

State International School Seeheim Schuldorf Bergstraße

February 2024

IB INFORMATION for 2024 – 2026

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Co-Head and IB Coordinator SISS Secondary



International Baccalaureate®
Baccalauréat International
Bachillerato Internacional

The State International School
Schuldorf Bergstraße
Seeheim-Jugenheim/Germany

has been an

authorized IB World School since 2014

successfully re-evaluated in October 2019 by the IBO



The IB mission statement

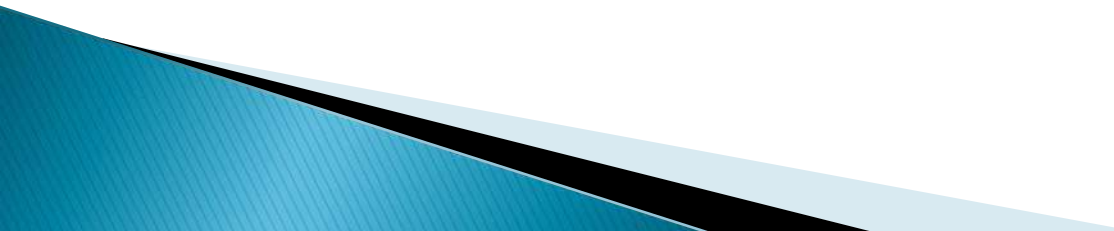


... the International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect...

... The IB programme encourages students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right....



Information on the IB DP

- I. Transition into IB years
 - II. Entry requirements for IB DP: internal / external students
 - III. Timeline 2024 – 2026
 - IV. The IB Diploma Programme in general
 - V. The IB diploma programme at SISS Secondary
 - VI. The Core of the IB (EE, TOK and CAS)
 - VII. Assessments and Report cards
 - VIII. Receiving the IB Diploma
 - IX. “Anerkennung des IB Diploma in Deutschland”
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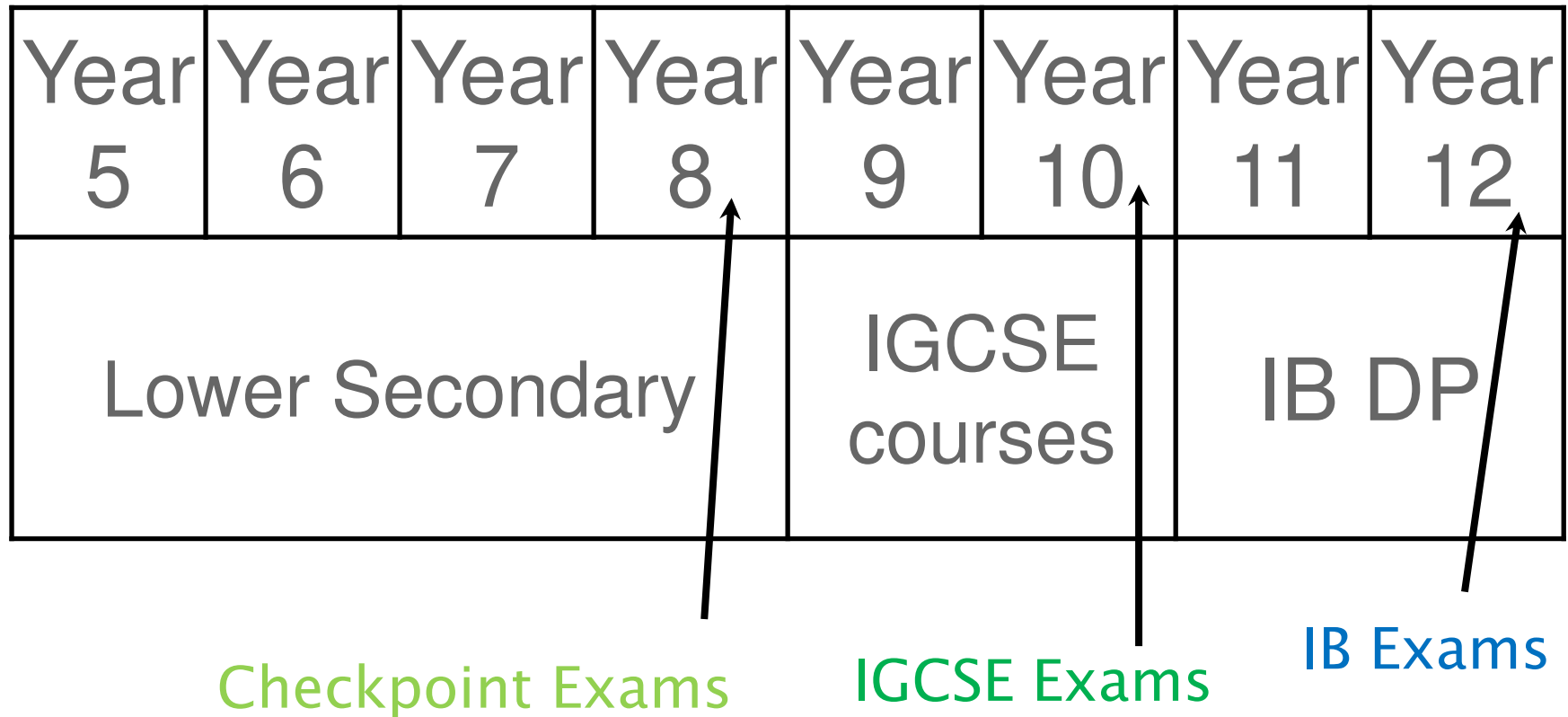
First Thoughts of the IB Coordinator

