

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

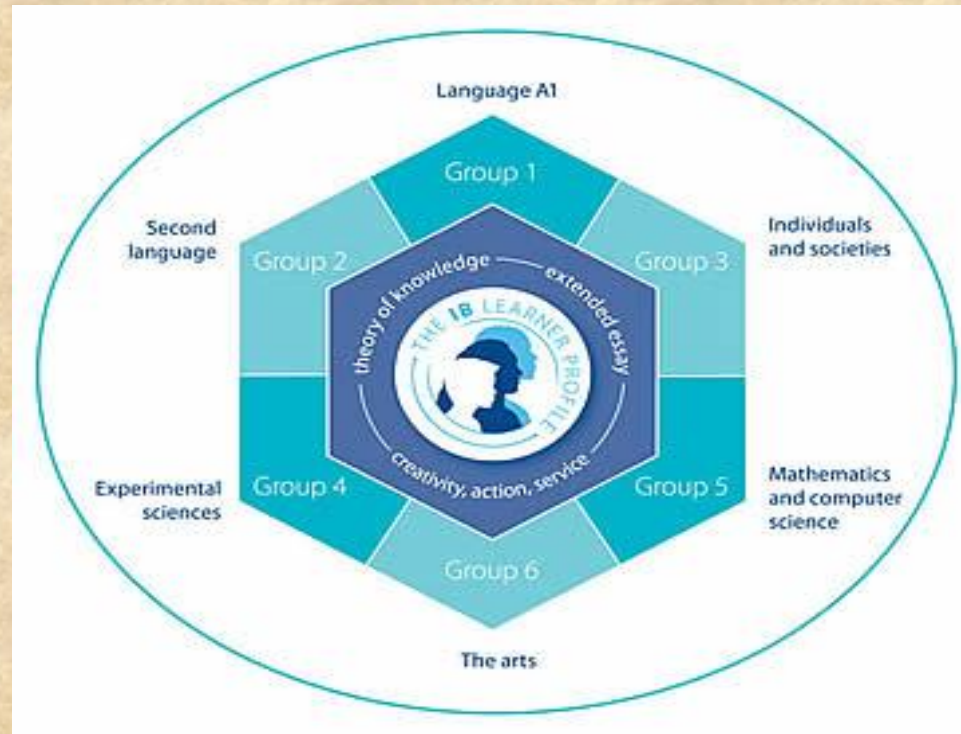
The IB Diploma at RIS:

- Is a strong international programme, within the context of a supportive educational community.
- Employs well-qualified specialist subject teachers trained in the IB educational approach and philosophy.
- Aims to develop the talents of our students to become inquisitive, enterprising and independent learners.
- RIS was granted the status of an IB Diploma World School in June 2009, following a rigorous authorisation process, which ensures the high quality of our offer.
- Our first IB Diploma cohort will start in September 2009.
- New facilities: purpose-built Science Laboratory, Self-Study Centre and Library.



Diploma Programme Structure

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



The Subject Groups

Group 1 (Language A1 – first language):

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 with another first language, in some cases.

Group 2 (Language A2 / B / ab initio – second language):

The study of a second language, either English A2 (near native speaker level), for our students taking Italian A1, or another foreign language, which could be Chinese, French or Italian 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. In the future we may also offer Spanish as a Language B.

Group 3 (Individuals and Societies):

This group contains nine subjects, from the Humanities field, of which we will offer Economics, History and Philosophy.



The Subject Groups continued

Group 4 (Experimental Sciences):

In this group we will be offering Biology, Chemistry and Physics, subject to demand.

Group 5 (Mathematics):

It is a requirement of the programme that students study at least one course in Mathematics, either as Mathematical Studies, or Mathematics at Standard or Higher Level.

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

In this group students could take either Visual Arts, or an elective second subject from Groups 2, 3 or 4, giving them the opportunity to study a third language, or a second Individuals and Societies or Science subject. The option of taking an elective subject allows students to follow a Diploma Programme model that reflects their own special areas of interest and ability.

In addition to their chosen six subjects, we will also offer a range of voluntary additional extra-curricular clubs and courses.



The Core Component

All Diploma Programme students must undertake the core activities:

EXTENDED ESSAY

The extended essay has a 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 will be started towards the end of the first year to be completed during the second, and is supervised by a teacher.

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (TOK)

