



A Glossary of IB Terms and Abbreviations



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 sometimes 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.

Approaches to Learning: Approaches to learning (ATL) are skills designed to enable students in the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) to “learn how to learn.” They are intended to apply across curriculum requirements and provide a common language for teachers and students to use when reflecting and building on the process of learning.

ab Initio SL: The language ab initio course is a language acquisition course for students with no prior experience of the target language, or for those students with very limited previous experience.

Candidate: this is the term used by IB to refer to students who are in the IB diploma program; they are candidates for the IB diploma until their exam results are finalized, usually after graduation.

Candidate number: every IB candidate is assigned a candidate number, which will change between a student's junior and senior year (so don't get too comfortable with it). The first 4 digits are the Ironwood school code, 2296 followed by a 2-digit number that usually goes alphanumeric.

Career-related Programme: The CP is a framework of international education that incorporates the values of the IB into a unique programme addressing the needs of students engaged in career-related education. The programme leads to further/higher education, apprenticeships or employment.

Career-related Study (CRS): The career-related study is designed to prepare students for higher education, an internship or apprenticeship, or a position in a designated field of interest.

It provides the opportunity for students to learn about theories and concepts through application and practice while developing broad-based skills in authentic and meaningful contexts. Students who complete the programme receive the International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme Certificate, the certification awarded by the career-related study provider and, if applicable, their secondary school high school diploma.

CAS: Creativity, Activity, Service. This is the major “out of class” requirement for the IB students. Essentially, students in grades 11 and 12 are required to complete a senior long term project with at least 150 hours of documented activities in the areas of creativity, action and service and meet 8 learning outcomes. An oral presentation in March will be the culminating activity for their CAS requirements. For details about CAS, see the

Ironwood IB CAS handbook that is on the AIM/IB link in the Ironwood High School portal.
(<https://schools.peoriaud.k12.az.us/sites/IHS/ib/default.aspx>)

Certificate: this is the old term used for students taking only individual IB courses; the new term is “Diploma Program Course Students.” Students who do not achieve the full Diploma will still test in their course and receive scores to earn a certificate verifying their scores in each subject. If a Course Candidate scores a score of 4 or better in an HL course, they will receive 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.

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 and 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.

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

Group 1: Language and Literature.

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

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 and computer 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.

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 which authorized schools around the world to offer the IB Diploma Program, as well as the IB Middle Years Program, the IB Primary

Years Program, and the IB Career-Related Certificate. At present, Hoover City Schools offers only the IB Diploma Program.

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. Ironwood High School is authorized to offer the IB Diploma Program.

Moderation: The process by which IB validates or moderates the marks on internal assessment 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 for that 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).

Personal & Professional Skills (IB PPS): Personal and professional skills is designed for students to develop attitudes, skills and strategies to be applied to personal and professional situations and contexts now and in the future. In this course the emphasis is on skills development for the workplace, as these are transferable and can be applied in a range of situations.

Personal Project: MYP students in their final year explore an area of personal interest over an extended period. It provides them the opportunity to consolidate their learning and develop important skills they’ll need in both further education and life beyond the classroom. It also helps them develop confidence to become principled, lifelong learners.

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.

Reflective Project: The reflective project is an in-depth body of work produced over an extended period of time and submitted towards the end of the CP. Through a reflective project students identify, analyze, critically discuss and evaluate an ethical issue arising from their career-related studies.

The reflective project is intended to promote high-level research, writing and extended communication skills, intellectual discovery and creativity.

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 is 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. A passing score in a subject is a 4, which represents “satisfactory” work. Students generally need to achieve a minimum overall score of 24 (6 subjects x 4) to earn the IB Diploma although there are several

exceptions and conditions (students must complete CAS, if a student scores a 2 in an HL subject then he/she must make a 28 overall to earn the diploma).

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.