

Advanced Placement (AP)

or

International Baccalaureate (IB):

Which program should I choose?

# Which Program is Right for me?

- It depends on your personal needs and preferences
- Let's take a look at the educational benefits, unique aspects and financial costs of each program
- Then you can make an informed decision

# Both Programs Offer:

- High expectations
- Rigorous curricula for highly-motivated students
- Challenging assessments
- Assessments externally evaluated by individuals with no stake in the outcome

# Both Programs Are:

- Regarded favorably by colleges and universities
- Highly-regarded by the general public

# Advanced Placement (AP)

- The AP curriculum represents a national (United States) standard of excellence.
- The AP curricula offer a broader study of a subject with an emphasis on knowledge acquisition.

# AP

- AP scores exams from 1-5. Students must earn at least a 3 to have a chance at getting credit from a college or university. A student is assessed entirely on this test result.
- AP students can choose to take 1 test or many tests. 31 subject tests are offered.
- Over 1 million students took over 2 million AP tests in 2006.

# AP

- Students do not have to be enrolled in an AP course to take an AP test.
- In a sense, for students “an AP course is preparation for a rigorous test”.

# AP

- Teachers do not need special training to teach an AP course. In fact, even homeschooled students may take AP tests.
- However, the College Board<sup>®</sup> suggests that teachers attend an AP training course for their subject.



# AP

- Schools must submit for audit by the College Board<sup>®</sup> a syllabus for each teacher and course they deem to be “Advanced Placement” in the Program of Studies.
- This ensures the curriculum taught is in compliance with AP standards.

# Cost of AP to Students (2012)

- Each exam costs \$87 each. This cost is typically paid by the student.
- Financial aid is available for students who qualify. This reduces the cost to the students by \$22-30.

# International Baccalaureate (IB)

- IB is a holistic program.
- IB students are asked to become “*critical and compassionate thinkers, lifelong learners and informed participants in local and world affairs, conscious of the shared humanity that binds all people together while respecting the variety of cultures and attitudes that makes for the richness of life*” (IBO Mission Statement, 2005)

# IB

- The IB curriculum represents a comprehensive international standard of excellence.
- IB curricula offer a deeper study of a subject with emphasis on themes and a focus on skill acquisition.

