

IB Terms and Acronyms

Knowing the International Baccalaureate Programme acronyms will allow you to better follow discussions and read IB documents. Below are the most common acronyms used in the IB community.

DP – Diploma Programme: the high school level diploma that students work to achieve through their junior and senior year.

CAS – Creativity, Activity, Service: a vital and helpful component of the core which is part of the Full Diploma Programme.

EE – Extended Essay: a 4,000-word essay that is worked on during a student's time in the Full Diploma Programme and is part of the core requirements.

TOK – Theory of Knowledge: a course taught over both junior and senior year (2nd semester junior year and 1st semester senior year). The goal of TOK is to look at how we know what we know and to probe how we know that it is knowable.

EA – External Assessment: an HL or SL assessment that is sent out to IB for scoring.

IA – Internal Assessment: an HL or SL assessment that is scored in school by the subject teacher (samples are sent out to be normed and checked by IB scorers).

HL – High Level: the high level at which any IB course can be taken.

SL – Standard Level: the lower level at which any IB course can be taken.