

Le Régent
International School



Subject Guide 2026- 27



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Introduction: The IB at Le Régent

At Le Régent International School we develop well-rounded, internationally-minded young people, through a rigorous approach to teaching and learning, which culminates with the IB Diploma Programme. It is a privilege for us to prepare our students to be equipped with the skills they will need for life in the 21st Century, enabling them to compete in a globalised world and marketplace.

The IB Diploma provides much more than a set of examination results, it is a holistic educational programme recognised by all major universities and employers throughout the world. It encourages students to develop skills and knowledge as learners, as well as promoting intercultural understanding and respect. International mindedness is central to our school approach to teaching and learning.

The holistic nature of the IB Diploma is complemented by our Outdoor Programme, which allows students to make the most of their time in the beautiful Valaisan Alps, developing existing skills as well as acquiring new skills across all 4 seasons.

Le Régent also offers students the possibility to complete the Régent Graduation Diploma, a parallel course that may be suitable for students who wish to focus on a particular area of specialism, in addition to their academic studies.

After successfully completing their IB studies with us our IB programme students have successfully gone on to study at a wide range of prestigious Universities including New York University, University of Oxford, Imperial College London, University of Cambridge, Boston College and Bocconi.

The IB Mission Statement

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 organisation works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment, encouraging students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.'

The IB Learner Profile

To develop active, compassionate and lifelong learners, the IB Diploma Programme fosters a distinctive set of attributes. These qualities are embodied in the IB learner profile to prepare IB students to make exceptional contributions to the local community and wider society.

By educating students we believe that we can create a better world. The IB learner profile attributes express this in action. We develop and educate young, internationally minded people through life experiences that allow them to develop as **inquirers**, to be **knowledgeable**, **open-minded thinkers** and **communicators**, who are also **caring**, **principled**, **balanced** and **reflective risk-takers**.





The IB Diploma Structure

The IB Diploma Programme is made up of the Diploma Programme Core and six subject groups. Diploma students choose three subjects at Standard Level (SL) and three subjects at Higher Level (HL), one from each subject group.



The six subject group categories are

- Group 1** - Studies in Language & Literature
- Group 2** - Language Acquisition
- Group 3** - Individuals & Societies
- Group 4** - Sciences
- Group 5** - Mathematics
- Group 6** - The Arts

In Group 6, it is possible to study a second subject from Group 1, 2, 3 or 4 rather than selecting an Art.

Students following the Régent Graduation Diploma pathway will also study subjects from these 6 groups, although with more flexibility regarding the choice of Higher Level subjects.



Language A: Language and Literature

Meaning is not fixed. Language is not fixed. Interpretation will vary according to the person who encounters a text and the time in which it is produced or experienced. Students will develop their powers of expression both in speaking and writing. Study on this course will enable students to appreciate the complexity of language, its wealth and its subtleties in a variety of contexts.

All students are required to take a Language A course as part of their IB studies.

Language and Literature

Exploring and analysing the written word using both literary and non-literary texts, students will consider how a text is constructed, evaluate its impact and then apply that knowledge to the creation of a variety of written pieces. This is a life skill which is relevant to any future career or course of study.

Language and Literature is offered at Le Régent in English and French, with the option for private provision in some other languages such as Mandarin.

Subject Brief: [Language and Literature](#)

Literature

The language A literature course allows students to study a range of literary texts, providing an opportunity for students to learn about the world through the words of different authors. A wide range of literary texts are used including novels, poetry, short stories, graphic novels and plays.

Literature is offered at Le Régent in Spanish, with the option for private provision in some other languages such as Russian and Italian.

Subject Brief: [Literature](#)

Self Taught

Where there is not a teacher available within school, students may opt for the School Supported Self-Taught (SSST Language A) course. There will be support sessions by the SSST coordinator within the school day, but the teaching is carried out online, through an external IB teacher. Students taking this option are expected to manage their learning and be independent in completing tasks set. Students may take this option at SL in Literature.

Self-Taught Literature is open to a wide range of subjects such as German, Bulgarian and Arabic.



Language Acquisition

The ability to use and communicate in another language is a significant advantage in the workplace. Languages combine well with all subjects and can be a considerable asset when applying to university. Being able to communicate in a foreign language is a lifelong skill that employers rate highly.

Language Ab initio

Students are given the wonderful opportunity to further develop their global communication skills by studying a new foreign language ab initio. It is very exciting and rewarding to learn a language you have no experience of. This option is only available at SL.

French, Spanish and Italian are available at Ab initio, depending on the number of students.

Subject Brief: [Language Ab initio](#)

Language B

It is essential for anybody living in the 21st century to communicate meaningfully with people from a variety of countries and nationalities. The wider cultural understanding is also invaluable in our increasingly globalised world and this can be enhanced through the acquisition of a range of linguistic skills. Language B at HL or SL allows a student to develop their existing language skills in a second language.

French, Spanish and English B (HL only) are available to study, with Mandarin, Italian, Russian and German available as a private option depending on the number of students.

Subject Brief: [Language B](#)



Individuals and Societies

Business Management

The Business Management course is designed to develop students' knowledge and understanding of business management theories, as well as their ability to apply a range of tools and techniques. Students learn to analyse, discuss and evaluate business activities at local, national and international levels. The course covers a range of organisations from all sectors, as well as the socio-cultural and economic contexts in which those organisations operate.

The course covers the key characteristics of business organisation and environment and the business functions of human resource management, finance and accounts, marketing and operations management. Links between the topics are central to the course. Through the exploration of six underpinning concepts (change, culture, ethics, globalisation, innovation and strategy), the course allows students to develop an understanding of today's complex and dynamic business environment. Students learn key business management theories and the tools and techniques that they utilise in the context of real world examples.