What kind of student is a good candidate for the DP?

- ▶ The DP is a rigorous course of study for **motivated students**
- ▶ Prior academic success is less an indicator of ability to earn the diploma than is a **student's determination to do his or her best**
- ▶ **Willingness to be organized** in order to complete the work while leading a full, balanced life
- ▶ **Strong commitment to learning** in and beyond the classroom
- ▶ **A student who attends lessons regularly! According to the Hessian School Regulations, a student can be expelled from school if missing too many days unexcused.**

▶ (Gemäß § 82 Abs. 2 Satz 1 Nr. 7 des Hessischen Schulgesetzes in der Fassung vom 01.08.2017)

I. Transition into IB years

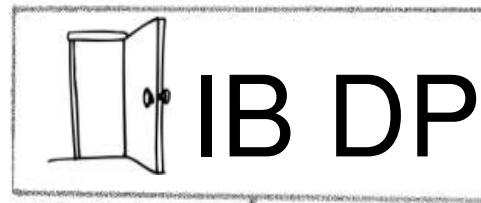


Ila. Entry requirements for the IB DP SISS students

- Fulfill the requirements for a „**Mittlerer Abschluss** in Form des qualifizierenden Realschulabschlusses“ (nach §59 Abs. 4 VOBGM)
 - Have a **minimum grade C for the 5 IGCSE** core subjects
 - Have an **average of at least 3.0** in the main subjects **English, one Science, Mathematics, and German** (end of Year 10 report card)
 - Have an **average of at least 3.0 for all the other subjects together**
- **Final decision made by class conference year 10**

Oberstufen- und Abiturverordnung (OAVO) vom 20. Juli 2009 (ABl. S. 408), zuletzt geändert durch Verordnung vom 13. Juli 2016 (ABl. S. 360).

