

ASSESSMENT POLICY

This document is Joensuu lyseon lukio's IB Diploma Programme's Assessment Policy. This document is discussed and developed by the IB Faculty and the IB Development Team and is available on the school's web pages, visible to parents/guardians, prospective applicants and their parents/guardians, and anyone interested.

Student assessment has many purposes: to give students feedback on their progress and results, both during the IB Diploma Programme (formative assessment) and at the end of their studies (summative assessment), and to allow teachers to identify strengths and weaknesses of individual students. Feedback is meant to encourage and guide the students to complete their studies successfully and to inform their legal guardians of their success. Assessment also helps the teachers and the whole school community to evaluate how effective the teaching and learning processes are.

Assessment in the Diploma Programme is provided both within the school and externally. Teachers must explicitly state the basis of assessment for courses as well as clearly share information on how grades in their respective subjects are determined. Internally, students are required to self-assess and reflect, and they may also be expected to provide peer assessment. Teachers assess student work and contributions formatively and summatively. External assessment involves electronically sending e.g. essays, research reports, oral examinations, etc. to be evaluated by an IB-approved examiner. External assessment also involves posting final examination papers to a scanning center abroad. These scanned examinations in turn are sent to IB-approved examiners around the world. Externally assessed examinations are evaluated according to a compensation model, in which poor performance in one area of an examination may be compensated by stronger performance in another area¹.

The determination of final grades on an IB diploma differ by subject. Both external- and internal assessment factor into the number grade awarded. Subject teachers, including the TOK teacher and EE supervisors, are to provide detailed information regarding the contribution of different external- and internal assessment components towards final grade determination.

The IB employs a robust, multi-tiered system of assessment moderation. This increases the reliability of assessment in a globally implemented curriculum. Examples of this are seen in electronically sending samples of teacher-graded assignments for moderation and the moderation of examination paper script marking by IB examiners.

Awarding marks against a mark scheme or awarding grades according to a standard are not the only forms of assessment. The aim of assessment is to encourage students to become reflective and to understand their strengths and weaknesses in order to support

their learning processes. This is done with the help of self-reflection, peer assessment and teacher feedback.

GRADING SCALE

During the pre-DP year, grades are awarded according to the seven-point scale used in Finnish national upper-secondary schools (4-10).

During DP₁ and DP₂, subject grades are awarded according to the seven point scale the IB uses on the diploma. The EE and TOK core components are graded according to a lettering system. Additionally, DP students are awarded one of three letter grades based on participation and effort. Descriptors are found below:

IB Diploma Programme Grade Descriptors

Subject Grade Descriptors		Core Component Grade Descriptors	
Grade	Descriptor	Grade	Descriptor
1	Fail	E	Elementary (failing condition)
2	Poor	D	Mediocre
3	Fair	C	Satisfactory
4	Satisfactory	B	Good
5	Good	A	Excellent
6	Very good	*These letter grades contribute 0-3 points towards the total diploma points	
7	Excellent		

Lyseon lukio Participation and Effort Grade Descriptors

Grade	Descriptor
A	Excellent classroom contribution, displays numerous learner profile attributes, does more than what is expected
B	Classroom contribution acceptable, displays some learner profile attributes, does what is expected
C	Classroom contribution lacking, displays few learner profile attributes, does less than what is expected

For in-school term assessment, a DP candidate will receive a number-letter grade for each subject. As an example, a student may earn a grade of 5A in HL History. This means the student has done well on assessment requirements (5) and overall had a positive influence during the term(s) (A).

