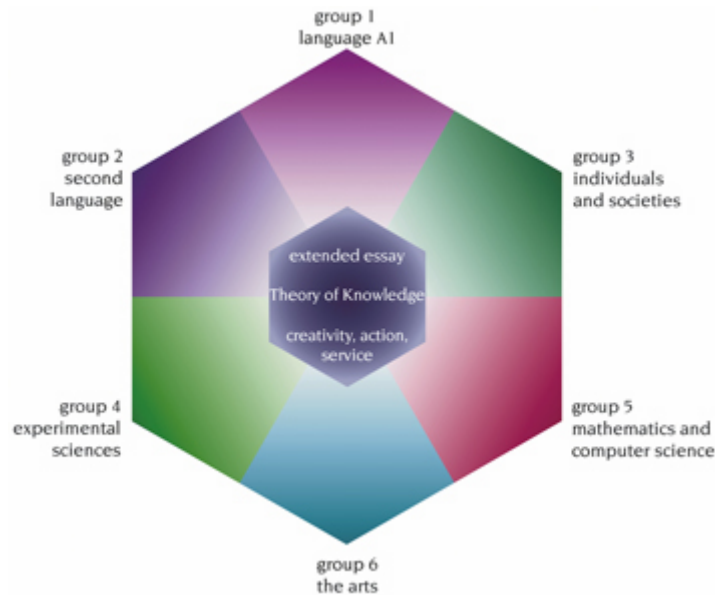


# The Diploma Program Curriculum

The Diploma Program (DP) has the strengths of a traditional and broad curriculum, but with three important additional features, shown at the centre of the hexagonal program model. The six academic subjects around the program model are studied concurrently; students are required to study both the humanities and the sciences.



## Theory of knowledge (TOK)

TOK is an interdisciplinary requirement intended to stimulate critical reflection on the knowledge and experience gained inside and outside the classroom. The course challenges students to question the bases of knowledge, to be aware of subjective and ideological biases and to develop the ability to analyze evidence that is expressed in rational argument.

TOK is a key element in encouraging students to appreciate other cultural perspectives. The course is unique to the IBO, which recommends at least 100 hours of teaching time spanning the program's two years.

## Creativity, action, service (CAS)

The IBO's goal is to educate the whole person and foster responsible, compassionate citizens. The CAS component encourages students to share their energy and special talents with others. Students may, for example, participate in theatre or musical productions, sports and community service activities.

Students should, through these activities, develop greater awareness of themselves, concern for others, and the ability to work cooperatively with other people.

## An extended essay of 4,000 words

Each student has the opportunity to investigate a topic of special interest. The essay requirement acquaints DP students with the kind of independent research and writing skills expected by universities.

The IBO recommends that a student devote a total of about 40 hours of private study and writing time to the essay. It may be written in one of 60 subjects, including many languages.

The essay permits students to *deepen* their programs of study, for example by selecting a topic in one of their higher level (HL) courses. Or they might add *breadth* to their academic experience by electing to write in a subject not included in their program choices.