KCCIS

IB DIPLOMA SUBJECTS AND UNIVERSITY APPLICATION

The subject choices you make within the IB curriculum can have a significant impact on the university course / career options available to you in the future. Below provides recommendations to help ensure that the decisions you make when choosing your IB subjects, and what to study at HL / SL, will not limit your options after high school.

It is important to understand that the present proposed IB subject choices or combinations are only general guidelines (for UK unis). Different universities in different countries /systems have their own admission and/or specific requirements, which can vary from one year to another. Highly competitive universities will require more rigorous course combinations. Examples of subject requirements of a few unis in HK, Australia, Canada, the UK and US

are posted on the “programs and entry requirements” page.

When selecting subjects, you must consider your ability in the subject. On the other hand, selecting a less rigorous subject combination just for grade accumulation will not be helpful for your university application.

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| AREA OF STUDY | PROPOSED IB SUBJECT COMBINATIONS |
| Architecture | Visual Arts HL. Physics SL may be useful. No specific subject requirements for some unis but an art-based portfolio is required. |
| Engineering | Mechanical, Electrical, Marine Engineering: Math HL and Physics HL. |
| Civil & Environmental Engineering: Math HL and Physics HL. |
| Chemical Engineering: Math HL and Chemistry HL. Physics SL helpful. |
| Media | English A HL highly recommended. Visual Arts or Theatre HL/ SL helpful |
| Graphic Arts, Design, Textiles | Visual Arts HL. |
| Law | English A HL highly recommended. History HL/SL helpful. For the UK, LNAT (www.lnat.ac.uk) is a compulsory pre-selection test for certain Law Faculties. |
| Economics | Good Mathematics SL score will usually suffice. Economics HL and Math HL for more competitive universities. |
| Business-related | Marketing, Advertising, Management:  Math SL, Business & Management HL or SL helpful. Psychology SL helpful, Visual Arts SL if interested in Creative Advertising. |
| Accountancy / Finance: Business & Management HL or SL and Math HL (preferably); Math SL may suffice for some universities. Economics HL (preferably) will further strengthen such an application. |
| Medicine | Chemistry HL and Biology HL. Math SL (at least). Proof of Physics knowledge highly recommended. The pre-selection test BMAT (www.bmat.org.uk) is desirable and certain Chemistry topics. A further pre-selection test required by a number of medical and dental schools is the UKCAT (www.ukcat.ac.uk). |
| Computer Science | Computer Science HL and preferably Math HL or Math SL (at least). |
| Information / Technology Management | Math HL and Computer Science SL (at least). |
| Psychology | Psychology HL/SL helpful. Math SL or Math Studies. Biology SL (at least). |
| Biology | Biology HL and Chemistry HL. Although Chemistry is preferred, in some cases Math HL can be offered instead. |
| Pharmacy / Pharmacology | Chemistry HL and Biology SL (at least). |
| Philosophy, Politics, Economics (PPE) | Economics HL, Mathematics HL and History HL is the preferred subject combination. For PPE at Oxford, the Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA) (formerly PPEAT) is also required (www.tsa.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/ppe/). A similar combination is also recommended for the highly selective Politics and Economics courses. |

NOTE: Other pre-interview tests and / or samples of written work may be required for courses offered at Oxford: https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/tests?wssl=1  
Cambridge: http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/apply/tests.html

Please see Dr. Vinci for further info regarding the careers planning and university choices for IB DP students.

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