



# American International School of Zagreb

Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools  
Authorized by the International Baccalaureate

## Course Selection for Grades 11 and 12

### Pathways to Graduation at AISZ

At AISZ we offer a broad range of courses with opportunities to challenge students to meet their academic goals, interests and abilities. Currently all AISZ courses in Grade 11 and 12 are International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Courses (IB DP). Students have the option of taking these courses at Standard (SL) or Higher Level (HL).

**There are three pathways to graduation at AISZ:**

<b>AISZ Diploma + IB Diploma</b>	<b>AISZ Diploma + IB Bilingual Diploma</b>	<b>AISZ Diploma</b>
6 IB Courses (usually 3 Higher level, 3 Standard level) Extended Essay Theory Of Knowledge (TOK) Creativity Activity Service (CAS)  <b><i>IB Exams in May 2021</i></b>	6 IB Courses, including two Literature courses (3 HL, 3 SL) Extended Essay Theory Of Knowledge (TOK) Creativity Activity Service (CAS)  <b><i>IB Exams in May 2021</i></b>	6 IB Courses Any mix of SL/HL Creativity Activity Service (CAS)  <b><i>Students wanting IB Certificates must take IB Exams in May 2021</i></b>

The IB courses at AISZ offer a broad and balanced choice of subjects. All students can choose subjects from six groups, building a course of study, which provides them with the opportunity to engage in a variety of disciplines. As well as completing IB courses, all AISZ students who meet our Graduation requirements will leave school with an AISZ High School Diploma.



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## The American International School of Zagreb (AISZ) High School Diploma

All students who meet AISZ Graduation requirements are eligible to achieve the AISZ Diploma. This is an American High School Diploma, and in order to graduate students must have gained credit for the following courses from Grades 9 - 12. Typically each course per semester is worth 0.5 credits in High School.

<b>Course name</b>	<b>Credits</b>
English	4
Mathematics	3
Sciences	3
Social Sciences	3
World Languages	3
Physical education	2
Art	1
Electives	6
<b>Total credits</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Grade 11 - 12 Service learning</b>	<b>Pass</b>

Students who are not taking the full IB Diploma, but successfully complete the TOK course earn graduation credits for elective courses. All students who wish to graduate with an AISZ Diploma must complete the Grade 11 - 12 Service learning programme - this is known as CAS.

AISZ Diploma students are expected to complete all internal subject course requirements in order to graduate. Students may opt out of taking the final IB external examinations for their courses, but this will result in no IB certificate being issued by the IBO.

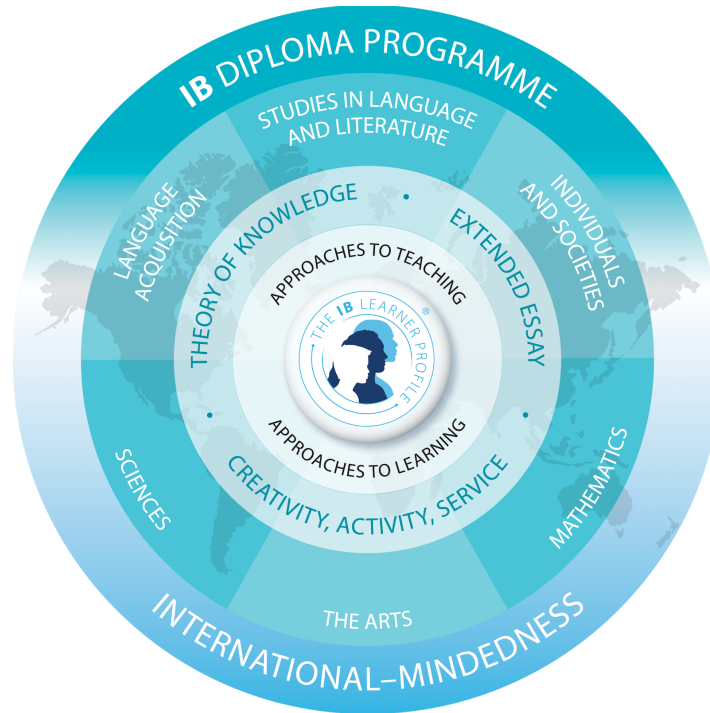
The AISZ High School Diploma is awarded by AISZ to all students successfully completing IB and non-IB programmes.



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## International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP)



The IB Diploma Programme (DP) is a rigorous pre-university preparation programme designed for 16 to 19 year olds. The programme culminates with students sitting external examinations, the results of which may allow students to gain access to universities all over the World. In the 50 years since the Diploma Programme was created, its graduates have been well-prepared for university. For more information follow this [link to the IBO website](#).

The IB Diploma is a two-year programme with an international curriculum designed to give students learning experiences that emphasize *critical thinking, intercultural understanding, open-mindedness, principled action and respect for the diversity and commonality within the human family*. Students take courses from six groups of subjects, *gaining disciplinary strengths with methodology, knowledge, and conceptual understanding*. The Diploma Programme coursework is graded according to a criterion-based system, with well-defined levels of achievement addressing performance of knowledge, mastery, conceptual understanding, and skills pertinent to *both personal learning and subject-specific and disciplinary learning*.



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Students completing the IB DP are expected to study six courses, **three at standard level (SL) and three at higher level (HL)**. The courses are selected from the groups as shown below. All courses are scored on 1 - 7 scale:

- SL courses pass with a 3,
- HL courses pass with a 3, **total of 12 points** (444, 534, but nothing below a 3)
- In order to pass the IB Diploma, students are expected to score a minimum total of 24 points, including 12 points at HL and 9 points at SL.
- As well as completing the six, academically challenging IB courses, IB DP students are also required to complete the IB Core requirements - [Extended Essay \(EE\)](#), [Theory of Knowledge \(TOK\)](#) and [Creativity, Activity and Service \(CAS\)](#).
- Students wishing to achieve a Bilingual Diploma must take two Literature courses, all other Diploma requirements are the same.

