

## **Assessment policy for the IB Diploma programme (IBDP) Mora gymnasium**

### **Mission statement of the International Baccalaureate:**

*The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.*

*To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.*

*These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right. ( ibo.org)*

### **Mission statement of Mora gymnasium:**

*The upper secondary school administration in Mora municipality and its activities, Mora gymnasium, Mora vuxenutbildning, Mora gymnasiesärskola, Mora Yrkeshögskola and Mora Högskolecentrum, shall be characterized by high quality with the student in the center.*

*The upper secondary school administration is a successful administration where our aim is that every student who begins an education should receive the help and knowledge that the student needs to develop towards their full potential in their studies, their future job and as a world citizen. Our aim is for students to learn for life and understand the value of living in a global society. Our vision is for each student to develop towards their full potential and our business is characterized by the four bywords: Safety, respect, dedication and quality. We work together in a positive spirit so that everyone will feel joy, respect, participation but also responsibility in the work.*

*In the daily work, everyone's equal value and respect for each other must be one of our guiding stars and the school must be a safe environment.*

*Leadership must be health-promoting, meaning-creating, communicative and clear. ([www.moragymnasium.se](http://www.moragymnasium.se)).*

### **Definition of Assessment & the division of the pre-IB year (National system) compared to the IBDP.**

Assessment is the process Mora gymnasium and the IBDP use when collecting information from different sources to measure students' achievements based on the curriculum.

Assessment has different purposes. *Assessment instruments may include tests,*

*examinations, extended practical work, projects, portfolios and oral work, some carried out over a prolonged period and sometimes marked by the student's teacher. (IB, 2005, p. 3)*

When talking about assessment the method for assessment, formative and summative, will differ depending on the purpose. The intended purpose will have a major impact on the format of assessment. Formative assessment has a main purpose in providing detailed feedback to teachers and students on the nature of students' strengths and weaknesses. The aim is to help develop students' capabilities. (IB, 2005) *The teacher is seen as a supporter rather than a director of learning (Vygotsky, 1962; Vygotsky, 1978), and should make use of assessment tasks and instruments that help the student work in what Vygotsky refers to as the "zone of proximal development". This is the range of achievement between what the student can do on his/her own, and what the student can do with the support of the teacher (IB, 2005, p. 3).* For the formative assessment to work there must be an intention of the teacher to set tasks that are on the right level of challenge for the student and to continuously keep adjusting that level as the student progresses. It is more important that formative assessment correctly identifies the knowledge, skills and understanding that students need to develop than the actual measurement of the student's achievement (IB, 2005).

Summative assessment, on the other hand, is used for different purposes than formative assessment. It can be used to get information about the student's achievement, selection of students, as an accountability mechanism to evaluate teachers and schools but also as tool when reforming the curriculum. Generally speaking, the formative assessment is sometimes called assessment for learning while summative assessment is referred to as assessment of learning. *This is a misleading distinction that underestimates the major impact of summative assessment on what is actually learned in the classroom. All assessment should support appropriate learning. Summative assessment is not just an activity conducted after learning has taken place but should be designed to have an integrated role in the teaching and learning of a subject (IB, 2005, p. 6).*

The assessment in Swedish national courses that the students will take during the pre-IB year is criterion-based. These are given by the Swedish National Agency of Education. In the beginning of a course, the students are informed about the curriculum and the assessment standards relevant of that course. During the course, the student gets formative feedback which can be provided both orally and in writing, e.g. on the student platform, depending on subject, teacher and situation. The feedback gives the student information about the level of achievement compared to given criteria. In the end of a course, the final grade is set by the subject-teacher. Co-assessment is carried out when possible. The pre-IB year differs when it comes to assessment since the Swedish National system belongs to the number of national and state education systems that use only internal assessment with external regulation. The assessment at the end of secondary school constitutes the main course of entrance to universities. There are, however, elements of summative assessment during the pre-IB year when it comes to admittance as a student on the IBDP (see Admission policy), diagnoses (see Admission policy) and also the Swedish National tests in Mathematics, Swedish and English at the end of the pre-IB year.