PREDICTED GRADES

A predicted grade (PG) is “the teacher’s prediction of the grade the candidate is expected to achieve in the subject, based on all the evidence of the candidate’s work and the teacher’s knowledge of IB standards”². PGs appear on students’ school-leaving certificates and are the final in-school assessment awarded to students. PGs are sent to the IB. PGs are often times sent to higher education institutes (HEIs) and importantly may serve as part of or all of preliminary acceptance decisions to HEIs. Teachers take PGs very seriously and use their expertise as IB-trained staff and general teaching experience to award PGs as fairly and accurately as possible. Individual teachers can calculate PGs in the manner they deem most suitable. Evidence used in PG determination includes: performance on Mock Examinations, Internal Assessment achievement, and previous formative and summative assessment results during the Diploma Programme.

DIPLOMA GRADES

Results for May and November examination sessions are published in early July and November, respectively. All DP2 candidates are informed of the assessment procedures and timelines well in advance. DP2 candidates may request that grades are automatically sent to HEIs upon publication. These candidates are also made aware of procedures regarding enquiries upon results or requests for the return of assessed components.

ASSESSMENT POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AT LYSEON LUKIO

Teachers must inform students of assessment criteria at the beginning of each course. Teachers reserve the right to include matters such as participation, punctuality, etc. as part of a course or unit assessment. Students are obliged to complete courses on time and should not delay the completion of a course unnecessarily. Should a student not attend an examination on the scheduled date, the teacher reserves the right to lower the otherwise earned grade. A student should be prepared to provide valid evidence for any reasonable absence from an examination (e.g. for an illness).

The following text is adapted from the student guide Jello, an updated version of which is made available to all students at the beginning of each academic year:

The IB Diploma Programme students study for three academic years: the preparatory or Pre-DP year, the first IB year (Class DP₁) and the second IB year (Class DP₂). The Pre-DP year

mainly comprises studies meant to prepare students for the Diploma Programme, and most compulsory courses (except languages) are taught in English. During this preparatory year, students may also participate in e.g. visual arts, music, or physical education courses taught in Finnish. After successfully completing the preparatory year (pre-DP) the student is then accepted to the IB Diploma Programme. The completion of insufficient obligatory courses or an insufficient number of total courses may lead a student to repeating the pre-DP year or then considering a transfer to the national programme. Any such transfer must be approved of by the Head of school.

During their pre-DP year the students choose the subjects they want to study in the Degree Programme from the selection of courses in the IB curriculum of the school. The number of subjects is normally six, in addition to which the students participate in the CAS Programme (Creativity, Action and Service, administered by the CAS Coordinator), take a course in the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and compile an Extended Essay of a maximum 4,000 words in one of the subjects taught in the Diploma Programme at the school.

The Pre-DP students plan their own individual study programmes by choosing the courses from the selection of courses the school offers. There is a certain number of courses which are compulsory for all students. Non-Finnish students are not required to study Finnish or Swedish, although the school may organize a beginners' Finnish as a second language course if there are enough students. In addition to the compulsory studies, the students take courses from the school curriculum so that they have a minimum of 30 course units during the first academic year. It is, however, possible in some cases to take courses from outside the school curriculum. These exceptions must be agreed upon with the DP Coordinator. The number of 30 course units is the minimum, but the students are strongly encouraged to take more courses if they wish, according to their own interests. It is advisable to take courses that support the student's choices in the IB DP.

The compulsory courses for all pre-DP students are as follows:

Finnish	Courses 1, 2 and 3
English	Courses 2, 3, 4 and 5
Swedish	Courses 1, 2 and 3
Advanced Mathematics	Courses 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
History and Social Sciences	Courses 1 and 2
Introduction to Business Management	Course 1
Psychology	Course 1
Physics	Course 1
Chemistry	Course 1
Biology	Course 1
Research Methods	Course 1
Philosophy	Course 1

In order to be promoted to the DP, the pre-DP students are required

- to have a minimum of 60 points successfully completed
- to have successfully completed all the compulsory pre-DP courses as described above (with the exception of non-Finnish students who do not need to study Finnish or Swedish. *Note: these students will most likely be expected to complete some sort of Finnish as a second language course).

