



# Rome International School

The  
International Baccalaureate  
Diploma Programme

AN INTRODUCTORY OVERVIEW



# Diploma Programme Background

- Founded in Geneva in 1968 to provide an internationally-minded pre-University education;
- Offers a challenging two-year curriculum, primarily aimed at students aged 16 to 19;
- Accepted by universities around the world;
- Taught in English, French or Spanish;
- IBO programmes (Diploma, Middle Years and Primary Years) are taught in over 2400 schools in 129 countries;
- Divided into 4 regions – ours is Africa / Europe / Middle East



# Diploma Programme Philosophy

- Students learn more than a collection of facts. The Diploma Programme prepares students for university and encourages them to:
- ask challenging questions;
- learn how to learn;
- develop a strong sense of their own identity and culture;
- develop the ability to communicate with and understand people from other countries and cultures.



# Diploma Programme at RIS

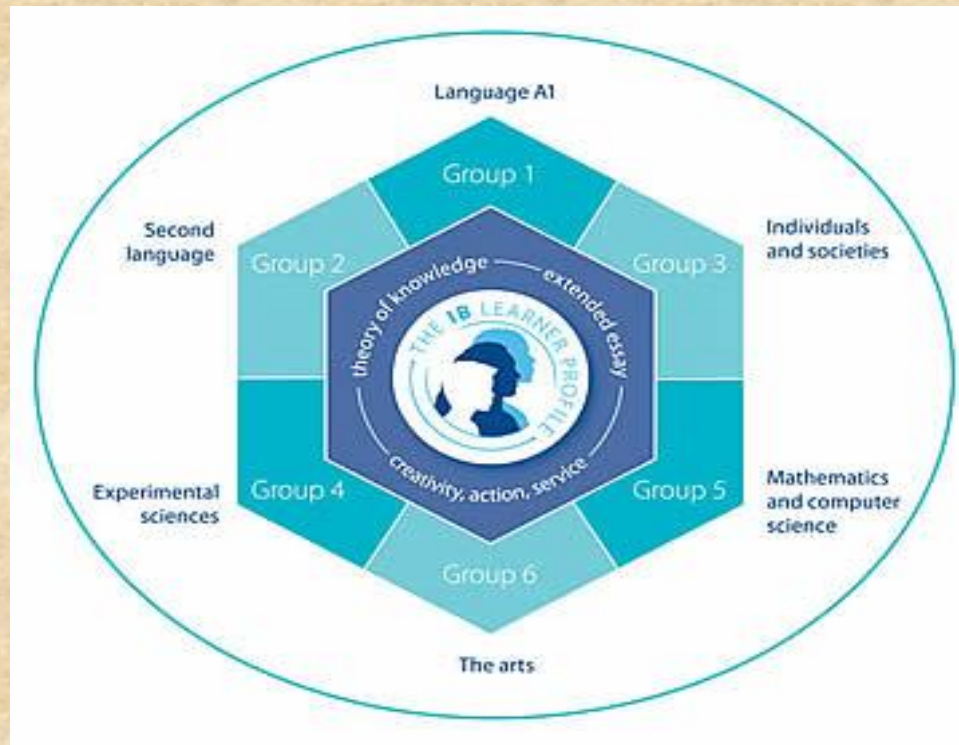
The IBDP at RIS:

- Will be a strong international programme, in a supportive educational community.
- Will employ well qualified specialist subject teachers trained in the IB educational approach and philosophy.
- Will aim to develop the talents of our students to become inquisitive, enterprising and independent learners.



# Diploma Programme Structure

- Organised in a hexagon structure.
- SIX SUBJECT GROUPS, around a compulsory CORE COMPONENT.
- THREE subjects studied at HIGHER level (240 hours of teaching).
- THREE subjects studied at STANDARD Level (150 hours of teaching).
- A maximum of 45 points is available, up to 7 points for each subject, with up to an additional 3 'Bonus' points for the Core Component.



# The Core Component

All Diploma Programme students must undertake the core activities:

## EXTENDED ESSAY

The extended essay has a prescribed limit of 4,000 words. It offers the opportunity to investigate a topic of individual interest, and acquaints students with the independent research and writing skills expected at university level. It is supervised by a teacher.

## THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (TOK)

The interdisciplinary TOK course is designed to provide coherence by exploring the nature of knowledge across disciplines, encouraging an appreciation of other cultural perspectives and giving an introduction to philosophical studies.

## CREATIVITY, ACTION, SERVICE (CAS)

Participation in the school's CAS programme encourages students to be involved in artistic pursuits, sports and community service work, thus fostering students' awareness and appreciation of life outside the academic arena.



# The Subject Groups

## Group 1 (Language A1):

The study of literature in a student's first language, including the study of selections of world literature. For the majority of our students this will be either English A1 or Italian A1, with the possible option of a different self-taught mother tongue language at standard level for students from other countries.

## Group 2 (Language A2, Language B, Language *ab initio*):

The study of a second language, either English A2 (near native speaker level), for our students taking Italian A1, or another foreign language, such as Chinese, French, Italian or Spanish, for students not studying both English and Italian as Language A. This could be taken as Language B for students with sound prior study or as Language *ab initio* for beginners with no previous knowledge.

## Group 3 (Individuals and Societies):

This group contains nine subjects, of which we will offer a selection. The subjects are: Business and Management; Economics; Geography; History; Information Technology in a Global Society; Islamic History; Philosophy; Psychology; Social and Cultural Anthropology.



# The Subject Groups continued

## Group 4 (Experimental Sciences):

This group contains five subjects, of which we will offer a selection. The subjects are: Biology; Chemistry, Design and Technology; Environmental Systems (only at Standard Level); Physics.

## Group 5 (Mathematics/Computing):

It is a requirement of the programme that students study at least one course in Mathematics, either as Mathematical Studies, or at Standard or Higher Level. Computer Science is an elective subject, which could be studied in Group 6.

## Group 6 (The Arts or an Elective from another group):

In this group students could take either a second subject from Groups 2, 3 or 4, or one of three Arts subjects: Music; Theatre Arts; Visual Arts.



# Diploma Programme Assessment

Over the two year course students will be assessed in a variety of ways:

## External assessment

Examinations form the basis of the assessment for most courses because of their high levels of objectivity and reliability. They include: essays; structured problems; short-response questions; data-response questions; text-response questions; case-study questions; multiple-choice questions (limited use of these).

There are also a small number of other externally assessed pieces of work, for example: Theory of Knowledge essays: Extended Essay and Language A1 World Literature assignments. These are completed by students over an extended period, under teacher supervision instead of examination conditions, and are then marked by external examiners. (Italian university entrance regulations also require a recognised assessment in Italian Language).

## Internal assessment

Teacher assessment is also used for most courses. This includes: oral work in languages; fieldwork in Geography; laboratory work in the Sciences; investigations in Mathematics; artistic performances. Assessments are checked by external examiners and normally contribute between 20 and 30 per cent of the total mark. The Group 6 Arts courses have assessment of a major practical component, which can account for as much as 50 per cent of the total mark.



# Rome International School

## Diploma Programme Implementation

- Awarded IBO 'Candidate School' status in June 2008, following Part A of the formal application process.
- Currently working towards Part B of the application process, to be submitted in February 2009.
- IBO Authorisation Visit is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> April 2009.
- First IB Diploma cohort to start in September 2009.
- New facilities: purpose-built Science Laboratory, Self-Study Centre and Library; Language Laboratory.
- Training for existing staff: internal workshops, attendance at subject specific IBO conferences.
- Appointment of new staff with IB Diploma Programme experience.