The formal IBDP assessment is by its nature a summative assessment designed to record the student's achievement. However, many of the different assessment instruments can be used formatively during the years of the IBDP, in both teaching and learning, especially on the internal assessment tasks (IB, 2005).

*Assessment of the DP is high-stakes, criterion-related performance assessment. It is based on the following aims, which are elaborated in the remainder of this section.*

1. *DP assessment should support the curricular and philosophical goals of the programme, through the encouragement of good classroom practice and appropriate student learning.*
2. *The published results of DP assessment (that is, subject grades) must have a sufficiently high level of reliability, appropriate to a high-stakes university entrance qualification.*
3. *DP assessment must reflect the international mindedness of the programme wherever possible, must avoid cultural bias, and must make appropriate allowance for students working in their second language.*
4. *DP assessment must pay appropriate attention to the higher-order cognitive skills (synthesis, reflection, evaluation, critical thinking) as well as the more fundamental cognitive skills (knowledge, understanding and application).*
5. *Assessment for each subject must include a suitable range of tasks and instruments/ components that ensure all objectives for the subject are assessed.*
6. *The principal means of assessing student achievement and determining subject grades should be the professional judgment of experienced senior examiners, supported by statistical information.*

(IB, 2005, p. 12)

One of the aims of the IBDP and Mora gymnasium, as can be seen in the mission statements, is to make students more open-minded when it comes to other ways of doing things, more globally aware and, in relation these two issues, become more competent in operating in a non-familiar cultural environment. This becomes part of the requirement for high order thinking that the aim is for students to be able to apply in unfamiliar situations. The international setting of the IBDP makes different assessment formats necessary in order to try to achieve equity on a cultural basis. A wide range of formats within the IBDP system have the aim to give the students and their teachers a chance to meet formats they are comfortable and familiar with as well as formats that they are less familiar with.

Finally, it is important to point out that the IBDP assessment, as well as the Swedish National assessment, is highly individualistic, as pointed out by Brown (2002). This is because the IBDP falls within the western European tradition and its societies can be described as basically individualistic. ***Students are assessed almost exclusively on what they achieve on their own.*** However, it is common practice, both in the classroom and in the world of work, for individuals to work interdependently rather than independently. (IB, 2005, p. 16)

## **Division of formative and summative assessment on the IBDP.**

- Formative assessment: During courses and TOK, CAS and EE students will be assessed repeatedly.
- Summative assessment: The DP final exams (external) and internal assessment components are submitted and externally assessed and/or moderated by the IB.

The teachers at the IBDP in Mora gymnasium attend IB professional development workshops in their subject, either face-to-face or online, which provides training in the teaching and assessing of their subject area. The teachers also use the IB Online Curriculum Centre. In some subjects, such as mathematics and language two teachers have received IB workshops. These teachers work together to implement, assess and instruct subject areas.

### *Teachers at Mora gymnasium plan for assessment;*

- in their subject with the assessment criteria and final exams of the IBDP in mind.
- and try to use students' prior knowledge and experiences when introducing new knowledge.
- in collaboration with all IBDP faculty to create and publish a timeline (on the website) for all internal and external assessment to help the students plan/manage their workload.
- collaborate with IBDP faculty but also other subject teachers at Mora gymnasium when they review their assessment practices.

### *The teachers at Mora gymnasium assess and provide feedback;*

- through the pre-determined descriptors in the subject guides according to the IBDP criteria. Every assessment task has defined expectations.
- through both formal and informal strategies in a wide variety of tasks to allow every student to demonstrate their skills and knowledge.
- through the usage of both familiar and unfamiliar situations to help student train their high order thinking.
- formatively to help student prepare for the IB summative assessment. The feedback should consist of current levels of achievement and also what needs to improve. Feedback is given both orally, in writing and through the student platform.
- through providing students with examples to illustrate achievements.
- through parent/teacher meetings (see Inclusion policy) twice a year. In which students' achievements and progress are to be addressed.

