

ROME INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

The High School:
A curriculum overview



RIS HIGH SCHOOL: AN OVERVIEW

- Opened in September 2007.
- 4 years - from Grade 10 through to Grade 13.
- For the first 2 years of High School our students follow the GCSE programme (Grades 10 and 11).
- In the final two years students follow the IB Diploma Programme (Grades 12 and 13).
- RIS High School students will graduate at the end of Grade 13 with their internationally-recognised IB Diploma and GCSE qualifications, allowing them entrance into the best universities all over the world, including Italy.
- All RIS High School teachers are subject specialists. Teachers on the IB Diploma have been on IBO approved workshops and GCSE teachers are experienced in delivering the course and attend regular training and standardising meetings in Britain.



THE GCSE PROGRAMME

- GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education and is the didactic programme followed in the 10th and 11th years of school (ages 14 to 16) in the UK and many international schools, since 1986.
- Students gain a separate qualification in each of their assessed subjects, graded from A* to G. Grades A*, A, B and C are considered a good pass. Most RIS students will gain around 11 GCSEs.
- Each subject can be entered at Higher (Grades A* to D) or Foundation (Grades C to G) tier, depending on the student's expected achievement.
- GCSEs are assessed through a combination of written exams (for most subjects taken in May and June of Grade 11 and, in the case of Science, at various points throughout the two year course), written coursework (in subjects such as English and History) and practical / oral assessments.
- All GCSE exams papers and coursework are sent away to be externally examined / moderated, by our British exam board AQA.



THE GCSE PROGRAMME AT RIS

All RIS High School Grade 10 and 11 GCSE students will take the following subjects:

Languages:

English Language and English Literature (4 hours per week of teaching):

Two separate GCSEs are awarded, but the subjects are taught together, with some ‘cross-over’ coursework assignments that count for both subjects.

Italian (4 hours per week of teaching):

The class will be divided into Italian A for our mother-tongue students, who will also follow a pre-IB Diploma literature course designed to prepare them for the study of Italian A on the IB Diploma, and Italian B for our non-mother tongue learners.

French or Spanish or Chinese (subject to demand) (2 hours per week of teaching):

Students select the third language, which they will follow to GCSE in the case of French or Spanish, or in the case of Chinese to either GCSE or an entry level certificate, depending on their level of fluency.

In addition to these subjects, it is also possible to enter students for additional GCSE qualifications in other languages which they may be studying privately or speak at home.



THE GCSE PROGRAMME AT RIS

Maths and the Sciences:

Maths (4 hours per week of teaching):

Students will be split according to whether they are working towards the Higher or Foundation tier at GCSE.

Information Communication Technology (2 hours per week of teaching):

All students will gain a GCSE in ICT, providing evidence of their computer skills.

We will be offering a choice of two Science programmes:

The first programme is aimed at students intending to focus on a scientific profile on the IB Diploma. They will study Science for two extra hours per week (6 hours in total) in an extension class, taking **Biology**, **Chemistry** and **Physics** as separate GCSE qualifications.

The second programme option is more suited to those intending to focus on a linguistic or humanities profile on the IB Diploma and will offer 2 GCSE qualifications in **General Science**, taken in Grade 10, and **Additional Science**, taken in Grade 11 (4 hours per week of teaching). In addition to these 2 GCSEs in Science, students will study **Geography** (2 hours per week of teaching) and take a GCSE in this subject.



THE GCSE PROGRAMME AT RIS

Humanities and Arts:

History (2 hours per week of teaching):

All RIS Grade 10 and 11 students will take GCSE History, which has an international emphasis, focusing on medicine through time, the rise and fall of Nazi Germany and the Church.

Economics (2 hours per week of teaching):

From 2010 all students will take Economics to GCSE, studying a course which should give them a good basic grounding in the subject and a better understanding of personal and international economics.

Art (1 hour per week of teaching, plus optional two extra hours):

All students will study Art, but for those wishing to take the subject at GCSE we offer an additional two hours (instead of P.E./Drama) to complete the coursework requirements.

