

The World is in your hands...



**International Baccalaureate
Diploma Prospectus 2011/12**



WEST LONDON ACADEMY
PROUD TO LEARN



The IB Diploma at West London Academy

The International Baccalaureate programme at West London Academy ensures that we have a curriculum provision that stretches the capabilities of all students. It is a course which runs alongside A level and BTEC courses to give students as broad a choice as possible.

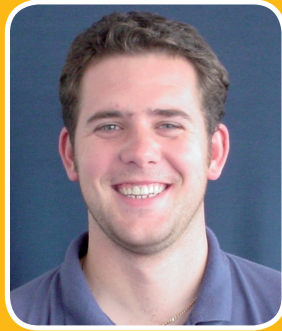
The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme is a two-year course which is aimed at students aged 16 to 19. It leads to a qualification that is widely recognised by the world's leading universities. The Diploma Programme challenges students to become well rounded individuals ready for the wider world.

The Diploma programme prepares students in an international context and is designed to imbed a feeling of global citizenship, the course is broad, balanced and diverse allowing students to specialise whilst keeping their options open for any chosen career. The International Baccalaureate is recognised and valued by large international companies as well as universities both within and outside of the UK.

www.westlondonacademy.co.uk



Miss N Rispoli
KSS Learning Manager/IB Co-ordinator



Mr D Edwards
KSS Learning Manager/BTEC Co-ordinator

Your new start

Thank you for your interest in Post -16 study at West London Academy, which occupies very special place within our community. We are pleased you have chosen to study with us, and believe we can offer you a high quality experience. We are positive you will find the Academy to be a wonderful place to study with a friendly atmosphere and very supportive staff.

You will be joining us at an extremely exciting time in our development and many students travel a great distance to get here, which proves how popular and successful the Academy is. The Academy building is about to undertake a new development which will add an additional building to the existing structure. The Post 16 area will benefit from this expansion which will create additional study and recreational areas for our post 16 students. The additional space has allowed the curriculum to expand within the Academy which has led to planning for a number of additional courses.

West London Academy currently offers a wide variety of BTEC courses and traditional A levels as well as our popular International Baccalaureate Diploma programme (please see separate brochure for details) so we are sure you will find something to interest you in our prospectus. It is very important that you continue to work hard throughout Year 11 and try to achieve the best results you can, to give you the opportunity to study further. Our Admissions criteria ensures that you are following courses that are a suitable challenge for each individual student so please look very carefully at the diagram on page 10. This will inform you about the number of passes required to enable you to study a particular course and at a level of difficulty that is appropriate for you.

Should you wish to apply to continue your education at WLA, please complete all relevant sections of the application form in detail and return to the Academy. It is important that all sections of the form are completed, including full address and telephone number, as we will need to contact you for an interview. If you would like to discuss your application by telephone or email please do not hesitate to contact us.

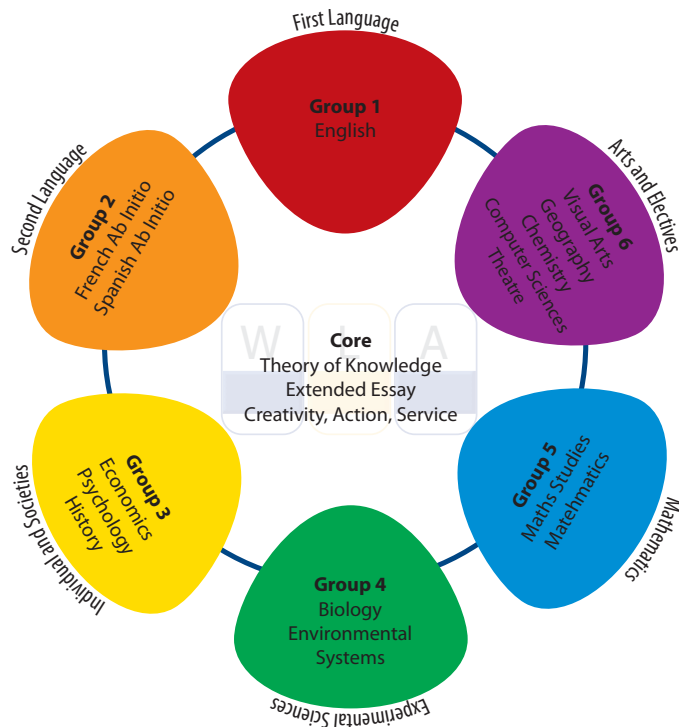
We look forward to welcoming you to Further Education at the Academy and helping you shape your future.