„Verordnung zur Ausgestaltung der Bildungsgänge und Schulformen der Grundstufe (Primarstufe) und der Mittelstufe (Sekundarstufe I) und der Abschlussprüfungen in der Mittelstufe (VOBGM)“ §64 vom 14. Juni 2005 in der Fassung vom 16. September 2011



*mittlerer
Abschluss*

Yes

5 A*-C grades¹ + (better than) 3.0 average on final Y10 report card³

resit failed subjects May following year

IGCSE grade D or lower

No

*Hauptschul-
abschluss*²

repeat Year 10

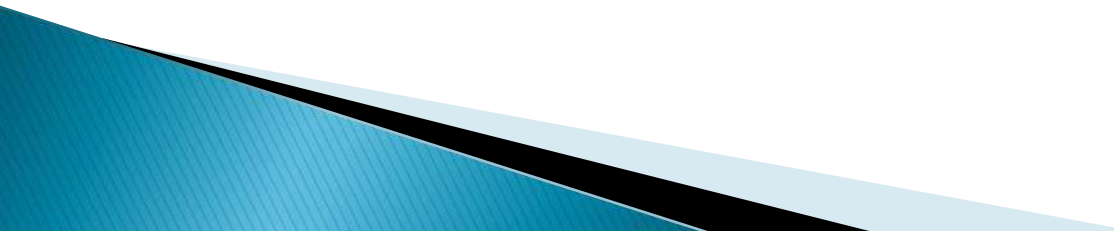
leave school

¹ in the following IGCSE subjects: **Double Coordinated Sciences, English First Language, International Mathematics, History or Geography, one foreign language** (either German, French or Spanish) **or German First Language**

² Minimum Grade G on IGCSE exams and not failing year 9

³ **average of 3.0** in the main subjects **English, one Science, Mathematics, and German** ; and a **3.0 for all the other subjects**

According to the Hesse School State Law

- Where a student fails the retake of an IGCSE subject, the student will leave school with a Hauptschulabschluss if a grade G or above has been achieved in the five core IGCSE subjects.
 - It is not allowed to retake IGCSE examinations at SISS for a second time.
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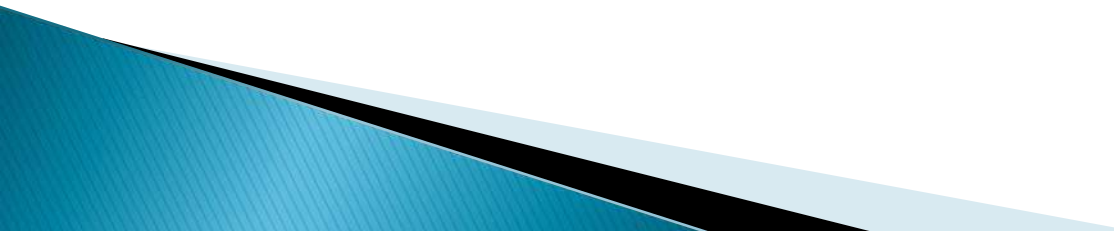
IIb. Entry requirements for external students

English is the main language of instruction at SISS

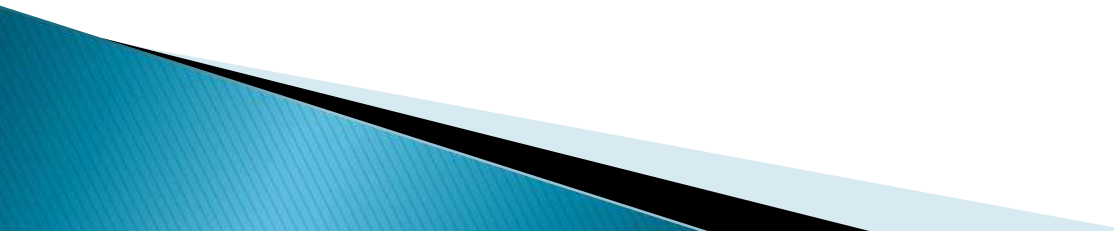
Secondary – level B1 is not enough!

