



# **International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Handbook**

**2025 - 2026**

## About RHHS

Rafic Hariri High School is the realization of The late Prime Minister Rafic Hariri's dream to build a high-level primary and secondary school that works on serving the Sidonian and southern community and focusing on providing a high level of education to the citizen. The late martyr Prime Minister Rafic Hariri and Her Excellency Deputy Mrs. Bahia Hariri have worked to achieve this dream by supervising the project of establishing Rafic Hariri High School and making it one of the most important and modern schools in Lebanon.

Rafic Hariri High School was founded in 1982. The school was located in the town of Kfarfalous, under the name New Sidon School, fifteen kilometers from Sidon on the Jezzine road.

In 1988, the new building of the school was constructed in its current location on The Nazih Bizri Boulevard, Saida and in 1992 the name of the school was changed from New Sidon School to Rafic Hariri High School.

*"Investing in people, investing in Lebanon's future."* Rafic Bahaa'eddine Hariri

### Our Vision statement

- Empowering a community of self-directed learners and responsible global citizens.

### Our mission statement

- RHHS aims to develop compassionate, respectful and lifelong inquirers. We are committed to promoting well being, education for sustainability, and innovation, nurturing learners to become proactive change agents in an interconnected world.

### IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

**We have noticed that all of this is captured in our mission statement, and therefore it is going to be the best-fit program to offer to our high school students.**

# Introduction To The IB

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a global leader in international education—developing inquiring, knowledgeable, confident, and caring young people. The IB programmes empower school-aged students to take ownership in their own learning and help them develop future-ready skills to make a difference and thrive in a world that changes fast.

For over 50 years, the IB four programmes provide a solid, consistent framework and the flexibility to tailor students' education according to their culture and context. The IB covers four programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and the Diploma Programme (DP), along with the Career-related Certificate (CP). The IB continuum of programmes are designed to develop well-rounded individuals who can respond to today's challenges with optimism and an open mind.

Taken from IB website [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

## What is the IBDP?

The Diploma Programme (DP) is a curriculum framework designed by the International Baccalaureate (IB) for students in the last two years of high school. IB students graduating with the IB diploma are able to study at universities all around the world, often with advanced credit. Students report that their involvement with the IB has given them the tools needed to succeed at college. In particular, students comment on their sense of preparedness, self-confidence, research skills and their ability to manage their time. Even more important, they have developed a sense of the world around them and their responsibility to it.

Diploma Programme students study **six subjects** (three at standard level and three at higher level) over two years in addition to the core elements: the theory of knowledge (**TOK**), the extended essay (**EE**) and at least 150 hours of **CAS**—creativity, activity and service tasks outside of the classroom.

In addition to these requirements, students must earn a minimum of 24 points out of a possible 45 points on the final assessments, which are externally marked and moderated by the IB in order to receive an IB diploma.

Only schools officially approved by the IB are authorized to offer and to present candidates for examinations. **Rafic Hariri High School is an authorized school** for the Diploma Programme and it is a member of IB World Schools. It shares with other IB schools a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that Rafic Hariri High School believes is important for our students.

For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit [https://www.ibo.org/](http://www.ibo.org/)

## IB LEARNER PROFILE

The *Learner Profile* is at the heart of the DP programme and provides a common core for the IB continuum of programmes. The attributes the IB hopes to see grow and develop in the life of the Diploma student.

- The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help create a better more peaceful world. IB Learners strive to be: Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Balanced and Reflective.



## IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK



This model provides a visual depiction of the DP's various components which make it such an exceptional holistic programme. These include:

1. At the Center – ***IB Learner Profile***
2. **Approaches to teaching and learning** are included in the inner circle demonstrating the DP's commitment to particular pedagogical approaches to teaching and to developing particular skills for learning.
3. The outer circle entitled "**international-mindedness**" gives the required emphasis to how all DP teaching and learning should take place within a spirit of tolerance and healthy openness as students grow as global citizens within the framework of international-mindedness.
4. As the diagram's widest circle shows DP students study **six subjects**.
5. **CORE requirements** that are depicted in the lighter shaded circle to highlight how these curricular aspects provide a contrast to the rigors of the academic disciplines.

## DIPLOMA PROGRAMME AT RHHS

IBDP is a two-year international curriculum that allows students to fulfill the requirements for entrance to university. Students should choose the IB subjects and level based on their academic strengths and interests, and future education plans. There are two ways in which students can follow the IBDP curriculum at RHHS:

Pathway	Description
<b>IB Diploma</b>	Full programme with all core components (TOK, EE, CAS) and six subjects
<b>IB Certificate</b>	Students choose individual subjects and earn certificates on a course basis

All students (Lebanese and non-Lebanese) aged 16-19 can join IBDP in grades 11 and 12. For equivalency purposes with the Lebanese Baccalaureate, some conditions apply for the Lebanese students as specified in the table below:

Lebanese students must study		
Arabic A (SL) or Arabic B (HL)	History (Lebanese curriculum)	Civics (Lebanese curriculum)

