

IB DP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION:

How is IB DP different than AP?

International Baccalaureate

Internationally recognized course of study.

Focus of learning is DEPTH not BREADTH.

Examinations are conducted in 6 subject areas.

Examinations are primarily essay based.

Evaluation of students include teacher assessment, portfolio work, student work, and oral examinations.

An internationally recognized diploma or certificate(s) is issued.

IB Students must complete extra requirements for The program (CAS, Extended Essay, and Theory of Knowledge).

School must be certified by an international board. Examinations are marked both domestically and internationally.

Advanced Placement

Nationally recognized course of study.

Curriculum set up as a college survey course.

Exams are conducted in selected subject areas.

Examinations are primarily multiple choice.

Evaluation of students is done by examination.

No diploma or certificate is issued.

No requirements other than exams.

No school authorization. Exams are marked domestically.

Are all staff members IB trained in their areas of instruction?

IB requires that all teachers receive official International Baccalaureate Organization training. This is a requirement of ALL IB SCHOOLS.

What is the profile of a "typical" IB Student?

IB is all about being highly motivated and WORKING HARD! Our students come from all walks of life, but need to have the *desire* to succeed in this intense college preparatory programme.

What is the Extended Essay?

The Extended Essay is a 4,000 word college level research project of the students choosing. The essay is introduced during the Junior year and work on the essay is finished at the end of the first semester of the senior year. The Extended Essay is a required piece for EVERY OBAMA ACADEMY STUDENT. It is one part of their graduation project requirement. This piece is another benefit of the IB Programme in that it introduces college level research and writing in high school.

What is the Theory of Knowledge?

Theory of Knowledge or TOK. Is a two year philosophy course for high school students. TOK looks at how students learn and how knowledge is attained. Students will identify and explore how knowledge is claimed. It is the introduction to the philosophical discipline of epistemology. TOK develops critical thinking and critical reasoning skills. TOK is an IB requirement.

What is CAS (Creativity Action Service)?

CAS or Creativity Action Service is part of the core of the IB Diploma Programme. Each Obama Academy student must complete and log 150 hours minimum of non paid extracurricular activity between the summer before their Junior year to the second semester of the senior year. This is an IB and school requirement that counts for IB and as part of your graduation project.

How much homework can a Diploma Programme student expect?

The IB Diploma Programme is a great deal of work, but the work varies for each class and fluctuates during your time in the program. There is no guideline as to how much homework to expect each night, but you need to be motivated and able to manage your time wisely in order to succeed in IB DP!

How much do IB tests cost?

There is no getting around it, IB testing is expensive. Each student who sits for exams must pay a \$145 registration fee plus \$100 per set of assessments taken. The IB Diploma costs \$745.

Do colleges accept IB test scores for credit?

Yes. Most colleges accept IB test scores (HL) of 5 or above for college credit. Some colleges are IB friendly and will give students earning the IB diploma sophomore status. Each college and university has their own acceptance policy for IB so please check with each college/university you are interested in and speak with a counselor.

Please check out the Senior class power-point presentation for more information on college acceptance for IB.

Where can I find out more about IB and Obama Academy?

Everyone is encouraged to check out the IBO web site: www.ibo.org, or e-mail Mr. Joe Ehman, IB Diploma Programme Coordinator at jehman1@pghboe.net

Can my student shadow to see if Obama is right for them?

We encourage every prospective student to spend the day at Obama. Please contact 9-12 guidance counselor, Nneka Martin at nmartin1@pghboe.net to schedule your shadow day. Parents are also encouraged to sit down with Mr. Ehman to discuss the IB Diploma Programme.