- Command of the English language satisfies the standard of English required for successfully completing the IB DP
- Documentation of report cards from years 8 to 10 must be complete
- They must also have an excellent attendance record in year 10
- The final decision of acceptance is made by the SISS leadership team
- **Applicants will be assessed in English, Maths and Language B – other subjects are possible**
- **Attend interviews if considered appropriate**


IIb.i Applications from schools offering (I)GCSE courses or equivalent

- Applicants are required to have obtained a minimum grade C in the five IGCSE core subjects
 - They may be required to sit subject tests, not only for potential higher level IB subjects
 - Attend an interview with the IB coordinator
- 

IIb.ii Applications from schools without (I)GCSE

- Proof of language proficiency of a **foreign language (German or Spanish)** must be provided, equivalent to level B1 ; or for **French** if we offer it as an IB subject
 - Either **Biology, Chemistry or Physics or Combined Sciences** has been studied (to be checked with Hessian state regulations and the Sciences department) at an IGCSE level
 - Knowledge and skills in **Mathematics** must be equivalent to having passed IGCSE International Mathematics examinations
- 

What if requirements are not met

- ▶ Where a Year 10 student applies with insufficient prior knowledge of a subject from groups 2 to 5 (IB DP), we may offer the possibility of a retake of Year 10 at SISS
 - ▶ Or an applicant to the IB DP may apply the following year if having fulfilled the (language) requirements
- 

III. Timeline IB DP 2024 – 2026

Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025
	Year 11 / IB Core intro	First assessments	Second assessments	Second assessments	report card 1 st semester
Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Jun 2025	Jul 2025
2 nd semester starts	Third assessments	Third assessments	Fourth assessments	First IA work / first IOCs	report card 2 nd semester
Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026
holidays	Year 12 IAs	Final assessments / IAs	Final assessments IAs / EE final draft	IAs	Mock exams / report card 1 st semester
Feb 2026	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	Jun 2026	Jul 2026
2 nd semester starts / last IAs / IOCs	final CAS interview	1 week study leave before IB exams	IB exams	Maths SL module vectors	July 6 th IB grades out

IV. The IB Diploma Programme

- The **Diploma Programme (DP)** is a curriculum framework designed by the International Baccalaureate (IB) for students in the last two years of high school
- **The IB DP is also taught within the framework of Hessian School regulations!!!**
- Study six subjects: three SL/ three HL plus PE
- Complete: TOK, the EE and CAS
- Earn a minimum of 24 points out of a possible 45 points on IAs combined with final assessments (externally marked and moderated by the IB) to receive the IB diploma.

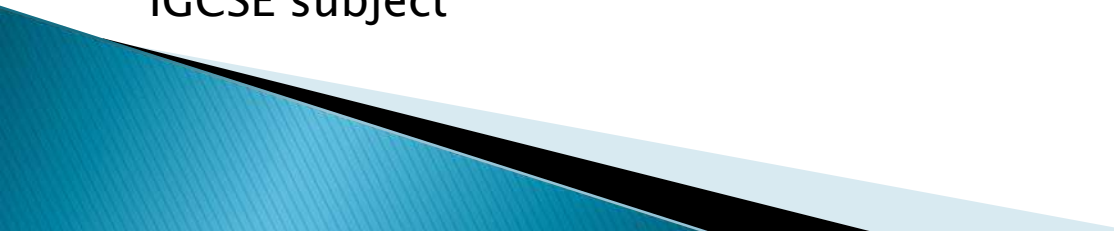


The IB learner profile

- ▶ The IB learner profile is the IB mission statement translated into a set of learning outcomes for the 21st century
- ▶ As IB learners we strive to be:
 - Inquirers
 - knowledgeable
 - thinkers
 - communicators
 - principled
 - open-minded
 - caring
 - risk-takers
 - balanced
 - reflective



V. The IB Diploma Programme at SISS Secondary

- **Offered courses depend on availability!!!**
 - choose six subjects, one from each group 1 to 5
 - Three subjects must be chosen at Higher Level, three at Standard Level
 - **We cannot offer any online courses**
 - Combining Physics and Biology is not possible
 - **Combining Geography and Global Politics is not possible (NEW)**
 - A Student may choose a subject from the list that they have not had as an IGCSE subject
- 

Courses we **like** to offer at SISS Secondary

six subjects
 three SL
 (3 lessons per week)
 and
 three HL
 (5 lessons a week)
 and
 TOK (2 lessons)
 and PE
 (2 lessons)