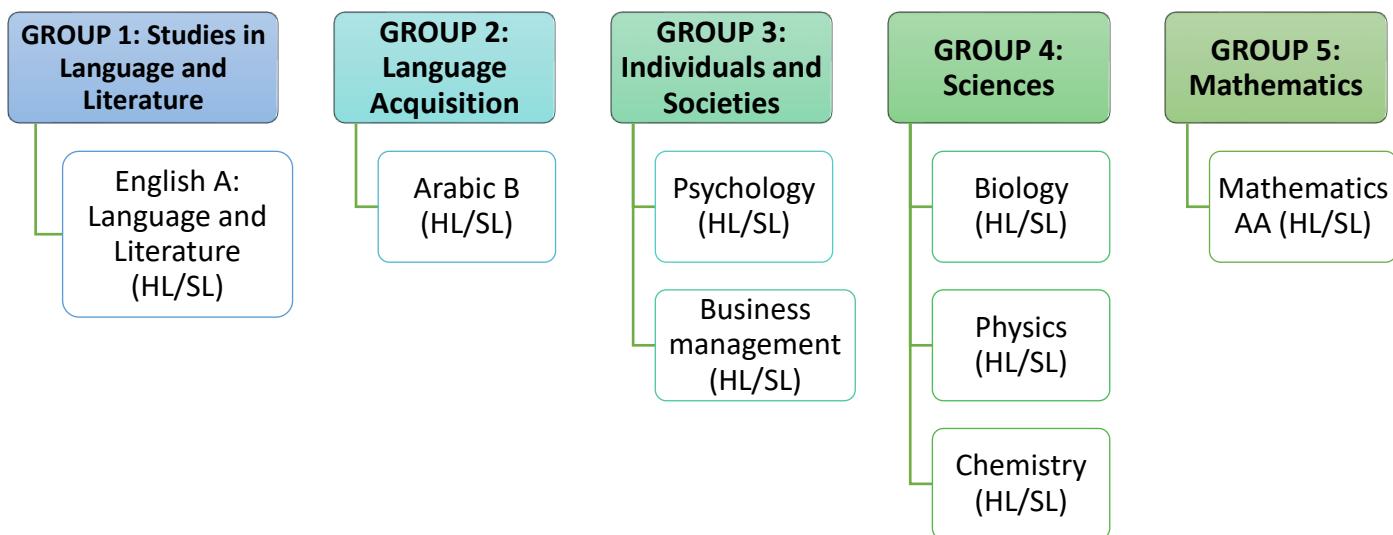
### Requirements for Full Diploma

To gain the full IB diploma a student must satisfy the following:

- Take one course from each of the six diploma subject areas – 3 courses must be at Higher Level (HL) and 3 courses must be at Standard Level (SL)
- Complete the three core requirements that are:
  - Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course and required paper and oral presentation
  - Complete and submit a senior research essay called the Extended Essay
  - Complete and document activities for Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)
- Obtain a total number of points of 24 points or above to be awarded the diploma. Each examined subject is graded on the IB scale of 1 (minimum) to 7 (maximum). The highest possible score is 45. A maximum of 7 points is available for each subject taken, with an additional 3 points available for the Extended Essay (EE) and Theory of Knowledge (TOK).
- Have no failing conditions.

## DP COURSE SELECTIONS

At RHHS, we are going to offer the courses below at both levels (HL and SL) to meet the students' needs and provide the prerequisites for the majors that our students pursue at their universities.



**All Diploma Programme students participate in the three elements below that make up the core of the model.**

### CORE REQUIREMENTS

- **Theory of knowledge (TOK)**, in which students reflect on the nature of knowledge and on how we know what we claim to know.
- **The extended essay (EE)**, which is an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper.
- **Creativity, activity, service (CAS)**, in which students complete a project related to those three concepts.

### Assessment

#### Internal Assessment:

Each subject includes a variety of examinations as well as an independent internal assessment component (IA) that can include oral examinations, portfolios, laboratory work, and real-world investigations. The IAs are assessed in school but are moderated externally by IB Examiners.

#### External Assessment:

The examinations for each session take place over a period of approximately three weeks in IBDP2 in May. The examinations are administered by the school but are set and marked by external IB examiners.

## University Admission

The International Baccalaureate (IB) provides a world-class preparation for university and life beyond. IB students consistently demonstrate the critical thinking and research skills needed to excel in their university studies—and they tend to get into the world's best universities.

## University Recognition

The DP is internationally recognized as representing one of the highest standards in university preparatory education. More than 1,000 colleges and universities in North America have recognition policies on how they weigh it in admissions, advanced standing, college credit and scholarships.

A list of colleges and universities that grant credit, scholarships and/or advanced standing for DP diplomas and certificates is available at <https://www.ibo.org>

### How can I learn more about the IB and DP?

Visit the IB website at [www.ibo.org](https://www.ibo.org)

Attend school meetings and events

Speak with your school's DP coordinator

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