The Curriculum

Students on the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme study six subjects selected from the subject groups. Normally three subjects are studied at Higher Level (courses representing 240 teaching hours), and the remaining three subjects are studied at Standard Level (courses representing 150 teaching hours).

Students must also follow all three of the core elements: Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge and Creativity, Action, Service. These are compulsory and are central to the philosophy of the Diploma Programme.



What are the three Core Requirements?

It is a requirement of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme that all students must complete the following core elements:

Extended Essay

The Extended Essay has a prescribed limit of 4,000 words. It offers the opportunity to investigate a topic of individual interest, and acquaints students with the independent research and writing skills expected at university.

Theory of Knowledge (ToK)

The interdisciplinary ToK course is designed to provide coherence by exploring the nature of knowledge across disciplines, encouraging an appreciation of other cultural perspectives.

Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)

Participation in the Academy's CAS programme encourages students to be involved in artistic pursuits, sports and community service work, thus fostering students' awareness and appreciation of life outside the academic arena.



Group 1: English



All students at West London Academy starting the IB Diploma in September 2009 will take English as a First Language at (HL) Higher Level or (SL) Standard Level. The First Language programme is exciting and challenging. It aims to:

- Develop powers of expression.
- Encourage a personal approach to literature and develop an understanding of the techniques involved in literary study and criticism.
- Introduce students to literary classics and a range of modern writing of different genres, styles and contexts.
- Promote an international perspective through the comparative study of works from your own culture and other cultures.

Topics include:

HL students study fifteen texts and SL students study eleven. The texts will embrace a full range of genres, periods, settings and languages (read in translation).

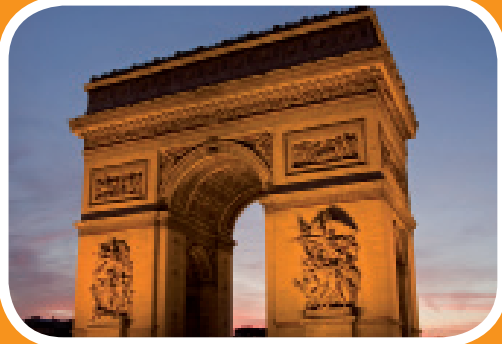
Assessment:

Two exam papers (50%), one coursework (20%) and two oral assessments (30%).

Career Possibilities:

English lends itself to a huge number of careers, particularly Journalism, Publishing, Public Relations, Law, and Business and is also highly regarded in all degree subjects including Mathematics and Science. English will prepare you for a diverse selection of career pathways and will provide you with a wealth of knowledge about Literature and an insight into the world around you.

First Language



Group 2: French (Ab Initio)

The focus of Modern Languages in the International Baccalaureate Diploma at West London Academy is to encourage students to adopt an international outlook of the world that extends way beyond the classroom and into their future lives beyond formal education.

Ab initio

You start learning a language from scratch in Year 12 and you are expected to reach a level similar to Higher level at GCSE at the end of Year 13. You will be assessed in the 4 skills (listening, reading, speaking and writing). This is an accelerated course and therefore requires you to demonstrate excellent independent learning skills. You will be issued with a list of vocabulary and structures to be learnt and collated over the course of 2 years.

Topics Include:

- The individual
- Education and Work
- The City and its Services
- Food & Drink
- Free-time & Travelling
- The Environment
- Health & Emergency Situations

Assessment:

Official assessments will take place at the end of the two-year course (compulsory for the oral component). There are two exam papers and two oral assessments: a group oral and an individual oral.