Performing Arts (1 hour per week of teaching):

This is a non-examined subject, combining Music and Drama and giving students an opportunity to work on their creative and performance skills and prepare for school productions.

Students will also have 1 hour per week of P.E. (with after-school sports activities available additionally) and 1 hour per week of Form time.

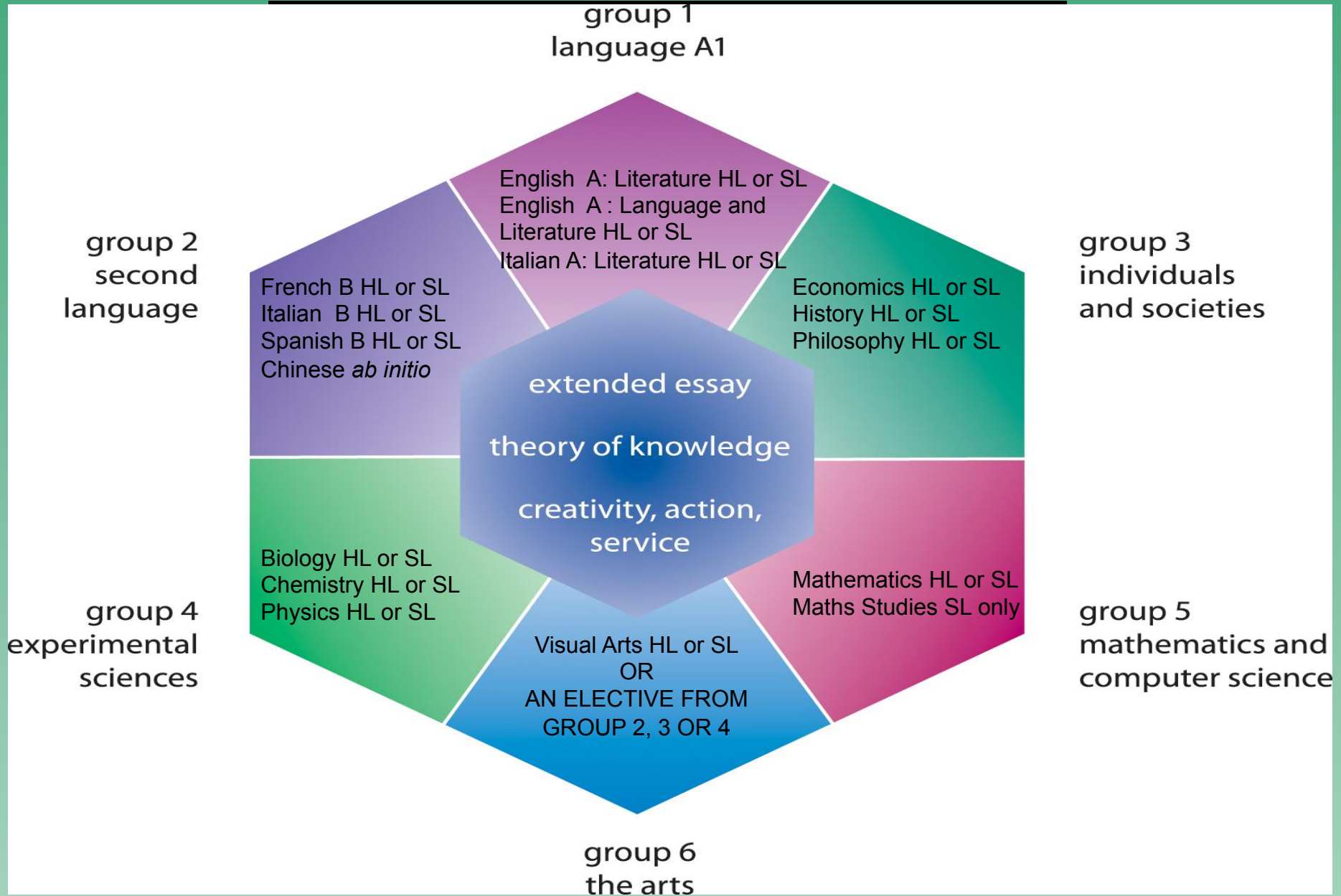


THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

- The IB DP was established in Geneva in 1968 to provide an internationally-recognised pre-university education and is taught in over 2000 schools in 129 countries.
- It is highly regarded by universities around the world, including Italy, where equivalence to the *Maturità Scientifica*, *Maturità Scienze Umane* or *Maturità Linguistica* is granted, providing certain combinations of subjects are studied.
- It is intended to be academically challenging, whilst developing the whole student to become independent, enterprising and responsible.
- The IB DP has a hexagonal structure, with six subject groups around a central Core Component – Creativity, Action and Service, Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay.
- Three subjects studied at Higher Level (HL) – 4 hours 30 minutes per week.
- Three subjects studied at Standard Level (SL) – 3 hours per week.
- Students complete a variety of internally assessed written, oral and practical assignments over the two years and sit final written exams in May of the second year (Grade 13).
- The maximum points score is 45 (up to 7 points in each subject, plus up to 3 ‘bonus’ points for the Core Component). 24 points is the basic pass.



THE IB DIPLOMA AT RIS



IB DIPLOMA ITALIAN VALIDATION

The following relates to the latest information received from the Ministry during the summer of 2010 and applies to students starting the IB Diploma Programme from September 2010.

Nell'ambito dei 4 corsi di studio, i programmi sopra elencati devono prevedere 3 materie a livello avanzato e 3 materie a livello medio.

Si segnala tuttavia l'esigenza che sia fissata almeno una materia obbligatoria a livello avanzato caratterizzante il corso di studio per ogni tipo di liceo come sotto elencate:

- per il liceo linguistico: prima lingua;
- per il liceo scientifico: matematica;
- per il liceo delle scienze umane: Storia o Filosofia.

LICEO LINGUISTICO	LICEO SCIENTIFICO	LICEO SCIENZE UMANE
Prima lingua	Prima lingua	Prima lingua
Seconda lingua	Seconda lingua	Seconda lingua
