. There is no requirement for classroom time for CAS, but each student will be required to satisfactorily complete reflections based upon their extra-curricular involvement at the discretion of the CAS Coordinator.

Sample CAS experiences:

- *Joining a community cleanup*
- *Participation in a sports team*
- *Leading or joining a school club*

Extended Essay (EE)

The Extended Essay, often abbreviated “EE”, is a written task fundamental to the Diploma Programme experience. This task demands a 4000-word essay to be independently researched and written by the student; it is not a task to be written and completed during any specific subject class. Instead, each student will work individually with a teacher beyond classroom hours for advice and oversight. The nature of this task is to develop and demonstrate the students’ ability to pursue genuine, thoughtful research based upon an exploration in a topic of their choice. With the exception of topics falling under the purview of Chinese Language & Literature, all EE’s are to be written in English.

The Six Subject Groups

The IB DP categorizes different course offerings into six subject groups. As a general rule, students are expected to take one DP class from each of these six subject groups (note: there are specific exceptions to this rule, explained later).



At New Oriental Academy, these are the course offerings available for DP students within each of the six subject groups:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese A: Language & Literature English A: Language & Literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English B (language acquisition) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economics Information Technology in a Global Society (ITGS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Chemistry Physics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematics: Analysis & Approaches (AA) Mathematics: Applications & Interpretation (AI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual Arts

Each of these courses may be offered in a Higher Level or Standard Level variant, described in further detail on the following page.

Higher Level vs. Standard Level Classes

All IB Diploma Programme classes are categorized as either Higher Level (HL) or Standard Level (SL). SL classes are designed by the IB to offer a level of challenge and rigor aligning with the current expectations of “standard” grade 11 and 12 high school classes. HL classes are designed to challenge the student with advanced rigor, and, in many cases, represent university level expectations. In many situations, satisfactory results in HL classes will count for university credit.

Students attempting to complete the full IB Diploma are required to take 3 HL class and 3 SL classes. To ensure a healthy balance in the lives of their students, the IB puts such limits on the amount of HL classes a student can take. 3 HL and 3 SL classes offers a rigorous, but balanced approach for students that want to challenge themselves to try to achieve the IB Diploma.

Class Selection at NOA

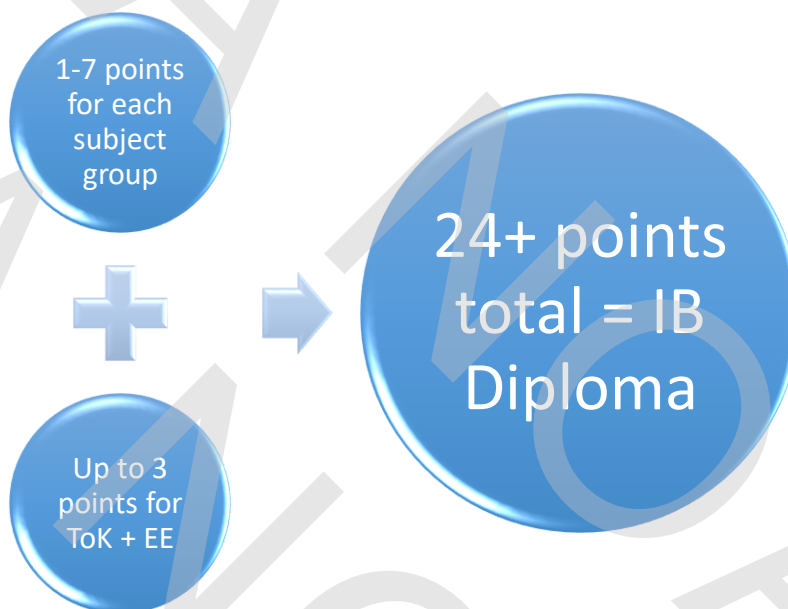
New Oriental Academy believes strongly in the importance of agency and choice for its students. As such, students are free to choose their six subject classes within a certain framework. This framework is built upon a few main options. Because HL classes represent the significant interest of the student (and because of their rigor), these options are the first step in class selection. To offer a balance between freedom and guidance, New Oriental Academy asks DP students to choose a predetermined “option”. These options are designed to appeal to certain strengths and interests, and have been chosen by the school to represent harmonious classes for future university experiences. A full list of the options are presented to students throughout grade 10 to navigate their options for the DP experience.

A second factor that all students will have to consider during class selection is the “language acquisition rule”: no student may study the same language in across group 1 and group 2. *You can't take English A (group 1, studies in language & literature) in addition to English B (group 2, language acquisition).*

Additionally, if a student has strong English ability, they may opt to take English A *instead of* English B (they would still take Chinese A, too). Please note that English A, HL will not be offered at NOA for the 2020-21 school year.

Attaining the Diploma

Students who decide to pursue the full IB Diploma are not guaranteed success. Respect for the IB Diploma comes, in part, from the rigor and challenge of the programme in its entirety. As such, students will need to successfully fulfill the following requirements in order to achieve the IB Diploma:



ADDITIONALLY...

- All CAS requirements are satisfied.
- There is no "N" (no grade) awarded for ToK, the EE, or a contributing subject.
- There is no failing grade awarded for ToK/EE.
- There is no grade of a "1" awarded in any subject.
- There are no more than two grades of "2" awarded.
- There are no more than three grades of "3" or below awarded.
- At least 12 points have been gained on higher level subjects.
- At least 9 points have been gained on standard level subjects.
- The final award committee has not given the candidate a penalty for academic misconduct.

If all of the above conditions are met, the student candidate will attain the prestigious IB diploma in addition to their high school diploma.

For students who fail to achieve the full diploma, but otherwise satisfactorily complete the NOA graduation requirements, a high school diploma will be awarded.

References

Programme Standards and Practices, IBO, 2014

Dunn, Michael. TOK knowledge questions (13th November 2013).
<https://theoryofknowledge.net>. <https://www.theoryofknowledge.net/knowledge-and-knowers/knowledge-questions/> Last accessed: 14th August 2019