

# The International Classes at the Athénée de Luxembourg

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This programme is mainly designed for English-speaking students who have recently moved to Luxembourg and are not familiar with the three languages commonly spoken in the country. It will allow them to follow a high-level secondary studies programme focusing on languages and sciences, and prepare them for further studies at university.

## Organization

The Athénée offers a 5-year study programme, which encompasses three different levels:

- We started in 2007 by offering an initiation year (9<sup>th</sup> grade) the aim of which it is to familiarize students recently arrived in Luxembourg with the Luxembourgish school system, to strengthen their English language skills and to introduce them to French and German.
- Following the initiation year, students will enter two preparation years (10<sup>th</sup> grade and 11<sup>th</sup> grade) before starting the actual IB Diploma Programme (12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> grade).
- We recommend students coming from the regular Luxembourgish school system to join the programme in grade 10.
- The Athénée acquired the status of **IB World School** in February 2010. This means that we are now officially authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate study programme and to host the two final diploma years from September 2010 on. The IB which is offered at the Athénée de Luxembourg is recognized by the legislator as an equivalent to the Luxembourgish school leaving certificate (*Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires*).



The **International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme** is a very demanding two-year international programme that meets the needs of highly motivated students and leads to a qualification that is recognized by leading universities around the world. To earn an IB diploma, students must take a challenging liberal arts course of studies and pass examinations in six academic subjects. In addition, students are required to take the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course that investigates the nature of knowledge in various disciplines; participate in 150 hours of Creativity, Action, Service (CAS), undertake original research, and write an extended essay of 4,000 words.

## Subjects taught in the IB Diploma Programme at the Athénée<sup>1</sup> (12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> grade)

Group 1: **English A1** on HL and SL (native speaker level in written and spoken English)

Group 2: **French B** on HL and SL (advanced level)

Group 3: Individuals and Societies (**Economics** on HL and SL / **History** on SL)

Group 4: Experimental sciences (**Biology** on HL and SL / **Chemistry** on SL / **Physics** on HL and SL)

Group 5: **Mathematics** on HL and SL

Group 6: The Arts and Electives (**Visual Arts** on HL and SL, **German B** on SL or another subject from groups 3 or 4)

Apart from the more academic aspects, the programme strongly emphasizes sports, creativity and community service (CAS). Furthermore, theory of knowledge and an extended essay will form an essential part of the curriculum.

### Entry requirements

In order to be admitted to the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade in September 2011, students will need to have an excellent command of the English language. In addition, each applicant will have to sit an admission test (English and Mathematics for grade 9; English, French, German and Mathematics for grade 10; English, French, German, Experimental sciences and Mathematics for grade 11; English, French, Experimental sciences and Mathematics for grade 12). All applications will be treated individually, on the basis of each student's portfolio.

The tests will take place at the Athénée de Luxembourg either on May 3rd/5th, 2011 or on July 11th/12th, 2011 at eight o'clock. An additional session may be organized on September 13th/14th, 2011 (unless all vacancies are filled by that time). Each candidate may participate in two different sessions only.

The application forms can be downloaded from our website (<http://www.al.lu/tele.html>).

The application procedure started on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. Application forms for the upcoming school year will be accepted until September 6th, 2011.

### For further information, please contact the IB coordinator at the Athénée de Luxembourg:

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<sup>1</sup> **NB:** The schools reserve the right to cancel a subject if there are insufficient numbers to make up a group. Please refer to page 8 for the subjects offered in grade 12 in 2011.

# 5-I (9<sup>th</sup> grade) - Initiation year

This initiation year prepares students for the two years preceding the International Baccalaureate (4-I and 3-I). It mainly targets students recently arrived in Luxembourg whose first language is English and who need to improve their proficiency in French.

The curriculum is as follows:

Subjects	Number of lessons	Weighting
English (core)	5	4
French (core)	10	4
History and Geography	2	2
Biology, Chemistry, Physics	2	2
Mathematics	4	4
Knowledge about Luxembourg	1	2
German	4	3
Sports	2	2
	Total: 30	Total: 23

Except for French and German, all subjects are taught in English.

## Admission criteria

- ▶ Students from the Luxembourgish school system need to have passed either the 8<sup>th</sup> grade (“enseignement secondaire”) or the 8<sup>th</sup> grade (“enseignement secondaire technique”, with a yearly average grade of at least 45). Equivalent certificates that have been approved by the Luxembourgish government are also accepted.
- ▶ Moreover, students are also required to pass an entrance exam in the English language and in mathematics devised by the Athénée de Luxembourg.

