



PREPARING FOR GRADES 11 & 12

Welcome! As a new Grade 11 or Grade 12 student you will have to make some well thought-out decisions regarding the courses you would like to take. Please read the enclosed information carefully. Should you have questions about academic or course choices please email our Counseling Assistant (Arni Supan - SupanM@ismanila.org) who can then forward your question to the Counselor assigned to you.

Minimum Credits Required for Graduation

All students who graduate from ISM will graduate with the equivalent of a US High School Diploma. Graduation requirements are as follows:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Minimum Credits</u>	<u>Recommended Credits</u>
English	4	4
Math	2	4
Science	2	3-4
Social Studies	2	3-4
Modern Languages	2	3-4
Physical Education	2	2
Wellness	½	½
Design and Technology	½	½
Fine and Performing Arts	2	2
Electives	6	3-5
Total	23	25-30

One credit is awarded for completing a full-year academic course.

Credits are computed in terms of hours. One credit represents at least 120 hours (two semesters) of work in one subject over the course of the school year. Students must accumulate a minimum of twenty-three (23) course credits in order to graduate from ISM. Of those twenty-three credits, seventeen (17) are to be acquired in specific academic subjects. The six (6) remaining credits may be earned in electives. In some cases, the year in which the credit is to be acquired may also be specified.

Additional Requirements and Recommendations

- It is recommended that all Filipino citizens take the Philippine History course and earn one credit in Filipino language for each year enrolled in High School.
- Swimming competency is required of all students.
- Information Technology competency is required throughout the four years of High School.
- At least twenty-five hours of Service Learning are required per academic year, through ICARE and/or activity projects during the school year. Please note that IB Diploma students will need to complete additional Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) Activities.
- To learn more, visit our ISM HS Counseling blog: <https://sites.google.com/ismanila.org/ism-hs-counseling>.

In addition to the US High School Diploma, ISM offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum in Grades 11/12. Students can either pursue the IB Diploma Program or opt to enroll in non-IB courses and/or IB Certificate courses.

IB Diploma Program (IBDP) in Grades 11/12

The IBDP is a rigorous and time consuming two-year program, completed in Grades 11 and 12, which is required by most European universities for admission and highly regarded by universities around the world.

Students must take three courses at Higher Level (HL), three at Standard Level (SL), and the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course. In addition, they complete the Extended Essay, which is a 4,000-word research essay on a topic of their choice. The IBDP curriculum consists of **six subject groups**. Every IB Diploma candidate must take one course from each of Groups 1 – 5 (unless you aim to be an IB Bilingual Diploma candidate) and a sixth course from either Group 6 or any other course from Groups 1 – 4.

HL courses cover material in more depth and can be more challenging in content; HL math and sciences are particularly rigorous and have 10th grade pre-requisites. IB Bilingual Diploma candidates take two different languages in Group 1 and could opt out of taking a Group 2 subject.

Whether students ultimately achieve the IB Diploma is determined by exams taken in each of the six subjects at the end of Grade 12 in conjunction with relevant coursework completed throughout the two years. Each course is graded on a 7-1 scale (7 being the highest) with 45 points being the total maximum score a student can achieve from their six academic subjects along with a possible 3 bonus points from their TOK and EE grades. A minimum of 24 points are required to earn the IB Diploma.

How students perform in Grade 10 is a good indicator of whether they are suited for the IBDP. A solid foundation in subjects and strong study skills are required to successfully pursue the IBDP in Grades 11 and 12.

The following offerings can be used as a reference by IB Diploma as well as individual IB course candidates:



Group	Subject & Levels Offered	
Group 1: Language A	English A Literature HL/SL English A Language & Literature HL/SL Korean A Literature HL/SL Japanese A Literature HL/SL	Filipino A Literature HL/SL Chinese A Literature HL/SL Self-Taught A Literature SL
Group 2: Language B	English B HL/SL French B HL/SL Mandarin B HL/SL	Spanish B HL/SL French Ab initio SL Spanish Ab initio SL
Group 3: Individuals & Societies	Business Management HL/SL Economics HL/SL Geography HL/SL	Global Politics HL/SL History HL/SL Psychology HL/SL
Groups 3 & 4: Transdisciplinary	Environmental Systems & Societies SL	
Group 4: Experimental Sciences	Biology HL/SL Chemistry HL/SL Physics HL/SL	Sports, Exercise & Health Science HL/SL Computer Science HL/SL Design Technology HL/SL
Group 5: Mathematics	Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches HL/SL Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation HL/SL	
Group 6: The Arts	Film HL/SL Visual Arts HL/SL Theater HL/SL	

What other academic options do I have?