Storia o Economia o Filosofia	Storia o Economia o Filosofia	Storia o Economia
Chimica o Fisica o Biologia	Fisica o Chimica o Biologia	Chimica o Fisica o Biologia
Matematica o Studi Matematici	Matematica	Matematica o Studi Matematici
Terza Lingua	Chimica o Biologia o Arte	Storia o Economia o Filosofia o Arte

THE RIS HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

- All High School students continue to have a weekly Form-time with their Form Tutor, who is responsible for overseeing their overall progress.
- Throughout the High School students continue participating in sports and performing arts, through timetabled sessions and extra clubs.
- RIS High School students are encouraged to see themselves as role models for the younger students and are given more privileges and independence than in the Middle School.
- They have full access to the Library (supported by a qualified Librarian) and Self-study Centre before and after school and during breaks and study periods.
- They have dedicated indoor and outdoor common areas (with recreational facilities) where they can eat and socialise at break and lunchtime.
- RIS professional counsellors are available to support students should they require this service.



HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSION

- We welcome applications to our High School for two main points of entry: in Grade 10 to follow the full four year High School GCSE and IB Diploma programmes and in Grade 12 for the IB Diploma Programme.
- Students wishing to enter RIS High School will be required to take entrance exams in English and Maths and, for those students wishing to take Italian A (Literature), demonstrate appropriate levels of achievement. RIS students in Grade 9 also take exams to enter Grade 10, as progression from Middle to High School is not automatic.
- New students are also carefully interviewed and assessed to ensure that our high academic standards are maintained and admission is subject to reports from the previous school.
- Entrance tests and interviews for external students are held in late November and late January, or by arrangement at other times of the year.



For further information on any aspect of our High School the Principal Dr William Ireland will be pleased to assist you.

Email: wireland@romeinternationalschool.it

For specific information about the IB Diploma Programme and general curriculum queries please contact the IB Diploma Programme Co-ordinator Mrs Chiara Tabet.

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