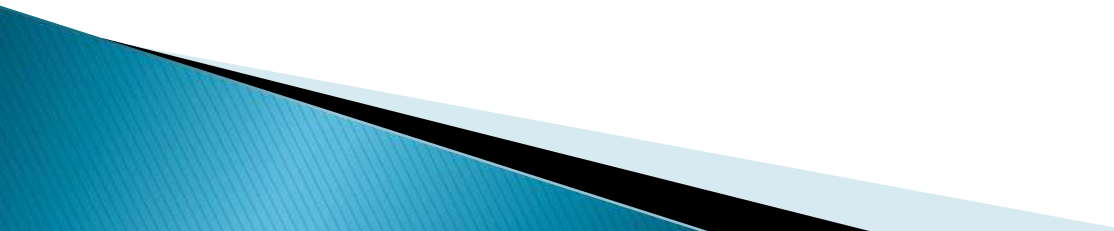
GROUP		SUBJECT	Level	
			SL	HL
1	STUDIES IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE	English A: Language and Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		German A: Language and Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	LANGUAGE ACQUISITION	Spanish B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		German B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		French B	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a
3	INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES	Geography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Global Politics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		History	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	SCIENCES	Biology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Physics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Chemistry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	MATHEMATICS	Maths: Analysis and approaches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Maths: Applications and interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a
6	THE ARTS	Visual Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a

VI. The Core of the IB DP


- ▶ The Extended Essay (EE)
- ▶ Theory of knowledge (TOK)
- ▶ Creativity, activity, service (CAS)



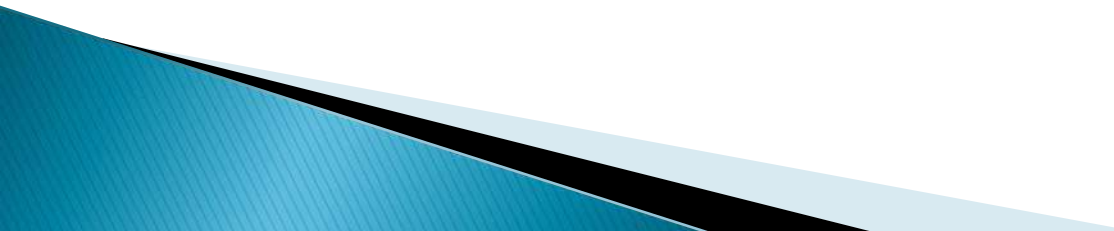
Vla. The Extended Essay

- The extended essay introduces students to the demands and rewards of independent work
 - Emphasis is placed on doing personal research and communicating ideas effectively in order to write a 4,000–word essay in an area of personal interest
 - The EE is internally supported by a subject teacher
 - The EE is finally externally marked by IB examiners
- 

Vlb. Theory of knowledge

- ▶ TOK is an **interdisciplinary course** designed to help students question and understand how they know what they know
 - ▶ Students **study how individuals from various disciplines view the world** in order to develop their own ways of thinking
 - ▶ By **stimulating analysis of knowledge across disciplines**, TOK seeks to help students make sense of school and the world
 - ▶ Students **write a final TOK essay and prepare a TOK exhibition which will be marked**
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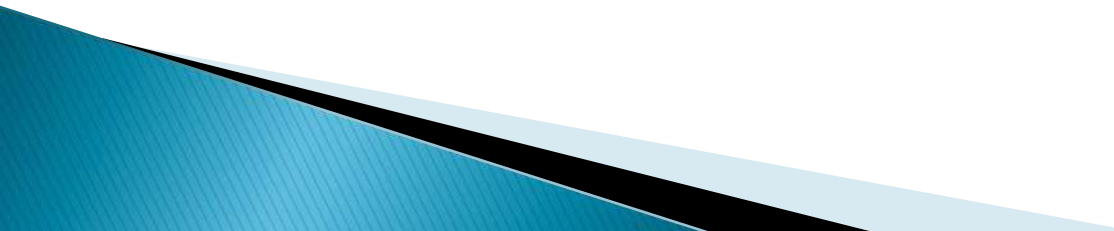
Vlc. CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service)