# IB

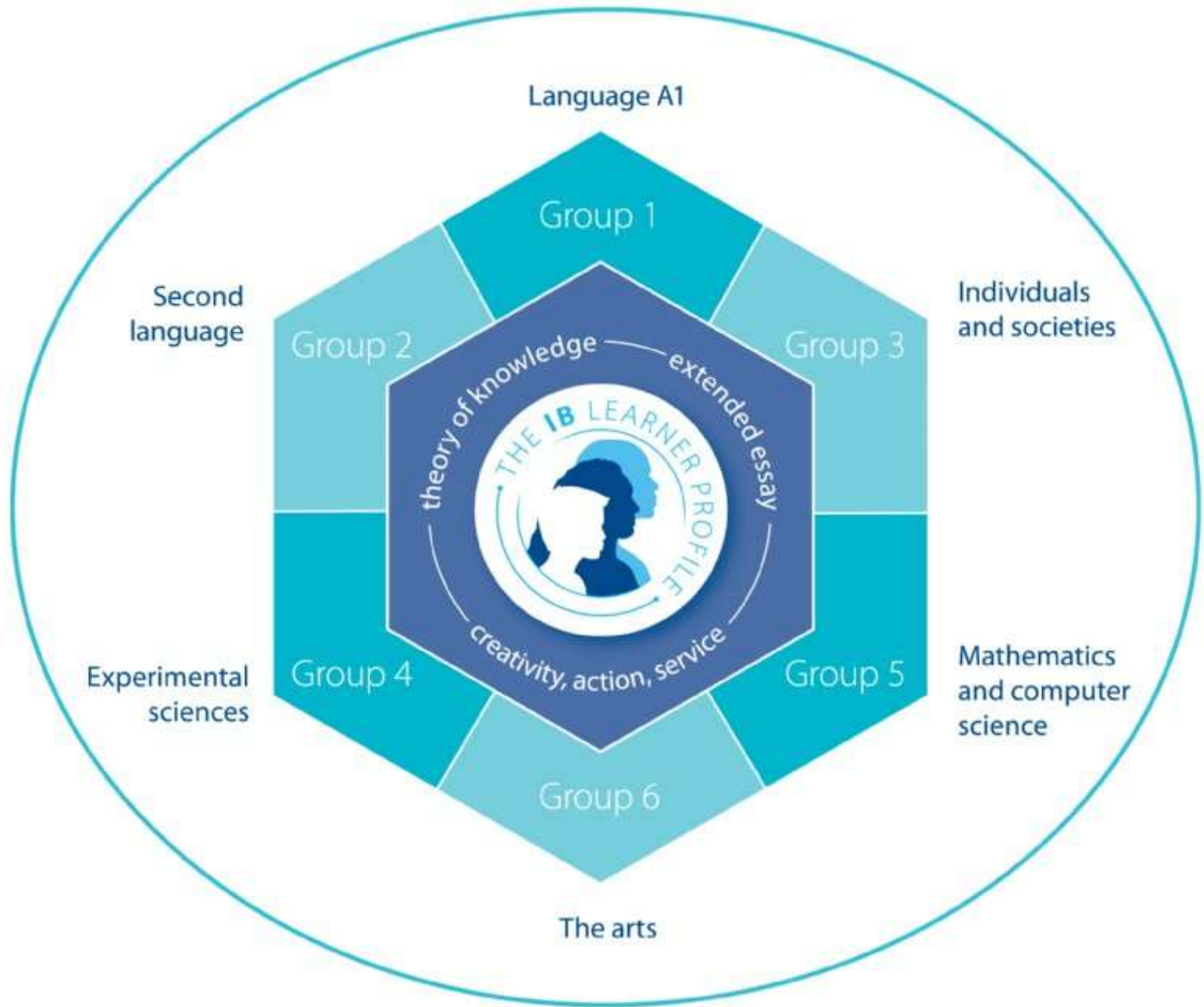
- IB Diploma Programme students study six courses at higher level or standard level. Students must choose one subject from each of groups 1 to 5, thus ensuring breadth of experience in languages, social studies, the experimental sciences and mathematics.

# IB

- The sixth subject may be an arts subject chosen from group 6, or the student may choose another subject from groups 1 to 5.
- IB scores subject exams from 1-7.

# IB

- Students must earn at least a 4 to have a chance at getting credit from a college or university.
- A student is assessed primarily on their subject exam, but also on classwork completed during the school year.





# IB

- In order to earn an IB Diploma, students must do the following:
- During their Junior and Senior years of high school, students must show evidence that they completed a minimum of 50 hours in each of the following areas:
  - Creativity
  - Action
  - Service

# IB

- Students must also complete a Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course.
- Students must complete a 4000-word extended essay in an academic area of their choice.

# IB

- An IB diploma is awarded to students who gain at least 24 points, subject to certain minimum levels of performance across the whole program and to satisfactory participation in the creativity, action, service requirement. The highest total that a Diploma Program student can be awarded is 45 points.

# Cost of IB to Student (2012)

- The total program cost is \$786.
- This cost includes the registration fee and the cost of all assessments.

# Non-Diploma IB Students

- A student can choose to enroll in one IB course and earn a certificate for successfully completing that course.
- If they earn a score of 4 or better on the subject exam they may earn credit at a college or university.
- For these students, it costs \$100 to register with IB and \$98 per course.

# Citations

- [www.edexcellence.net/detail/news.cfm?news\\_id=378](http://www.edexcellence.net/detail/news.cfm?news_id=378)
- [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)
- [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html)
- Personal interviews of IB and AP Coordinators and Teachers
- Personal interviews of IB and AP students