Should any of the preconditions mentioned above not be fulfilled, the students may still be accepted to the Diploma Programme after first consulting the Diploma Programme Coordinator and then fulfilling the tasks given to them by the IB Faculty. The deadline for this extra work is determined by the IB Faculty.

During the pre-DP year the students receive term grades after each study term, ie five times during the academic year. During Class DP1 the students receive term grades at Christmas and in spring when the school year is over. The DP2 students receive term grades at Christmas, after Term 2. In the ceremonies for all graduates in spring, DP2 students who have completed all diploma work will be awarded a final report, also called the school leaving certificate, and the white student cap, provided that their final report fulfils the given requirements. The IB Diploma will be awarded in the IB Diploma Award Ceremony arranged at the school on the last Friday of the following August.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (Classes DP1 and DP2)

The two-year IB Diploma Programme (DP1 and DP2) consists of studies in six (or seven) subjects, which are offered on two levels, Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level (SL). The student must have at least three and not more than four subjects on HL. On HL there are 240 hours of instruction (equivalent to 18 points in the national programme), on SL 150 hours (11 points). The subjects are as follows:

A languages: Finnish A Literature, English A Language and Literature, School-supported self-taught Literature A.

Language acquisition: Swedish B, German B, Finnish B

Social sciences: Business Management, History, Psychology

Natural sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Mathematics: Mathematics Analysis and Approaches HL/SL, Mathematics Applications and Interpretations SL

In order to be awarded the IB Diploma the candidates must

- complete at least one subject course from each of the subject groups above
- complete at least three and not more than four subject courses on Higher Level
- submit an Extended Essay on one of the subjects taught in the Diploma Programme
- participate in the course on Theory of Knowledge and submit the required work
- successfully complete the CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) Programme
- meet all assessment requirements.

The examinations for Class Dp1 are as follows:



Autumn Term: After Term 2, end of November

Spring Term: After Term 4, early April

Academic probation test: In August, about one week prior to the beginning of the next academic year

The examinations for Class Dp2 are as follows:

Autumn Term: After Term 2, end of November

Spring Term: Mock Exams, early April

Final Exams: April-May

The school will register candidates for their examinations and pay examination fees for those DP2 candidates who appear to be on track to complete their diploma. Here, “on track” includes the below mentioned requirements for promotion to DP2 as well as submission of the Extended Essay on time (usually the final school day in October of the DP2 year). Failure to submit the EE on time will result in the candidate incurring the late fees for registration. Regular schoolwork for Class Dp2 terminates after Term 4, in early April. At this time, the candidates receive their predicted grades.

In order to be promoted to Class Dp2, the Dp1 students are required

- 1. to have successfully completed their studies in the IB subjects on the following terms:

 - a. the total grade not less than 24 in six subjects combined with core points (self-taught Language A1 Literature candidates must complete the course requirements but will not receive a grade in DP1, so 20 points in five subjects)*
 - b. no SL subject grade lower than 3. SL subjects must total at least 9 points*
 - c. no HL subject lower than 4. HL subjects must total at least 12 points*
 - d. Candidates must complete the relevant TOK and EE work for the DP1 year. 1 point is earned for each core element, and both points must be earned.**
- 2. to have successfully completed all the required written assignments and other tasks set by the IB Faculty, following the given deadlines*
- 3. not to have missed more than 15 per cent of their classes in each subject course*

If the student fails to meet the previously mentioned requirements, they become an “academic probationer”: they must pass a test set by the corresponding teacher in order to be promoted to the final year of the IB Diploma Programme. This probation test is arranged about one week prior to the next academic year. It is important that the student informs the DP Coordinator by the end of May whether they will sit this examination or not. If this test is not passed or not attended, the student is to start the IB Diploma Programme from the beginning the following autumn.

(Updated August 2024)

WORKS CITED

1. Assessment Principles and Practice: Quality Assessment in a Digital Age (IBO 2021).



2. IBO home pages. Recognition of IB programmes, General FAQs. [Link](#)