Career Possibilities:

Being fluent in French can be a real advantage if you are looking into a career in International Business, NGOs or even the European Council. In fact there is a wide range of careers you could pursue if you know French; for example: Translating, Interpreting, Law, Banking, Finance, Tourism, Marketing, Management and Language Teaching amongst others.





Group 1: Spanish (Ab initio)



The focus of Modern Languages in the International Baccalaureate Diploma at West London Academy is to encourage students to adopt an international outlook of the world that extends way beyond the classroom and into their future lives beyond formal education.

Ab initio

You start learning a language from scratch in Year 12 and you are expected to reach a level similar to Higher level at GCSE at the end of Year 13. You will be assessed in the 4 skills (listening, reading, speaking and writing). This is an accelerated course and therefore requires you to demonstrate excellent independent learning skills. You will be issued with a list of vocabulary and structures to be learnt and collated over the course of 2 years.

Topics Include:

- The individual
- The City and its Services
- Free-time & Travelling
- Health & Emergency Situations
- Education and Work
- Food & Drink
- The Environment

Assessment:

Official assessments will take place at the end of the two-year course (compulsory for the oral component). There are two exam papers and two oral assessments: a group oral and an individual oral. All questions/ instructions are in the target language; dictionaries are not allowed.

Career Possibilities:

Spanish is spoken in over 20 countries around the globe and in 4 different continents, making being fluent in it a real advantage if you are looking into a career in International Business, NGOs or even the European Council. In fact there is a wide range of careers you could pursue if you know Spanish; for example: Translating, Interpreting, Management and Language Teaching amongst others.



Group 3: Economics

Topics Include:

Introduction to Economics

- Definition of economics and social science.
- PPF and PPC
- Free Market versus Planned Economy
- Factors of Production

Macroeconomics

- GDP and National Income
- Unemployment
- Inflation
- Distribution of Income

International Economics

- Reasons for Trade
- Economic Integration
- Exchange Rates
- Balance of Payments
- Terms of Trade

Microeconomics

- Markets
- Elasticities
- Theory of the Firm
- Market Failure

Development Economics

- Sources of Economic Growth and/or Development
- Consequences of Growth
- Barriers to Economic Growth
- Growth and Development Strategies
- Evaluation of Growth and Development Strategies

Assessment:

There are three exams for higher level students, and just two for those taking standard levels.

- Paper One: One Essay question
- Paper Two: Three short answer questions.
- Paper Three: Three Data Response questions.

Internal assessment is worth 20% of the final grade. Students will have to produce a portfolio of four commentaries of approximately 700 words each. These will be based on published extracts from the news media.

Career Possibilities:

- Economic Consulting
- Local and Central Government
- Journalism
- Administration
- Sales
- Finance
- Investment Banking
- Venture Capital
- Stock Broking
- Insurance
- Accountancy
- Business Analyst





Group 3: Psychology



Course Outline

In year one students will study the following topics:

- The Biological perspective
- The Cognitive perspective
- The Learning Perspective
- Social Psychology
- The Humanistic perspective (HL Only)

In year two all students will have opportunity to specialise in one of the following psychological areas. HL students must study two.

- Social Psychology
- The Psychology of Dysfunctional behaviour
- Comparative Psychology
- Cultural Psychology
- Health Psychology

Assessment:

Two exam papers (three for HL) and one coursework: an experimental study.

Career Possibilities:

The course develops students' skills in assessing behaviour and designing programmes to support those with needs. This opens up a range of career pathways in Mental Health Care, in Businesses and Industry, in the Police and Armed Forces etc.



Group 3: History

The aim of the History course in the International Baccalaureate Diploma at West London Academy is to explain trends and development, continuity and change through time and through individual events. This course develops historical skills of enquiry, explanation and interpretation through the study of international topics in

Topics Include:

Prescribed subject 1:

Peacemaking, peacekeeping- international relations 1918-36

Twentieth Century topics include:

Topic 1 - The causes, practices and effects of War focusing on World War 1 and 2, the Russian Revolution and Civil War and Vietnam.