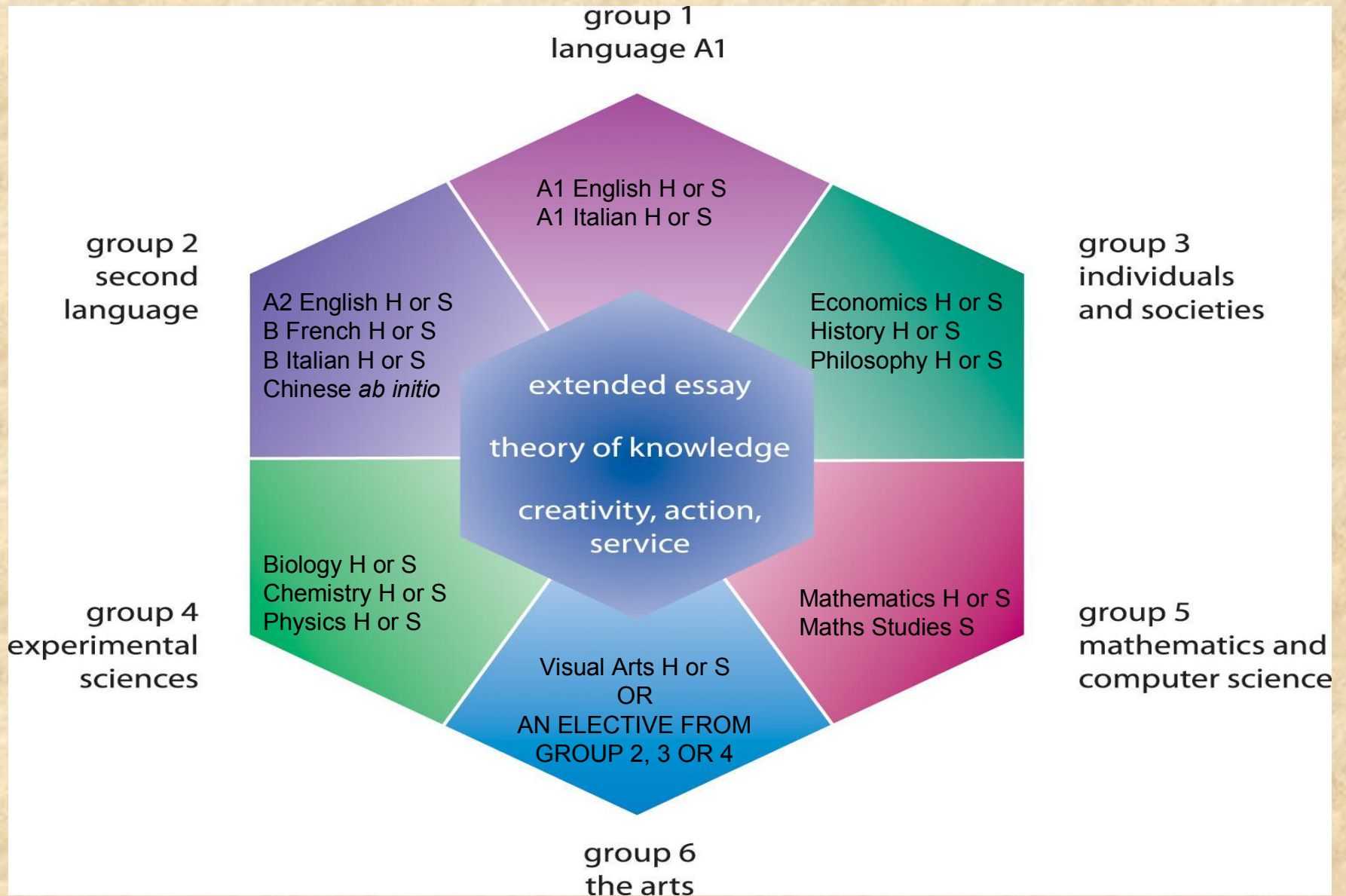
The interdisciplinary TOK course is designed to provide coherence for the whole programme by exploring the nature of knowledge across the subject disciplines, encouraging an appreciation of other cultural perspectives and giving an introduction to philosophical studies. It is assessed through written assignments and oral presentations. Students study at least 100 hours of TOK over the two years.

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. RIS students will have a weekly CAS session to enable them to complete the mandatory 150 hours.



The IB Diploma at Rome International School



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.

Internal assessment

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



Supporting our students at RIS

- IB Diploma students will have a personal tutor who will monitor their progress during a weekly form time. The tutor will work together with the Principal, Vice-Principal, Diploma Co-ordinator and other subject teachers to ensure that our students are supported in both their academic and personal development.
- Each student will have a subject specific Extended Essay Supervisor who will work with them on an individual basis in deciding on a title, planning, researching and writing their piece. This Supervisor will usually be the class teacher of the subject in which the student has chosen to produce their Extended Essay.
- All students will be given extensive guidance in choices relating to the selection of university courses and institutions and future careers.
- In addition to this support, professional counsellors are available in school by appointment, should students wish to talk to someone in confidence about personal matters.



IB Diploma Validation

Since 1986, the IB Diploma has been recognised in Italy under the following conditions:

- the school needs to be authorised by the IBO;
- equivalence to the *Maturità Scientifica* is granted to IB Diploma students with the following subjects (included in the RIS offer):

Group 1: Language A1 HL or SL

Group 2: Language A2 or B or *ab initio* SL

Group 3: History or Economics or Philosophy SL

Group 4: Physics HL

Group 5: Mathematics HL

Group 6: Chemistry or Biology or Visual Arts HL or SL

For access to Italian universities, the Language A1 must be Italian.

IB Diploma Validation

Since 1986, the IB Diploma has been recognised in Italy under the following conditions:

- the school needs to be authorised by the IBO;
- equivalence to the Maturità Linguistica is granted to IB Diploma students with the following subjects (included in the RIS offer):

Group 1: Language A1 HL

Group 2: Language A2 or B HL

Group 3: History or Economics or Philosophy HL or SL

Group 4: Chemistry or Physics or Biology SL

Group 5: Mathematics SL or Mathematical Studies SL

Group 6: Third Language HL or SL or *ab initio* SL

For access to Italian universities, the Language A1 must be Italian.

For any further information about the IB Diploma please do not hesitate to contact the IB Diploma Co-ordinator, Ms Jo Barker:

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