

A Comparison Between IB and AP

International Baccalaureate	Advanced Placement
International Standard of Excellence	National Standard of Excellence
Comprehensive curriculum of college-level work	College-level courses
Encourages academically talented and highly motivated students	Encourages academically talented students
College preparation oriented, college credit may be earned	College credit may be earned
Tests are criterion-referenced; students are scored against a set standard	Tests are scored through a process called equating—comparing this year’s results to the previous year’s results
Teachers are externally monitored and given feedback each year	Teachers must submit a course audit every five years
Student must be in the IB class	Any student may take the exam
Score is a combination of projects/papers done in class and exams in May	Score is the result of the exam in May
Students test in 6 subject areas at two different levels	Students take exams in areas of strength
Exams are based on broad general understanding of concepts and fundamental themes. Questions emphasize essay writing.	Exams are based on the specific content of the course with multiple choice objective questions and essays
Three additional requirements: Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay, and Creativity, Action, and Service (CAS)	No external requirements