Topic 3 - Origin and development of authoritarian and single party states

Regional Topic (higher Level only)

Option 3: Aspects of the history of the Americas

Historical investigation:

This is an independent enquiry about an historical topic that you find interesting. The topic will be discussed and decided in consultation with your teacher.

Assessments:

Two exam papers (three for HL) and one coursework: a historical investigation.

Career Possibilities:

Successful History students become practiced in the analytical, research, and study skills that are useful in Higher education and in the workplace. History is a well respected discipline and is invaluable to any student intending to follow an academic subject at University. Those wish to enter the professions; accountancy, law, journalism, medicine and teaching will find that university admissions tutors look favourable upon the International Baccalaureate Diploma in History.





Group 4: Environmental Systems



The aim of the course is to promote the scientific understanding of environmental processes and how they are inextricably linked with human societies. The role of technology in causing and solving environmental problems is examined. The course also promotes the critical awareness of the diversity of cultural perspectives on environmental issues.

Topics Include:

- Systems and Models
- Environmental Value Systems
- Human Population, Carrying Capacity and Resource Use
- The Ecosystem
- Conservation and Biodiversity
- Global Warming
- Pollution Management

Assessment:

External:

Paper 1: short-answer and data-based questions. Paper 2: consists of two sections, A and B.

In section A, students will be provided with a range of data in a variety of forms relating to a specific case study. Students are required to make reasoned and balanced judgments by analysing this data.

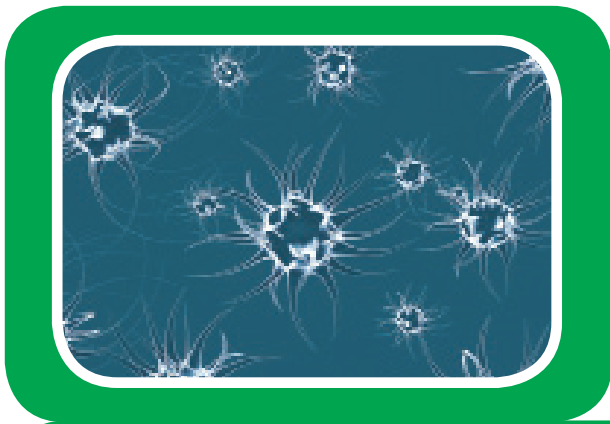
In section B, students are required to answer two structured essay questions from a choice of four.

Internal:

Internal assessment in environmental systems and societies comprises a series of practical and fieldwork activities that are undertaken as part of the practical scheme of work.

Career possibilities:

Careers in this field are growing in number and include: Environmental consultancy, waste management, climate sciences and meteorology, conservation work, development and planning.



Group 4: Biology

Topics Include:

- Statistical analysis
- Cells
- The chemistry of life
- Genetics
- Ecology and evolution
- Human health and physiology
- Ecology and conservation

Assessments:

External:

Paper 1: Multiple-choice to test understanding and ability to apply knowledge of the core material and higher-level material.

Paper 2: Structured paper with data analysis, short answer questions and one two extended answer questions. This tests understanding, ability to apply knowledge and scientific method.

Paper 3: Short answer, data based and extended questions testing knowledge and understanding, ability to apply knowledge and understanding of scientific method related to the optional topics studied.

Internal:

Practical assessment covering planning, carrying out, recording, analysing and evaluating investigations and

A group project across all the sciences. This has to be completed but does not contribute to the final mark.

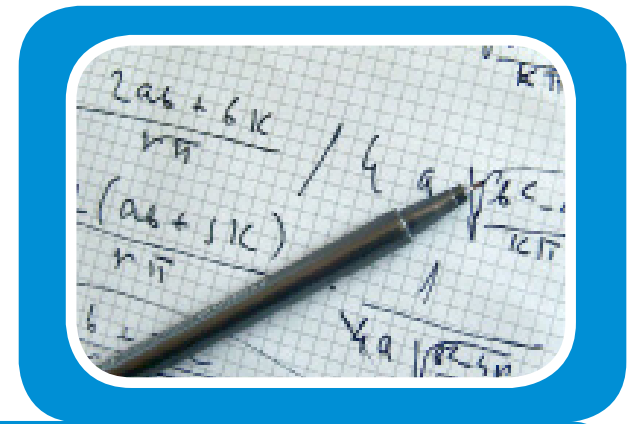
Career Possibilities:

- Anatomist • Biologist • Cell Biologist • Cancer Research/Oncologist • Clinical Research • Developmental Biologist • Ecologist • Evolutionary Biologist • Genetics • Immunologist • Microbiologist • Pharmacologist • Physiologist • Psychiatrist/Psychologist • Veterinary Medicine • Healthcare • Pathologist • Toxicologist





Group 5: Mathematics



Mathematics Standard Level (SL)

This course is for students with a good level of confidence in Maths and the ability to apply its techniques.

Topics include:

- Algebra
- Function and Equations
- Circular Functions and Trigonometry
- Matrices & Vectors
- Statistics and probability
- Calculus

Assessment:

Two pieces of coursework to include mathematical investigation and modelling. All students will also need to take two exam papers, an investigation and a mathematical modelling.

Career Possibilities:

Maths at this level opens doors across a whole spectrum of University courses and careers. Most careers today require mathematics including Medicine, Engineering, Business, Marketing, Architecture and Law.

Mathematics Higher Level (HL)

This course is for students with a high level of confidence in Maths who enjoy engaging in its challenges.

Topics include:

- Algebra
- Function and Equations
- Circular Functions and Trigonometry
- Matrices & Vectors
- Calculus
- Statistics and probability

Assessment:

Three exam papers and two courseworks: a mathematical investigation and a mathematical modelling.

Career Possibilities:

Maths at this level is needed for a Maths Degree or a Degree requiring advanced mathematical skills such as Physics, Engineering and Technology.



Group 5: Maths Studies

Math Studies is a Standard Level (SL) course designed for students that generally have interests in subjects outside of maths and do not anticipate using maths in their future studies. This course is designed to involve students of all backgrounds and create an appreciation for mathematics in relation to the world around us.

Maths Studies leads the student on a journey through a core of intermediate algebra, statistics, financial math applications, logic, probability, geometry, and basic trigonometry. The unique part of this course is a student-produced project/essay that will be based on the student's own hobbies and interests in relation to mathematics.

Topics:

- Introduction to the Graphics Display Calculator (Core)
- Sets, Logic and Probability (Core)
- Geometry and Trigonometry (Core)
- Financial Mathematics (Core)
- Numbers and Algebra (Core)
- Functions (Core)
- Statistics (Core)
- Introductory Differential Calculus (Core)

Assessment:

Two exam papers and one coursework: a personal research project.

Career Possibilities:

Maths is extremely valuable in almost all careers especially with the proliferation of numerical data and statistics. Some main areas where it is highly sought after are Business, Law, Media, Teaching, Tourism, Medicine, Engineering, Finance and Local Government.





Group 5: Computer Science



The aim of this course is to give the student a full understanding of computer science as well as developing logical problem solving and critical thinking skills. Students focus on software development, fundamentals of computer systems and the relationship between computing systems and society. Students studying this subject at the higher level also study computer mathematics and logic, advanced data structures and algorithms, higher system fundamentals and file organization. Computer science offers the opportunity for study of concepts and ideas beyond the boundaries of the subject, and this option will introduce some of these.

Topics Include:

- Computer Programming
- Networks
- Algorithmic Concepts
- Project Work
- Inside a computer
- Number Systems

Assessment:

Students sit two exam papers, and complete a project report based on a real life problem that they have solved.

Career Possibilities:

Experienced IT professionals can aspire to earn £50,000 - £80,000 a year. There are many career options to choose from, and a degree in IT will offer many possibilities. This course is an ideal preparation for those considering further study at university or college in a computer related discipline.



Group 6: Theatre

The aim of the Theatre Studies course is to explore, experiment with and study the diverse, elusive and fascinating world of theatre around the world both practically and academically. The course will be taught through workshops, devised work and scripted performances. Students will develop an understanding of the act of imagining, creating, presenting and critically presenting theatre as a means of exploring society and finding meaning in the world around us.