Grade 11 students can opt not to pursue the IBDP for various reasons. For example, the IBDP may not be a good academic fit or it may not be required for the students' university applications. In this case, students enroll in a combination of six IB courses or a combination of six IB and non-IB courses. Please note: Only Grade 11 students can pursue the IBDP as it is a two-year program. New Grade 12 students, in most cases, will enroll in the first year of IB courses, unless they are coming from another IB school and continuing IB courses they have already been enrolled in.

How can I choose the best academic track for me?

The academic program you choose to pursue in Grades 11/12 will depend on a number of factors:

- In which countries you may apply to university.
- What you may want to study at university.
- Your academic preparation and performance at your previous school.
- Your ability to commit to a demanding academic program in Grades 11 and 12.
- [Click here](#) for a list of all courses offered for the 2021-2022 school year.

University Admissions

Course choices, and sometimes the level of a course (HL or SL), can determine where and what subject areas students will be able to pursue at university. Admission requirements vary depending on the country and university.

It is essential students conduct their own research to ensure their G11/12 courses meet their needs.

If you choose to pursue the IBDP, you need to look at your preparation, your previous performance, and your motivation level for each subject area. For instance, certain choices may not make sense for you if you are still working on learning English, or if you struggle with mathematics.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO HELP YOU CHOOSE YOUR COURSES

It is recommended for students to have top grades in Grade 10 to take IB HL courses. IB HL courses generally expect the student to have completed a year of studies in the area prior to enrolling in the IB HL subject. This is especially the case for Fine and Performing Arts and the Sciences. Group 3 (Social Science) subjects are more flexible.

Students need to have a minimum of “satisfactory” grades to take IB SL courses. Most IB SL courses do not have prerequisites, with the exception in IB Math and Languages (see below).

IB Math:

ALL new students are required to take a [math placement test](#) to help determine which course is most appropriate.

IB Language Courses & Levels:

We also require all students to take a placement test if they are taking a language other than English. This does not include students who have chosen to enroll in Ab Initio, as this is a class designed for beginners. Many new students and parents ask about the difference between the Language A, Language B, and Ab initio courses:



- **Language A** courses are for native or fluent non-native speakers, readers, and writers. This is a literature course, so students' ability to take Language A hinges upon their ability to read and write at a high school level in their chosen language.
 - *Self-Taught option: It is possible for students to take a language not taught at ISM as a Group 1 Language A course, which is known as Self-Taught Literature SL. For example, students have taken Finnish, Farsi, Afrikaans, Dutch, German, etc. In such a case, you would need to find an outside tutor who has taught IB Literature in that language and have the tutor approved by the school.*
- **Language B** is a course in language and oral development for non-native speakers who are not yet fully fluent (usually these students have had 3-6 years of instruction in the language).
- **Ab Initio** is for true beginners. Always offered in French and Spanish and sometimes in Mandarin, depending on student interest.

Summer Reading Lists:

[English 3 or English 4 \(Non-IB English\)](#)

[IB English B SL/HL Year 1 Summer Assignment](#)

[IB English Language & Literature SL/HL Year 1 or IB English Literature SL/HL Year 1](#)

[IB English B SL/HL Year 2 Summer Assignment](#)

[IB English Literature SL/HL Year 2](#)

[IB English Language & Literature SL/HL Year 2](#)

Co-curricular Activities:

There are many different clubs, service groups, honors societies, and cultural clubs students can choose from. At the beginning of the year there will be a Club Expo where students can sign up for these groups. Take a look at the slides from our most recent [Club Expo](#)! Additionally, we have robust [Athletics](#), [Fine and Performing Arts](#) and [Service Learning](#) programs as well.