



A Comparison of IB and AP

Presentation to Oakmont IB Parents Club

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Aims of the IB Program

The Diploma Programme prepares students for the 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.



Aims of the AP Courses

- Gain the edge in college preparation.
- Get a head start on college-level work.
- Develop the study habits necessary for tackling rigorous course work.
- Stand out in the college admissions process.
- Broaden a student's intellectual horizons.



The Courses

- AP consists of 37 independent courses in 22 subject areas (i.e. AP US History or AP Calculus)
- IB is a two-year program of study that includes 6 areas of study, an extended essay, and creativity, action and service requirements. Approximately 100 courses are available.



The Courses

- AP classes move at a rapid pace surveying a broad spectrum of a particular discipline, similar to college entry-level survey classes.
- IB courses move one-year to two-year period, to allow time for in-depth research, inquiry and analysis.



Who takes these programs?

- AP - Open to all students willing to challenge themselves with college level coursework; some AP classes have prerequisites and performance standards in lower level classes.
- IB - Open to all students willing to challenge themselves with college level coursework and willing to complete additional creativity, action, and service hours. There are also some prerequisites for the IB courses.



The Students

- AP promotes open access to students who excel in only a few academic disciplines.
- IB promotes open access to students who are motivated to pursue a well-rounded education and a high level of performance in all six disciplines: English, World Language, Sciences, Math, Individuals and Societies, and the Arts/Electives.



Student Connections

- AP students may form peer groups within individual classes or disciplines, but this is not a goal of the program.
- IB seeks to create a cohort or peer group around academics. IB Science students work together between science disciplines to create a group research project.



The Teachers

- AP teachers work within their discipline to support students; independently of other academic areas. Although it is encouraged, teachers do not have to attend AP training before teaching the course.
- IB teachers work as a team that meets on a regular basis to support students and to connect the curriculum across disciplines. Teachers must attend training in order to teach an IB course.



The Exams

- AP exams are multiple-choice and short-answer or essay exams.
- All IB external exams (except science) are short-answer, long-answer or essay exams. No internal exams are multiple choice tests. Science has a small portion of multiple choice questions.



The Exams

- Any student may take AP exams; specific courses are taught but are not a prerequisite for exams; IB students may take AP exams.
- Only IB students enrolled in IB courses may take IB exams or receive IB credit. AP students cannot take IB exams without taking the IB course.



The Exams

- AP exams are developed by the College Board in conjunction with experts from the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Exams are administered locally and shipped to ETS for scoring.
- IB exams are developed and scored by an international panel of examiners. Exams are administered locally and shipped to the IB Organization examination headquarters in Wales for scoring.



The Scores

- AP scores are based solely on the AP exam performance. The score is on a scaling of 0 to 5
- IB scores are based on classroom work done over time (Internal Exam) and on IB (External) exams. The score is on a scaling of 0 to 7.



The Results

- AP recognizes high achievement on multiple AP exams through the AP Scholars Program or AP International Diploma
- Successful IB candidates receive an IB Diploma for the full program or IB certificate for individual IB courses taken.