

THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE



IB DIPLOMA OR NSW HSC? HOW TO CHOOSE

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Year 10 boys must ask the question, "Should I do the HSC or the IB?" This is an important choice that faces them, and this article is designed to assist with their decision-making.

Trinity is pleased to be a School large enough to offer two alternative programmes to cater for the different needs of the boys in our Senior School. Both are programmes with integrity and rigour; were they not so, we would certainly not offer them. However while there is much in common between the HSC and the IB, there are important differences too. It is on the basis of the differences that boys, with their parents, should make their choice.

The IB Diploma (and its ATAR equivalence) and the **NSW HSC** (once translated into an ATAR) provide the basis for university entry to all Australian universities. Both the IB Diploma and the NSW HSC allow students to apply for entry to overseas universities. In both instances teacher recommendations and academic transcripts are required. In addition, a grade 6 or 7 at HL in the IB Diploma may gain a student valuable credits or advance standing in many universities in Australia and the USA. It is the student's responsibility to find out information about the recognition of the respective qualification at the university of his choice.

The IB Diploma is measured against international standards.

The NSW HSC is measured against state wide standards.

The IB Diploma and the **NSW HSC** differ in a number of ways. The tables that follow compare and contrast the two qualifications against the following criteria:

- *Course structure*
- *Styles of learning*
- *Method of assessment*
- *Student requirements*
- *University entry*

It is hoped that the information contained here will assist students and parents in their decision making process. It should be read in conjunction with the subject specific information contained in the **Handbook and Guide to HSC Courses** and the **IB Diploma Courses Outline**.

Our experience of student choice at Trinity has shown that students of higher academic ability in the school are **as likely to select the IB Diploma Programme as the NSW HSC**.

The IB Diploma is specifically aimed towards providing entry to tertiary education. Consequently the minimum score for which the IB Diploma is awarded (subject to additional regulations) is 24. Clearly, if a student is not confident of being able to achieve a Diploma score of 24 he should consider carefully whether the IB Diploma is best suited to his needs, as, without the IB Diploma, students will not receive an ATAR equivalent and therefore they will not be admitted to a university course. The Director of Studies and the Director of the IB can provide guidance on this.

The NSW HSC offers the opportunity for achievement to students regardless of their academic ability and for the vast majority of Trinity students their HSC results will translate into an ATAR of the necessary standard to meet university entry requirements for an appropriate course of study.

The IB Diploma provides a liberal educational experience across six subjects and encourages specialisation in the HL subjects while offering breadth in the SL subjects.

The NSW HSC allows students either to follow a broad programme, or to specialise their focus. In Year 12 a student can adjust his programme to a minimum of four subjects providing that he is able to study at least one subject at extension level.

The IB Diploma is a course taught over two years in Years 11 and 12.

The NSW HSC is a course taught over one year in Year 12 with the Preliminary course being the foundation course in Year 11.



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COURSE STRUCTURE

IB Diploma	NSW HSC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 academic subjects studied over two years Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Extended Essay (EE) Creativity, Action and Service (CAS), minimum 150 hours mandatory studies in a native language, a second language, individuals & societies, science and mathematics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y11 Preliminary Course: subjects studied to the value of a minimum of 12 units and preferably 13 units Y12 HSC Course: a minimum of 4 subjects, representing a minimum of 10 units with mandatory study in English, though 11 or 12 units are preferable.

STYLES OF LEARNING

IB Diploma	NSW HSC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> critical and high order thinking and analytical skills university level essay writing skills international in outlook and focus encourages inter-cultural understanding TOK threads run through all academic subjects opportunity in the EE for in-depth research beyond the confines of the syllabus 3 subjects studied at Higher Level and 3 at Standard Level co-operative learning through the Group 4 project immersion second language study prepares students very well for the demands of university study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> opportunity to narrow the focus of academic study opportunity to explore strengths and interests via the extension courses in Mathematics, History, Music and Continuers languages foundation preliminary course in Year 11 the examinable course content/assessment in Year 12 allows for the development and application of skills and the development of individual maturity opportunity to study more than one subject in the Arts opportunity to study vocational subjects no mandatory study of a foreign language, science or mathematics

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

IB Diploma	NSW HSC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 35% Internally and 80% Externally assessed components across all academic subjects Internal assessments either integrated into the teaching programme or completed by mid Term 3 Year12 wide range of types of internal assessment which are internally marked and externally moderated oral presentations in all languages and TOK TOK essay and EE completed end Term 2/early Term 3 Y12 to allow for maturity and experience to be incorporated into the finished works All subjects contribute equally to the final Diploma score allowing for a true measure of academic achievement criterion referenced assessment with performance measured against well defined levels of achievement consistent from one examination session to the next and applied equally to all schools graded on a 45 point scale, minimum requirement of 24 points for award of Diploma, subject to additional regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% School Based and 50% Final Examination in all subjects the school based assessments are spread across Y12 and encompass a wide range of types of assessment in every subject oral/aural assessments in continuer and beginners languages independent studies are required in most subjects all subjects contribute equally according to their unit value to the NSW HSC credential final marks in each subject are standards referenced against defined levels of achievement consistent from one examination session to the next and applied equally to all schools the NSW HSC credential is achieved by all candidates who have met the basic course requirements in and have satisfactorily completed at least 10 units of study including 2 units of English

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

IB Diploma	NSW HSC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> likes to be challenged and to question willing to participate and become an active learner willing to develop independent learning, good time management and organizational skills willing to develop as a well rounded individual and an engaged citizen of a multicultural world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> willing to follow the prescribed course of study with diligence and sustained effort willing to develop independent learning, good time management and organizational skills

UNIVERSITY ENTRY

IB Diploma	NSW HSC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB Diploma score of 24+ converted to an ATAR for entry to NSW universities, a scale between 70.00 and 99.95 provides direct and recognised entry to universities worldwide including Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> scaled by UAC so that the best 2 scaled units in English and the best 8 scaled units in a student's remaining subjects are combined to calculate the ATAR, a scale with a minimum of 0 and a maximum of 99.95 provides direct access to Australian universities and recognised entry to many universities worldwide