AISZ is an IB World School, fully authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organisation and the certificates are issued by the IBO from Geneva in September following Graduation. IB qualifications, and examination results are recognized and accepted by Universities around the World. There are many benefits for Universities accepting students with IB qualifications, [details of which can be found by following this link.](#)

## IB Certificates

Students who do not wish to take the full IB Diploma, may choose **any combination of IB courses from the six groups**. All IB Course Certificates will be issued by the IBO in Geneva.

In order to gain certification students:

- Must complete all internal and external IB assessment requirements for their chosen courses.
- Are expected to maintain at least a passing mark of a 3 for all Certificate courses.
- TOK, EE and CAS are not compulsory, however students have the option of earning IB Certificates for these courses if they complete all the requirements.



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## What courses are offered at AISZ?

Group	Subjects	Prerequisite for course
1	<u>Language A Literature</u> : English, Croatian, French  Self-taught: only available to students whose native language is not offered at AISZ	Completion of Grade 10 course in Language A choice
2	<u>Language B Acquisition</u> : English, French, German  Ab initio = beginner language taken online (Pamoja)	Completion of Grade 10 course in second Language choice
3	<u>Individuals and Societies</u> : History, Economics  Pamoja: Business management, Psychology	Completion of Individuals and Societies 10
4	<u>Sciences</u> : Biology, Chemistry, Physics	Completion of Science 10. <u>Teacher recommendation required for HL physics</u>
5	<u>Mathematics</u> : Mathematics Analysis & Approaches HL/SL  Mathematics Applications & Interpretations HL/SL	Course recommendation made by Grade 10 teacher
6	<u>The Arts</u> : Music, Visual Arts	Course recommendation made by Arts 10 teachers. <u>Teacher recommendation for HL Music</u>

### Notes

- Further guidance, including detailed course descriptions are available through this link: <https://ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/>



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- Students may choose a second subject from any other group instead Visual Arts or Music.
- Pamoja classes are independent study; they will be taken online with no direct AISZ teacher supervision. Pamoja courses are a two year commitment and paid for by the family.
- Self taught Literature will require students to find a tutor. We can help to find a suitable tutor, but cannot guarantee we will find someone for you depending on the language you wish to study.

## How are course selections made at AISZ?

During Semester 1 of Grade 10, students will meet with the IB Coordinator (Sarah Hawkins) and School Counselor (Andrea Diamant) to learn about the graduation pathways available for them. All Grade 10 parents are invited to a special Course Selection Evening at the start of Semester 2, to learn about the options. After the parent meeting, students and parents will have one week to complete the Course Selection Form. During this week, all students are expected to speak with the course teacher. The teacher will sign the form, either supporting the students course choice or suggesting alternatives. This is an important step to ensure students have the highest possible chance of success in Grades 11 and 12. Finally, students and parents will meet with the IB DP Coordinator and School Counselor to discuss and agree recommended courses selections.

During the entire process, students are encouraged to ask for advice if they are uncertain about any aspect of the programme, it is also highly recommended for students and parents to research any specific course requirements for university entrance. This is especially true if the student is looking to study in Germany, Switzerland or Austria.



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## Advice for Students and Parents

Making decisions for course selection in Grade 11 and 12 is a complex, multistage process. Here is some advice:

- Read the course descriptions on the [IBO website](#) before any selecting courses
- If possible, research university programme course entry requirements
- Choose a broad and balanced selection of courses, it's always a good idea to keep your options open.
- Consider and research the difference between Higher Level and Standard Level courses carefully, talk to the course teacher and ask for advice
- Note that the same subject may not be taken twice at different levels
- See the DP Coordinator for advice if the student wishes to study a language or course not offered, which may be available through Self Study or an Online Pamoja course

## Inclusive Access Arrangements

Inclusive assessment arrangements are available for candidates with assessment access requirements. These arrangements enable candidates with diverse needs to access the examinations and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the constructs being assessed. If you would like to discuss Inclusive access arrangements, please see the IB Coordinator for the IB document 'Candidates with assessment access requirements'. This provides extensive details on all the inclusive assessment arrangements available to candidates with learning support requirements. The IB has published several documents explaining their position for students with learning needs. These documents are available from the IB coordinator. For candidates affected by adverse circumstances, the documents General regulations: Diploma Programme and the Handbook of procedures for the Diploma Programme provide details on access considerations.

AISZ will do as much as possible to ensure equal access arrangements and reasonable



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adjustments are available to candidates with learning support needs, however any arrangements for students on the IB Diploma or IB Certificate Pathways must be in line with the IB regulations.

## **Can a student change courses?**

Students are able to change courses with semester 1 of grade 11. It is highly recommended that any significant course changes are made within one month of starting grade 11; any later than this and the student is at risk of having a significant amount of work to make up. If the student wishes to change the level of a course (HL to SL or SL to HL), there can be more flexibility with the switch. However, it is recommended that all changes are completed by semester 2 of grade 11. In cases where a student is discontinuing enrolment in the IB Diploma Programme, a student may switch a course at the end of the first semester in grade 11, after the second semester in grade 11 or before the start of the first semester in grade 12. These will be the only times that students in IB courses will be allowed to change courses. This is to ensure the student is able to earn enough credits for Graduation.

All course changes must be agreed with the IB Coordinator, School Counselor and supported by course teachers and parents.

## **Sources of information**

This guide was based on the 2017 - 2019 AISZ IB Handbook and information available through the IBO website.