












KAMBALA

IB DIPLOMA: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IB at Kambala: Globally ready



At a glance

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Q: Why does Kambala offer the IB Diploma Programme?

A: Kambala's values and strategic vision aligns positively with the ethos of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Mission Statement. Our goal is to produce young women of courage and integrity who will be empowered to make a positive contribution to a changing world; these attributes are reflected in the IB Learner Profile.

Q: Do IB students have the same tutor group, lunchbreak and timetable as the HSC cohort?

A: Yes

Q: What subjects will be offered within the IB Diploma Programme at Kambala?

A: All students must study six subjects: one from each of Groups 1 to 5 plus a sixth subject from Group 6 or a second subject from Groups 2 to 4. Three subjects must be studied at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL).

The following courses of study are offered at Kambala. All subjects are offered at both Higher Level and Standard Level unless otherwise indicated.

Group 1 Studies in Language and Literature	Language A: Literature (English)
Group 2 Language Acquisition	French, Latin, Mandarin, Spanish ab initio (SL)
Group 3 Individuals and Societies	Economics, Global Politics, History, Psychology
Group 4 Sciences	Biology, Chemistry, Design Technology, Physics
Group 5 Mathematics	Mathematics, Mathematical Studies (SL)
Group 6 The Arts	Music, Visual Arts

In addition to the six subjects, all students must undertake three core elements:

- ◆ Theory of Knowledge
- ◆ Extended Essay
- ◆ Creativity, Activity, Service.



Q: Why is there a limited selection of subjects?

A: Our Diploma Programme subject offering provides outstanding depth and breadth to meet the diverse needs of our students. Subjects have been selected to meet the needs and demands that are typical of the School's IB Diploma candidates. In some Groups, there are equally as many subject options as there are for our HSC students. We are only somewhat limited in course offering due to class numbers and timetabling restrictions. As the popularity of the IB Diploma Programme grows, so too will the subject offering.



Q: What are the options if my daughter would like to study a subject that is not offered through the IB Diploma Programme at Kambala?

A: At this stage, we are unable to offer additional subject choices. The IB Diploma subject offering is restricted by student numbers, timetable scheduling and staffing.



Q: How many students do IB at Kambala?

A: On average around 20 percent of the year group study the IB.



Q: Can students change their subject choices part-way through the Diploma Programme?

A: As with the HSC, students are able to make changes to their subject choices but would need to do so at the earliest convenience and give due consideration to any additional pressure this decision would make on their study commitments. The Diploma Programme is a two-year course, with the most vital examinations held at the end of Year 12.



Q: Are Diploma students able to study a third subject in Groups 2 to 4?

A: All students must study six subjects: one from each of Groups 1 to 5 plus a sixth subject from Group 6 or a second subject from Groups 2 to 4. Should a student wish to study a third subject from Groups 2 to 4, they will need express permission from the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO).



Q: Can an IB Diploma student switch to the HSC after a year, if they decide the Diploma is not suitable for them?

A: Yes. However, while students will be eligible for an ATAR score they may not achieve secondary graduation due to the number of subjects that are required to complete the HSC.



Q: How does the IB differ from the HSC?

A: Both the HSC and the IB Diploma offer rich learning opportunities – there is no wrong choice. While there are many commonalities between courses, there are important differences. These differences are outlined in detail in Kambala's IB Diploma Programme brochure.



Q: Are Diploma candidates eligible for academic awards?

A: Yes, Diploma students are eligible for academic awards at the School's Annual Distribution of Prizes event.



Q: Do Diploma candidates need to have a history of academic achievement?

A: To successfully complete the IB Diploma, students do not necessarily need to be gifted or high achievers. If your daughter achieves average to above average results and is an independent and motivated learner, she will be able to cope with the demands of the course. We believe that Kambala students are intellectually curious and have a thirst for learning – this makes them ideal candidates for the IB Diploma.



Q: Is the Diploma Programme only suited to those students who are bound for a tertiary education?

A: The IB Diploma Programme is about instilling a love for learning and creating life-long learners. The Programme aims to develop students who have excellent depth and breadth of knowledge and who flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically.



Q: How does the IB accommodate students with learning difficulties?

A: Kambala’s IB candidates will have access to all of the School’s pastoral care and wellbeing networks. Students with particular difficulties can apply for special examination arrangements.



Q: Is the IB Diploma Programme recognised at all Australian universities?

A: Yes, all universities throughout Australia recognise the IB Diploma and some give academic credit.



Q: Will my child still be eligible for university entrance if they are unable to obtain the Diploma?

A: In Australia, the IB Diploma has a 97 percent success rate. At Kambala, it is 100 percent. However, even if a student fails they may still be eligible for certain university courses.



Q: Should my child wish to pursue university entrance overseas, what support will she be offered by Kambala?

A: The School’s Careers Advisor will meet with students individually to discuss international university options and inform them of entrance requirements.



Q: How is the IB Diploma assessed?

A: Student work is assessed as direct evidence of achievement against the stated goals of the Diploma Programme courses. Work is assessed internally by Diploma teachers and externally by IBO moderators. The Theory of Knowledge essay and the Extended Essay are also externally assessed.



Q: Are SL subjects given the same weight as HL subjects?

A: All subjects, regardless of their level, are assessed out of a maximum of seven points.



Q: How is an IB score calculated?

A: Each subject is marked on a seven-point scale. The three core components can contribute a maximum of three points, bringing the total IB points that a student can score to 45. This equates to an ATAR of 99.95, which is the maximum any student studying either the HSC or IB Diploma can score. Student results are determined by performance against set standards, not by each student’s position in the overall rank order, as is the case with the HSC.



Q: How does an IB score compare with an ATAR rank?

A: The Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) calculates a UAC rank that is based on a student’s overall Diploma score. This rank is comparable to an ATAR and is available from the UAC website.

IB Diploma: The benefits

1

It offers academic depth and breadth.

The rigorous nature of the course develops self-management, self regulation and time management skills.

2

3

Studies encourage critical thinking and problem solving.

Internationally and nationally recognised university entrance qualification.

4

Develops learners who are internationally minded.

5



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