## Evaluation and conditions for passing

The evaluation criteria and the conditions for passing are the same as those of the Luxembourgish school system for that level (“cycle inférieur de l’enseignement secondaire”). Students who obtain an insufficient mark in one of the core subjects English and French will have to pass a resit examination or they will fail the year.

# 4-I (10<sup>th</sup> grade) – Preparation year 1

Academic area (IB)	Subjects	Number of lessons	Weighting
Language A1	English (core)	5	4
Second language	French (core)	5	4
Individuals and society	History	2	2
	Geography	2	2
Experimental sciences	Biology, Chemistry, Physics	5	4
Mathematics and computer science	Mathematics	4	4
The arts	Visual arts, Music	2	2
	German	4	3
	Sports	2	2
		Total: 31	Total: 27

Except for French and German, all subjects are taught in English.

## Admission criteria

- ▶ Students need to have passed the 5-I (9<sup>th</sup> grade) or the 9<sup>th</sup> grade of the Luxembourgish school system (either “cinquième de l’enseignement secondaire” or “neuvième théorique de l’enseignement secondaire technique” with a yearly average grade of at least 45). Equivalent certificates that have been approved by the Luxembourgish government are also accepted.
- ▶ Moreover, students are also required to pass an entrance exam in the English language, in mathematics and French devised by the Athénée de Luxembourg.

## Evaluation and conditions for passing

Evaluation criteria and conditions for passing are the same as those of the Luxembourgish school system for that level (“cycle supérieur de l’enseignement secondaire”). Students who obtain an insufficient mark in one of the core subjects English and French will have to pass a resit examination or they will fail the year.

## 3-I (11<sup>th</sup> grade) – Preparation year 2

Academic area (IB)	Subjects	Number of lessons	Weighting
Language A1	English (core)	5	4
Second language	French (core)	5	4
Individuals and society	History	2	2
	Economics	3	3
Experimental sciences	Biology, Chemistry, Physics	5	4
Mathematics and computer science	Mathematics	4	4
The arts	Visual arts	1	2
	German	4	3
	Sports	1	1
		Total: 30	Total: 27

Except for French and German, all subjects are taught in English.

### Admission criteria

- ▶ Students need to have passed the 4-I (10<sup>th</sup> grade) or the 10<sup>th</sup> grade of the Luxembourgish school system (either “quatrième de l’enseignement secondaire” or “dixième théorique de l’enseignement secondaire technique” with a yearly average grade of at least 45). Equivalent certificates that have been approved by the Luxembourgish government are also accepted.
- ▶ Moreover, students are required to pass an entrance exam in the English language, in mathematics, experimental sciences, French and German devised by the Athénée de Luxembourg.

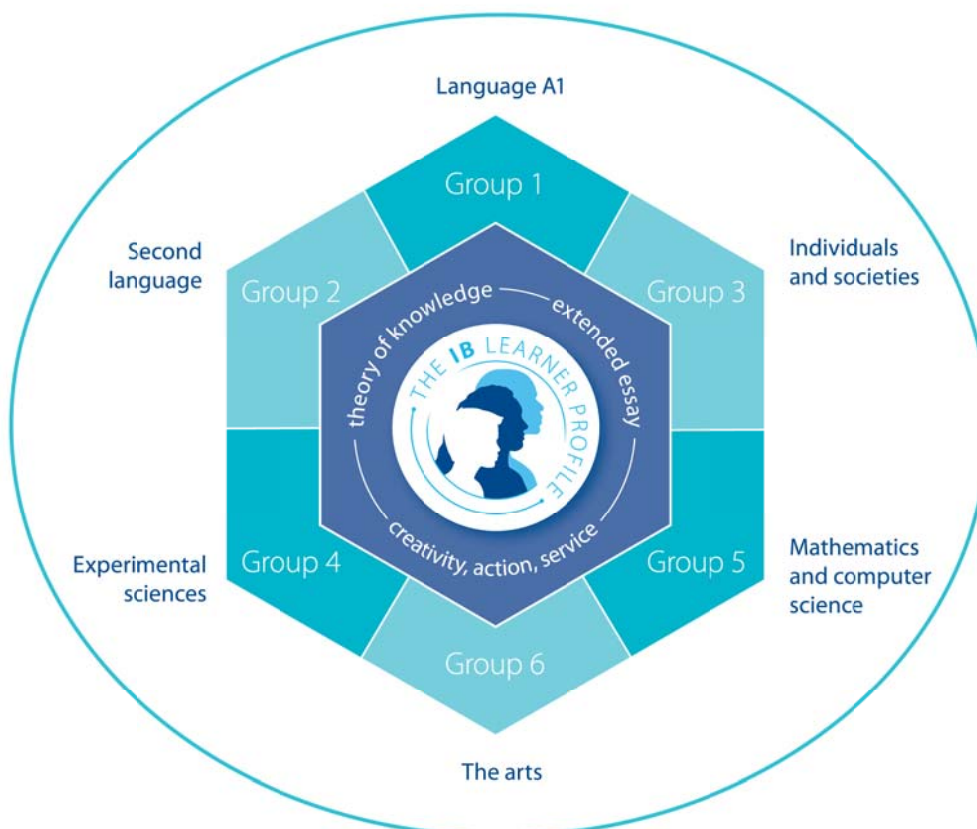
### Evaluation and conditions for passing