- ▶ CAS is an experiential learning component of the IB Diploma Programme
 - ▶ Students **complete a wide variety of extracurricular, community service and athletic options** to fulfill this requirement
 - ▶ **Students do NOT get a grade but failing CAS requirements at the end of Year 12 means: no IB Diploma!**
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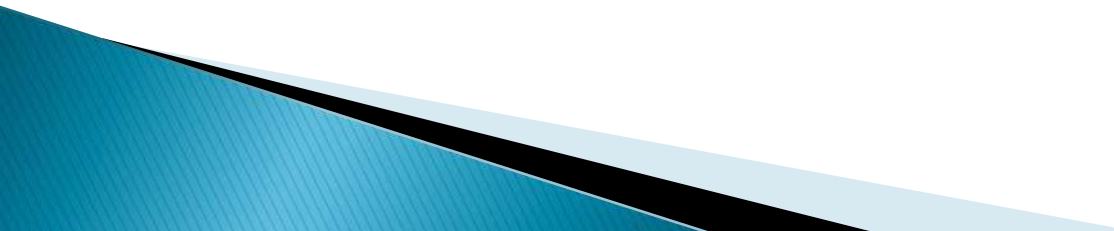
VII. Assessments, report cards and final exams

- ▶ The **Assessment policy** of the State International School Seeheim Jugendheim follows the core **principles of Hessen State School regulations** (see “Verordnung zur Gestaltung des Schulverhältnisses vom 19. August 2011”) **and the IBO**
- ▶ DP assessment includes both **final examinations and internal assessments** undertaken by the teacher to IB criteria, then externally moderated by the IB


VIIa. year 11 assessments / report card

- ▶ **report card after the 1st and 2nd semester**
 - ▶ Grades are based on the work during a semester
 - ▶ Ratio: written / all other work is about 50/50
 - ▶ Usually there are two written assessments per subject each semester
 - ▶ **A student must not have a mark 1 in any IB subject and PE at any time in their report card or they have to repeat that school year.**
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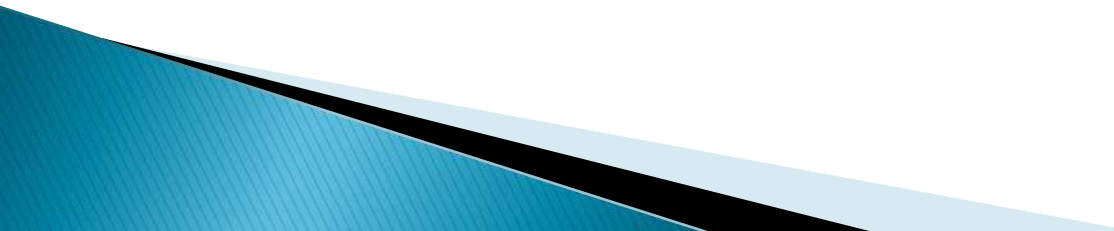
VIIb. Advancing from year 11 to year 12

- ▶ Students must have at least 24 total marks (but not a mark 1 in any subject) on their second semester report card Year 11 to continue into Year 12 excluding the PE mark
 - ▶ Students with less than 24 total marks at the end of Year 11 either repeat Year 11 or leave school
 - ▶ Students with 24 or more total marks may repeat Year 11 in order to improve
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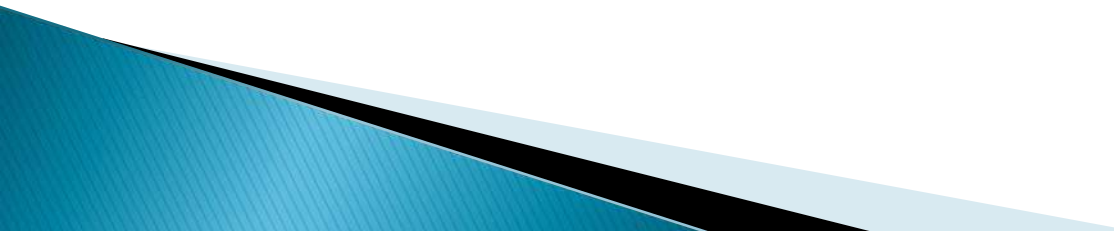
Vllc. year 12 assessments / report card