- through mock-exams during IB2 in March. The mock exams are based on old examinations in each subject.
- through report cards. Note that the grade the student earns in a course is not directly tied to the marks earned on formal IB assessments. It should be a reflection of the work that has been completed in preparation for the formal assessment of the IBDP.

### **Students' responsibility at the IBDP of Mora gymnasium**

- In case of student absence, arrangements to make up for missed assessment and test will be made on the return. An IB teacher can add the value of the missed assessment onto another assessment (as an example mock exams). The form and also the timing will be determined by the teacher. In extreme circumstances, an alternate assessment or exemptions may be granted in consultation with parents, teachers, and administration. Note that this applies to all forms of assessment except mock exams and final examinations in IB2.
- late submissions. Will be noted on the bi-weekly conference with the IBDP staff (see Inclusion policy). Parent/student/teacher meeting in which a new deadline/deadlines is/are determined when the assignment can be submitted. If the second deadline is not met the student will get a zero on that assignment.
- Homework is seen as a significant tool for the student to develop his/her skills and knowledge. Mora gymnasium recommends that a student spends time (30 minutes to 1 hour) every night during weekdays on homework.
- Assessment for students with inclusive access arrangements needs will be addressed according to the Inclusion policy of the school.

### **The IBDP written curriculum (IB1 and IB2, see Admission policy)**

The aim for the students at Mora gymnasium is to go for the full IB Diploma (for requirements see further down). *If students are unable to study the programme in full, they can follow fewer courses, for which they will receive individual certificate results* (IB, 2005, p. 21). Each student must select one subject each from each group from Language A to Mathematics. A sixth subject is chosen either from Arts or as a second subject in one of the other groups. Three to four subjects are to be taken at higher level (HL) and two to three are taken at standard level (SL) (IB, 2005). Which courses and which levels are optional for the students. However, the IB coordinator and the guidance counsellor will be available the student in his/her choice (see Admission policy). The recommended teaching hours are 240 hours for an HL course and 150 hours for an SL course. At Mora gymnasium the SL courses are subsets of HL courses in the same subjects.

## Courses at Mora gymnasium:

**Group 1** *Language A*: Swedish, English,

**Group 2** *Language B*: English, German (enbart SL), Swedish

**Group 3** *Individuals and societies*: History, Environmental systems and societies (NOTE only SL group 3 and 4)

**Group 4** *Experimental Sciences*: Chemistry, Physics, Sports (enbart SL), Environmental systems and societies (NOTE only SL group 3 and 4)

**Group 5** *Mathematics*: Mathematics: applications and interpretation

**Group 6** *Electives*: Visual arts

For requirements in the Swedish higher education system see,

<https://antagning.se/sv/dina-betyg/international-baccalaureate/ib-examen-2021-och-framat/sarskild-behorighet/>

<b>Example on Social studies</b>	<b>Example on Nature science</b>
Group 1: Swedish A HL Group 2: English B HL Group 3: History SL Group 4: Environmental systems and societies SL Group 5: Mathematics SL Group 6: Visual Arts HL	Group 1: Swedish A HL Group 2: English B SL Group 3: History SL Group 4 : Physics HL, Chemistry SL (NOTE that both SL and HL is equivalent to Fysik 2 and Kemi 2 in the Swedish higher education system (antagningen.se). Group 5: Mathematics HL

*The DP's curricular structure defines the framework in which assessment must operate. Individual assessment models are constructed for each subject at both HL and SL, for theory of knowledge (TOK) and for the extended essay. Two examination sessions are held each year, in May and November, with results being released in early July and early January respectively. The published results are made up of subject grades, which equate to diploma points, in the range from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest) at HL and at SL, and grades from E (lowest) to A (highest) for TOK and the extended essay. A matrix table converts the combined letter grades for TOK and the extended essay into a points score from 0 to 3. CAS does not contribute to the points total, but authenticated participation in CAS is a requirement without which the diploma cannot be awarded (IB, 2005, p. 23).*

