

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (TOK), CAS & THE EXTENDED ESSAY

CAS

The Diploma programme is a complete package and the goal is to educate the whole person and help you become a responsible and compassionate citizen. The CAS requirement is that you share your energy and talents with others, beyond your academic work and books. This is interpreted widely but the key criteria are that you develop greater self-awareness and concern for others, and the ability to cooperate with others.

CAS activities should challenge and extend you. They may include things that you do already such as playing a musical instrument in a group, playing sports, art and drama and Duke of Edinburgh service. The idea behind it is that you do something other than academic study and give something back to the community. CAS takes about half a day per week.

Creativity might include doing dance, theatre, art or music, preferably in a group. Action could be participation in team or individual sports, expeditions or camping activities. Service, often the most transforming aspect of CAS, might be at the school, local community, national or international level. This is doing something for others and with others. It might be, for example, teaching young children to swim or play a musical instrument, sports coaching, clearing a beach or footpath of litter, raising funds for Amnesty International. Often the action and creativity aspects of CAS will also involve service.

There are self-evaluations and school evaluations of your commitment to CAS and the IBO monitors standards.

THE EXTENDED ESSAY

The Extended Essay is your own independent research, on a topic that you choose, written up in a paper. You should choose a topic that is both interesting and challenging to you but specific enough for you to examine in depth. For example an essay in Visual Arts entitled 'The kimono: art form or tradition?' is more focused and therefore better than 'Japanese Fashion: 1900 to 1990'.

The topic must be within one of the IB Extended Essay subject areas but does not have to be in a subject which you are studying for the Diploma.

It should take about 40 hours in total and may be experimental or library research based. All Dallam Students will have a supervisor, (A Dallam teacher experienced in the supervision and marking of such work) they will provide guidance and advice. The essay is about 4000 words long and is marked externally.

What do I need to know?

There is no specific qualification or requirement to enrol on this course but be prepared to discuss, debate, be active and participate!

Why should I take this course?

The IB Diploma is an internationally recognised qualification which puts you in a very strong position when applying for University places. It is a rigorous qualification which produces independent, critical thinking, with an appreciation of world events and a well rounded education.

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (TOK)

What will I learn?

The "Theory of Knowledge" (TOK) is the cement that holds the Diploma together and is central to the philosophy and teaching of the Diploma.

It is a course which challenges you to think critically about ways of knowing and areas of knowledge and to consider the role of knowledge in a global society. It should encourage you to be aware of yourself as a thinker and of the complexity of knowledge and to recognise the need to act responsibly in an increasingly interconnected world.

The course consists of questions, both timeless and new. Examples of these questions are:

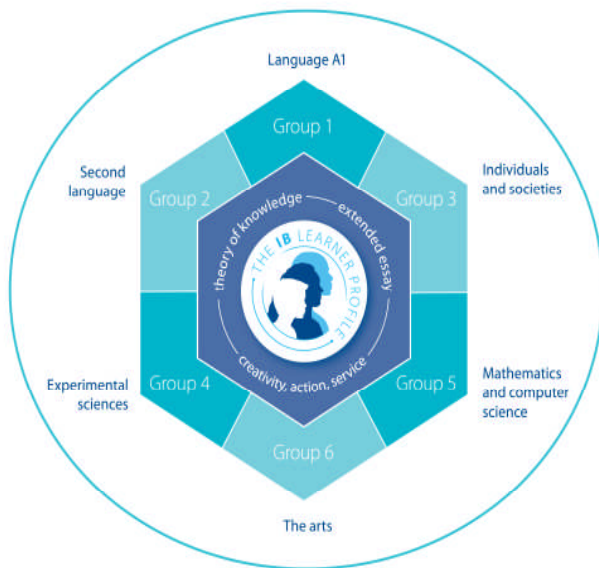
- *How is knowledge gained and from what sources?*
- *What is the difference between 'I am certain' and 'It is certain'?*
- *Can we think without language?*
- *Can feelings have a rational basis?*
- *Does living a moral life matter?*

How will I be assessed?

There are no examinations in TOK but students will be assessed on the basis of one essay written produced on a choice of questions and through one formal class presentation.

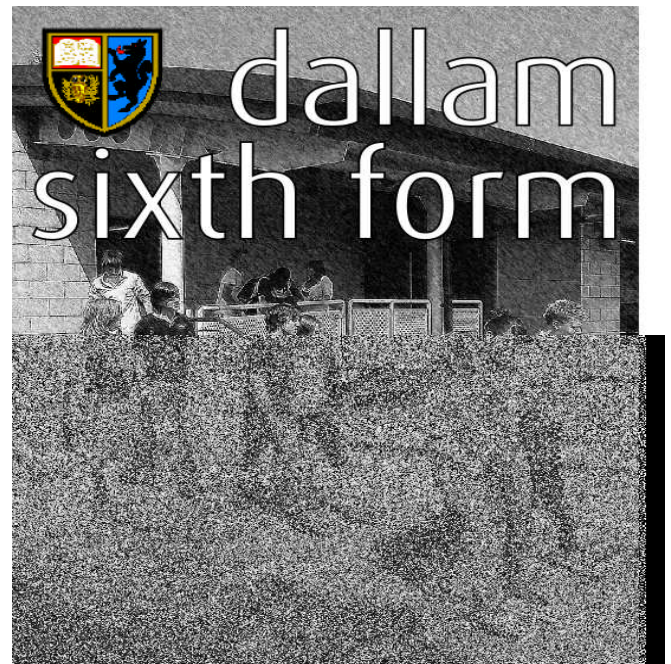
The International Baccalaureate

The Theory of Knowledge, CAS and Extended Essay are the compulsory elements that make up the core of the group of subjects that when studied, can lead to the award of The International Baccalaureate Diploma.



Students 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).

All three parts of the core—extended essay, theory of knowledge and creativity, action, service—are compulsory and are central to the philosophy of the Diploma Programme.



IB Extended Essay, CAS & Theory of Knowledge

Core Components