- ▶ report cards end of 1st and 2nd semester
 - ▶ Ratio: written / all other work is about 50/50
 - ▶ First semester: one written assessment per subject
 - ▶ Second semester: students write IB mock exams (after winter-break), which count as the written assessment
 - ▶ Once in Year 12, students may repeat that year in exceptional cases depending on availability of their subject courses and levels and / or if the syllabus from the following year group allows it
- 

VIII. Receiving the IB Diploma

- ▶ CAS requirements have been met.
 - ▶ The candidate's total points are 24 or more.
 - ▶ There is no "N" awarded for theory of knowledge, the extended essay or for a contributing subject.
 - ▶ There is no grade E awarded for Theory of Knowledge and/or the Extended Essay.
 - ▶ There is no grade 1 awarded in a subject/level.
 - ▶ There are no more than two grade 2s awarded (HL or SL).
 - ▶ There are no more than three grade 3s or below awarded (HL or SL).
 - ▶ The candidate has gained 12 points or more on HL subjects (for candidates who register for four HL subjects, the three highest grades count).
 - ▶ The candidate has gained 9 points or more on SL subjects.
 - ▶ The candidate has not received a penalty for academic misconduct from the Final Award Committee.
- 

VIIIa. Total marks for the IB Diploma

- ▶ The candidate can get from grade 1 (lowest) up to grade 7 (highest) for each subject course.
 - ▶ SL and HL courses are counted the same way.
 - ▶ Combined letter grades for TOK and the EE can score from 0 to 3 (extra) points.
 - ▶ Maximum possible points total for a DP student: 45
- 

VIIIb. TOK / EE matrix

		Theory of knowledge					
		Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Grade E	No grade N
Extended essay	Grade A	3	3	2	2	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade B	3	2	2	1	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade C	2	2	1	0	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade D	2	1	0	0	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade E	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition
	No grade N	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition

IX. “German Recognition of IB Diploma”

- ▶ you must have **two languages** (of which one is Language A English Language & Literature here at SISS Secondary)
- ▶ **One course in History, Geography or Global Politics**
- ▶ **one science**: Physics, Biology or Chemistry
- ▶ **Mathematics** Analysis and Approaches (SL or HL) or Applications and Interpretation (SL)
- ▶ Subject 6 is either Visual Arts or one of the above mentioned subjects (but not two maths or two German courses)
- ▶ Among the 3 HL subjects: **Mathematics or a Science**
- ▶ **For final IB subject exam marks, each course must be passed with at least a 4**
- ▶ **At most one mark 3 – but not lower – is allowed if a course at the same or higher level is at least marked with a 5**

IX. “General University Entrance Qualification”

- ▶ The Schuldorf–Bergstraße SISS Secondary has signed a special agreement with the IBO to allow German Abitur equivalency recognition of our IB Mathematics SL Courses.
- ▶ The Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (KMK) has provided confirmation that IB diplomas which include a **DP mathematics course at standard level (SL)** can be recognized as the

“allgemeine Hochschulzugangsberechtigung”

(general university entrance qualification)

„Vereinbarung über die Anerkennung des International Baccalaureate Diploma“:
Beschluss der Kultusministerkonferenz vom 10.03.1986 i. d. F. vom 15.6.2023)

Average Grade for an IB Diploma

Conversion is performed using the following formula:

$$N = 1 + 3 \frac{P_{\max} - P}{P_{\max} - P_{\min}}$$

where

N = average grade to be calculated

P = total score received for IB diploma

P_{max} = 42 points (IB total score without bonus points)