Evaluation criteria and conditions for passing are the same as those of the Luxembourgish school system for that level (“cycle supérieur de l’enseignement secondaire”). Students who obtain an insufficient mark in one of the core subjects English and French will have to pass a resit examination or they will fail the year.

# 2-I and 1-I (12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> grade) – IB Diploma Programme

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The curriculum is modeled by a hexagon with six academic areas surrounding the three core requirements.



Over the course of the two-year programme, students will have to:

- ▶ study six subjects chosen from the six subject groups
- ▶ complete an extended essay
- ▶ follow a theory of knowledge course (TOK)
- ▶ participate in creativity, action, service (CAS).

Normally:

- ▶ three of the six subjects are studied at higher level (courses representing 240 teaching hours/288 lessons of 50 minutes; 5 lessons per week over the two years)
- ▶ the remaining three subjects are studied at standard level (courses representing 150 teaching hours/180 lessons of 50 minutes; 3 lessons per week over the two years).

## Choice of subjects

All IB students are required to take six subjects; one each from groups 1 – 5<sup>2</sup>, and as their 6th subject, they may choose Visual Arts, German B or another subject from groups 3 or 4. Three subjects must be taken at high level (HL) and three at standard level (SL). Each subject is graded on a scale of 1 (minimum) to 7 (maximum). The awarding of the Diploma requires a minimum of 24 points and the satisfactory completion of three additional tasks: the Extended Essay of 4,000 words, an independent research paper; completion of Theory of Knowledge (TOK), a course which analyzes knowledge acquired within and beyond the classroom; and the compulsory participation in creative, action and service-oriented projects (CAS). Bonus points may be awarded for an exceptional essay or performance in Theory of Knowledge. A maximum of 45 points may be earned.

## Further education plans

The choice of the subjects is narrowly linked to your further education plans. Before deciding on which subjects you want to take, please make sure you read the information about University recognition on the IBO website<sup>3</sup> carefully and consult the admissions office of any university in which you are particularly interested as this information can change. IB students can expect to be admitted to some of the best known universities in the world. Most of these institutions have established recognition policies for the IB diploma.

For further information: <http://www.ibo.org>

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<sup>2</sup> See “Proposed IB Diploma Programme subjects at the Athénée” on the next page.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ibo.org/country/> and

<http://www.ibo.org/diploma/recognition/directory/index.cfm>

# Proposed IB Diploma Programme subjects at the Athénée in 2011

Groups	Subjects	Number of lessons per week
<b>Group 1:</b> Language A1	English HL	5
	English SL	3
<b>Group 2:</b> Language B	French HL	5
	French SL	3
<b>Group 3:</b> Individuals and societies	Economics HL	5
	Economics SL	3
	History SL	3
<b>Group 4:</b> Experimental sciences	Physics HL	5
	Physics SL	3
	Chemistry SL	3
<b>Group 5:</b> <b>Mathematics and</b> Computer science	Mathematics HL	5
	Mathematics SL	3
<b>Group 6:</b> The arts and electives	German B SL	3
<b>Theory of knowledge</b> (TOK)	TOK	2
<b>Sports</b>	Sports	2
		<b>TOTAL: 28</b>
<b>CAS</b>	Creativity, Action, Service	<b>150 hours over the two years of the DP</b>

## Admission criteria

- ▶ Students need to have passed the 3-I (11<sup>th</sup> grade) or the 11<sup>th</sup> grade of the Luxembourgish school system (either “troisième de l’enseignement secondaire” or “onzième théorique de l’enseignement secondaire technique” with a yearly average grade of at least 45). Equivalent certificates that have been approved by the Luxembourgish government are also accepted.
- ▶ Moreover, students are required to pass an entrance exam in the English language, in mathematics, experimental sciences and French devised by the Athénée de Luxembourg.
- ▶ A certificate delivered by the Goethe-Institut or another Institute concerning the level of German (4 years of German or the level A2, Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is requested by the Ministry of Education in Luxembourg. This certificate could be submitted with the portfolio but must be provided by the admitted students at the latest in April of the second year of the IB Diploma Programme.

## Evaluation and conditions for passing

Evaluation criteria and conditions for passing are those of the IBO.