*Diploma and certificate results are published to schools and university admission systems on 2 January and 5 July each year for the two examination sessions. (IB, 2021, C8.1) The results are sent electronically, as are many other administrative processes relating to the examination system, such as candidate registration and most mark entry. Candidates are*

*issued with a numeric grade from 1 to 7 for each subject entered and candidates following the full Diploma Programme will also receive letter grades for TOK and the extended essay, together with a total diploma points score. A bilingual diploma can be awarded to a candidate who:*

- Completion of two languages selected from studies in language and literature subjects with the award of a grade 3 or higher in both languages
- Completion of one of the subjects from individuals and societies, or sciences in a language that is not the same as the candidate's nominated studies in language and literature language. The candidate must attain a grade 3 or higher in both the studies in language and literature language and the subject from individuals and societies, or sciences subject groups. (IB, 2021, C8.2.2)

*The maximum possible diploma points total, 45, is achieved by very few candidates, with about 5% of all full diploma candidates gaining more than 40 points. The diploma pass rate has remained fairly stable at approximately 80% in recent years. In mid-February/mid-August formal documentation of the results is sent to schools (IB, 2005, p. 46-47). Note that the final IB scores, received in July of the senior year, are based on the IB internal and external assessments.*

**A student is awarded with the Diploma (see IB, 2021, A2.2) if:**

- DP category candidates must study six subjects, plus the three core subjects—EE, TOK and CAS. They must accumulate no fewer than 24 points from assessment in these subjects, in addition to grade stipulations.
- They must meet all of the additional requirements—see below.
- They must meet all of the requirements within a maximum of three examination sessions.
- Candidates who successfully meet these conditions will be awarded the diploma.
- Candidates who take the diploma in multiple languages may be eligible for a bilingual diploma.

The IB diploma is awarded based on performance across all parts of the DP.

- Each subject is graded 1–7, with 7 being the highest grade.
- These grades are also used as points (that is, 7 points for a grade 7, 6 points for a grade 6, and so on) in determining if the diploma can be awarded.
- TOK and the EE are graded A–E, with A being the highest grade. These two grades are then combined in the diploma points matrix to contribute between 0 and 3 points to the total.
- CAS is not assessed but must be completed in order to pass the diploma. See below.
- The overall maximum points from subject grades, TOK and the EE is therefore 45:  $((6 \times 7) + 3)$ .
- The minimum threshold for the award of the diploma is 24 points. If a candidate scores less than 24 points, the diploma is not awarded.

There are a number of additional requirements for the award of the diploma.

- CAS requirements have been met.
- There is no “N” awarded for TOK, the EE or for a contributing subject.
- There is no grade E awarded for TOK and/or the EE.
- There is no grade 1 awarded in a subject/level.
- There are no more than two grade 2s awarded (SL or HL).
- There are no more than three grade 3s or below awarded (SL or HL).
- The candidate has gained 12 points or more on HL subjects. (For candidates who register for four HL subjects, the three highest grades count.)
- The candidate has gained 9 points or more on SL subjects. (Candidates who register for two SL subjects must gain at least 5 points at SL.)
- The candidate has not received a penalty for academic misconduct from the Final Award Committee.

(IB, 2021, A2.2.1-A.2.2.2)

*A maximum of three examination sessions is allowed in which to satisfy the requirements for the award of the IB Diploma. The examination sessions need not be consecutive. (IB, 2021, A 2.2.3)*

It is up to the final award committee to award a student who has met these requirements with a diploma or a certificate (IB, 2005, p. 46).