Topics include:

- Theatre in the Making
- Theatre in Performance
- Theatre in the World
- Independent Project

Assessment:

External (50%)

- Research Investigation (25%).
- Practical Performance Proposal (25%)
- Theatre Performance and Production Presentation (25%)
- Independent Project Portfolio (25%)

Career Possibilities:

Although Theatre Studies clearly links to subject specific careers, due to the focus on developing a range of social, academic and vocational skills, the learning within the subject can be applied to almost all careers. Subject specific careers include Performer, Drama Therapist, Teacher, Venue and Event Management, Agent, Marketing and PR, Front of House, Stage/Lighting/Sound Technician, Set and Props Construction, Wardrobe Manager, Director, Playwright, Designer and Broadcaster.





Group 6: Visual Arts



Topics Include:

- The aesthetic qualities of the visual arts
- The social and cultural functions of visual arts
- Interpretation
- The relationships between form and meaning in visual arts
- Analytical research
- Media experiments
- Discovery

Assessments:

External assessment – Studio work

Higher and Standard Level A (worth 70% of final mark) Standard level B (worth 30% of final mark)

Studio work criteria:

1. Imaginative expression
2. Purposeful Exploration
3. Meaning and function
4. Formal qualities
5. Technical and media skills
6. Growth and commitment

Internal assessment – Research workbook

Higher and Standard Level A (worth 30% of final mark) Standard level B (worth 70% of final mark)

Workbook criteria:

1. Independent research
2. Critical research
3. Contextual Research
4. Visual Research
5. Integration

Career Possibilities:

Visual Arts is one of the biggest grossing industries in the UK. The opportunities for art students in today's society are many and varied from architect to film maker, graphic designer to landscape architect, illustrator to photographer, and list is continuing to grow.



Group 6: Geography

The aim of the Geography course in the International Baccalaureate Diploma at West London Academy is to understand the diverse nature of place, the nature and causes of aerial differentiation on the Earth's surface and the interdependence of people and their environment globally. Through a range of geographical methodologies and inquiry, the course aims to develop concern for environmental quality and the need to plan and manage for present and future generations.

Topics include:

- Population & Resources
- Development
- Lithospheric Processes and Hazards
- Coasts and their Management
- Contemporary issue (HL only)
- Globalisation (HL only)

Assessment:

Paper 1: Choice of two questions from a set of three based on source material.

Paper 2: A choice of either essay based questions or structured answers.

Career Possibilities:

Geography graduates are statistically the most employable, finding careers as diverse as Journalists, Environmental Researchers Retail Managers, Economic Development and Aid, Transport Manager, Location Analyst, Regional Developer, Tourism Officer, Eco-tourism Adviser, Environmental Consultant, Conservation Officer, Pollution Analyst, Disaster Manager, Meteorologist, Flood Protection Officer, Geologist, Housing Officer, Refugee Advisor, Charity Co-ordinator, Waste Manager and Town Planner.





Group 6: Chemistry



Topics Include:

- Quantitative chemistry
- Energetics and Kinetics
- Oxidation and reduction
- Human biochemistry and Environmental chemistry
- Bonding
- Equilibrium
- Organic chemistry
- Atomic structure and Periodicity
- Acids and bases
- Measurement and data processing

Assessments:

External:

Paper 1: Multiple-choice to test understanding and ability to apply knowledge of the core material and higher-level material.

Paper 2: Structured paper with data analysis, short answer questions and one two extended answer questions. This tests understanding, ability to apply knowledge and scientific method.

Paper 3: Short answer, data based and extended questions testing knowledge and understanding, ability to apply knowledge and understanding of scientific method related to the optional topics studied.

Internal:

Practical assessment covering planning, carrying out, recording, analysing and evaluating investigations *and*

A group project across all the sciences. This has to be completed but does not contribute to the final mark.

Career Possibilities:

- Biochemist • Clinical Medicine • Chemist • Atmospheric Science • Drug Development • Drug Discovery
- Geoscience • Materials Science • Pharmacologist • Technician



WEST LONDON ACADEMY

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