P_{min} = 24 points (lower benchmark)

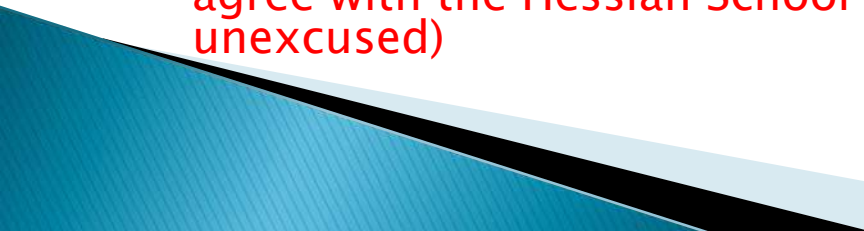
N = 1.0 (where $42 \leq P \leq 45$)

„Vereinbarung über die Anerkennung des International Baccalaureate Diploma“:
Beschluss der Kultusministerkonferenz vom 10.03.1986 i. d. F. vom 15.6.2023)

Final Thoughts

The IB DP is a fantastic opportunity for students who are motivated, principled and willing to study hard!

BUT

- ▶ The IB DP is stressful without a question
 - ▶ Some students have difficulties when grades from year 10 are lower
 - ▶ Students struggle if they have poor time management skills
 - ▶ Students fail if they do not hand in their IA in any subject
 - ▶ **Students fail if they violate the Academic Honesty Policy of the school**
 - ▶ **Students may not finish the IB DP if their attendance record does not agree with the Hessian School Law (having missed too many lessons unexcused)**
- 

Questions?



WHY?



WHAT?



WHO?



WHERE?



HOW?




WHEN?

The most typical questions 1

▶ German A or German B

- If a German A student requests to continue with German B we always discuss the situation with the German teachers (A and B) and the IB Coordinator
- Sometimes the school suggests to parents/students to rather take German B and not German A if their skills and knowledge are not enough to study German A successfully

▶ Mathematics HL or SL

- It is highly advisable to not only look at the report card grade (at least a 2) and the IGCSE grade but discuss it with the maths teacher
 - Trust your maths teacher's opinion if you are a candidate for HL or not.
 - And if you choose HL do not give up too early as it takes a lot of time to adopt to IB mathematics
 - Every year a greater number of students want to change from HL to SL so make a reasonable decision
- 

The most typical questions 2

▶ Minimum size of a course

- Course sizes vary a lot
- We do not have a defined minimum number for a course
- Courses offered always depend on the school's resources
- Our aim is always to offer as many courses as possible.

▶ Courses offered – or not offered

- Students first select subject courses in spring
- With these numbers we decide which courses can be offered
- Sometimes, we still need to adjust these courses depending on our resources
- Example: if 20 students choose Biology HL and 1 – 3 students ask for SL it is NOT possible to offer Biology SL

▶ Changing courses

- In rare cases a student may request a change of course or level after the IB DP has started
- The student has to accept the school management's decision in cases where we cannot support such a request
- Examples are: a course where too many students wish to change may “fall apart”, i.e. becomes too small ; other groups might become too big.

The most typical questions 3

- ▶ Who are the new subject teachers?
 - We can never say for sure who will be teaching next year's IB courses as often enough we need to make some changes to guarantee that all classes, courses and subjects can be taught (not just the IB courses)
 - A course choice should not rely on who might be teaching the following year, of course.

 - ▶ Subject courses taught together or not
 - If possible we offer HL and SL courses separately
 - If a course is taught together (HL/SL), then it has to do with our resources (teachers, number of lessons, money, ...)
 - Examples: lately German B, Spanish B and Physics have been taught together; sometimes also Geography, Global Politics, Chemistry ...

 - ▶ Is French B offered as an IB course?
 - This depends on the number of students who would like to take it
 - If we offer it, it will be taught together with the Gymnasium French course
 - Over the last years we could not offer it regularly
- 