### **IBDP grades converted to the Swedish higher education system**

Students who want to apply to the Swedish higher education system after graduating at the IBDP will have their IB score transformed according to the table below. The merit value is the value that the student competes with in the selection to get a place on the courses/programs registered for. Any credit points the student have are added (max 2.5). Keep in mind that the grade value for courses that give merit points and lie outside the IB diploma affects the merit value. Courses from pre-IB and other courses from upper secondary school are included if they are required for eligibility or if the course gives merit points (antagning.se).

IB-grades converted into the Swedish 10-20-skale.

IB	Motsvarar svenskt betyg
24	12,40
25	13,23
26	13,85
27	14,43
28	14,95
29	15,42
30	15,89
31	16,30
32	16,77
33	17,24
34	17,60
35	17,92
36	18,39
37	18,75
38	19,01
39	19,27
40	19,48
41	19,69
42	19,90
43-45	20,00

(<https://www.antagning.se/sv/dina-betyg/international-baccalaureate/ib-examen-2021-och-framat/rakna-ut-ditt-meritvarde/> )

## Different types of IBDP Assessment

In every subject guide, there are objectives that are to be assessed. They are defined for both students, teachers, parents/caretaker and examiner. The objectives can have a wide variety of skill types and in relation to that the assessment tasks can vary considerably within and across different subjects.

Examination papers stand for a majority of assessment components but may vary to suit the requirements of the subject. Question types can include *multiple-choice questions (used in only a small number of papers), short-response questions, structured problem-solving questions, open-ended problem-solving questions, essay questions, data-analysis questions, case studies and commentaries on supplied texts. The examinations are taken under controlled conditions, with student responses being marked externally by independent examiners* (IB, 2005, p. 24).

There are also tasks that extend over a longer period of time with the guidance of teachers that are externally marked by examiners. *These include language A1 world literature assignments, language A2 written tasks, music investigations, theory of knowledge essays and extended essays. The assessment focus for all of these is on the quality of a finished written product, which makes them suitable for external assessment* (IB, 2005, p. 24).

The last type of assessment is the internal assessment (IA) where the student's work is marked by their teacher along with external moderation (teachers are to send in samples of their marking to the IB). Most of the IBDP courses have an IA component (IB, 2005). The IAs often relate to process skills which can be demonstrated in activities such as project work, fieldwork, laboratory practical work and mathematical investigations, art practice. IAs are also used for oral work in language courses. Internal assessment should focus on skills rather than subject content. (IB, 2005) *...internal assessment is conducted by applying a fixed set of assessment criteria for each course. These criteria describe the kinds and levels of skills that must be addressed in the internal assessment. Teachers should ensure that students are familiar with the internal assessment criteria and that the pieces of work chosen for use in internal assessment address these criteria effectively* (IB, 2005, p. 31).

## Examinations on the IBDP

The definition of an examination is *a collection of one or more tasks of various types (short-answer, extended-answer, problem-solving or analytical questions; sometimes practical or oral tasks) that students must respond to under controlled, isolated conditions in a set time. Generally marked/graded by examiner.* (IB, 2005, p. 3)

Examinations take place in IB2 in May during a period of approximately three weeks. Retakes for a student can take place in November and May. Students can do retakes if they are previous IB Diploma Candidates who are seeking to improve on their results, the highest grade for the subject/core requirement will contribute to the award of the IB Diploma. There

is a maximum of three examinations allowed for the award of the IB Diploma, however, the sessions do not need to be consecutive (IB, 2021, A.2.2.3)).

The normal examination pattern is that the schedule for a particular course has two or three papers consecutively starting one afternoon and finishing the next morning. Examinations are scheduled to avoid more than six hours of examining in a single day under normal circumstances (IB, 2005).

The assessment policy is to be revised yearly and communicated on the moragymnasium.se by the IBDP coordinator and IBDP teacher staff.

## References

Antagning.se <https://www.antagning.se/sv/dina-betyg/international-baccalaureate/ib-examen-2021-och-framat/rakna-ut-ditt-meritvarde/>

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