Subject Brief: Business Management [Higher Level](#) or [Standard Level](#)

Economics

Economics is the study of how societies, governments, businesses, households and individuals allocate their scarce resources. Economists have developed conceptual models of behaviour in order to predict responses to changes in policy and market conditions that happen in real life. Economics allows students to explore these models and theories, and apply them, using real world examples.

The course covers three key areas of economic theory. Microeconomics deals with economic variables affecting individuals, firms and markets. Macroeconomics considers economic variables that affect countries, governments and societies. The final unit, the global economy, focuses upon trade between countries and how countries economically develop.

Students are encouraged throughout the course to research current real-world issues. Through their own inquiry, students will be able to appreciate both the values and limitations of economic models in explaining real-world economic behaviour and outcomes.

Subject Brief: Economics [Higher Level](#) or [Standard Level](#)

Geography

Geography aims to develop the understanding of geographical knowledge in all forms, with a particular emphasis on the way in which humans interact with their environment. Students will develop an understanding of the interdependencies that exist between the human and physical world. They will study sustainable approaches to managing current environmental challenges.



Geography tackles global and local issues that are relevant to modern life. The study of Geography enables discussion, analysis and evaluation of the world in the 21st Century. This course links social, human, political, historical, physical and environmental concepts. Concepts are studied with reference to a variety of specific real-life case studies, ranging from local river studies to international examples.

Subject Brief: [Geography](#)

History

History creates an understanding of the events that have shaped the world we know today. The study of History allows students to explore how culture, politics, economics, social movements, and military events affect individuals and societies. The subject exposes students to different perspectives through the study of values and historical contexts that shape and challenge our understanding of past events.

History promotes international mindedness through the study of more than one region in the world. Students will develop the skills of critical inquiry, judgement and perception while analysing evidence, which will build intellectual independence. History also prepares you to write concisely and effectively, to build up rigorous arguments based on thorough analysis of evidence from all sides to make key points and come to well informed and solid conclusions. These skills are transferable to many professions such as law, international relations, management, politics, publishing, and all other social sciences.

Subject Brief: [History](#)

Psychology

Psychology is the systematic and scientific study of human behaviour and mental processes with focus on how biological, cognitive, and sociocultural factors interact to shape how people think, feel, and act. The course is designed to promote "psychological literacy" by teaching students how to evaluate psychological theories and research evidence critically rather than just memorising facts.

Subject Brief: [Psychology](#)



Science

Science is able to inform problem solving and decision making in many areas of life. Many of the major challenges and opportunities that confront our world need to be approached from a scientific perspective, taking into account social and ethical considerations. The Sciences are international subjects which tackle global issues and enable students to make cross curricular links within their IB curriculum.

At Le Régent students have the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, or Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS) at either Higher or Standard Level. ESS is an interdisciplinary course and can be studied in either Group 3 or Group 4 meaning that students who select this subject have the opportunity of choosing an additional subject from Group 1-4. Additionally, students can select up to two Sciences to study as part of their IB Diploma programme.

Biology

Biology is the study of life, living systems and their environments. The IB course allows students to develop a clear understanding of key biological principles and practical techniques, as well as an understanding of the historical development of biological knowledge and the role of international cooperation in the development of knowledge. The IB Biology course looks at recent developments within Biology such as CRISPR and its role in gene editing, through to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Subject Brief: [Biology](#)

Chemistry

Chemistry is the study of substances, interactions and relationships, incorporating theoretical study with the development of practical skills. Chemistry provides an underpinning theory for both Biology and Physics, with the study of patterns at a microscopic level allowing students to make predictions at a macroscopic level. The course uses real world examples to help students foster curiosity and interest in a wide range of different areas. Whether you want to study medicine, pharmacology or branches of engineering, Chemistry is a key subject to be studied.

Subject Brief: [Chemistry](#)



Computer Science

Computer Science equips students with a comprehensive understanding of the principles underlying computer systems and programming. Covering both theoretical concepts and practical applications, the curriculum emphasises problem-solving, algorithm development, and software engineering. Students explore topics such as robotics, computer organisation, networks, and databases. Programming languages like Python are introduced, enabling students to develop their coding skills and create functional software solutions. The course also delves into ethical considerations, addressing the societal impact of technology. Through hands-on projects and assessments, students gain practical experience in designing algorithms and implementing solutions to real-world problems. IB Computer Science fosters critical thinking, computational skills, and an awareness of the dynamic and evolving nature of technology in today's interconnected world. As a specialist subject with academic prerequisites this course will only run with a minimum class size of three students, alternatively it will be available as a private subject.

Subject Brief: [Computer Science](#)

Environmental Systems and Societies

Environmental Systems and Societies is a broad course which aims to give an understanding of scientific method whilst at the same time heightening awareness of the multidisciplinary (biological, geographical, political, economic, social and historical) aspects of environmental issues. This course helps to develop an awareness of the actions required for equitable and sustainable use of resources.

Subject Brief: [Environmental Systems and Societies](#)

Physics

Physics is an experimental and hands-on science that explores the universe we live in, from the tiniest particles that shape matter to the broader mechanics governing planetary motion. This course involves practical problem-solving and the application of mathematical principles to understand the inner workings of the universe, shedding light on both everyday occurrences and the broader mysteries of the cosmos.

Subject Brief: [Physics](#)



Mathematics

Mathematics is a fascinating subject as it has a presence everywhere. It provides the key to understanding the World in which we live. The study of Mathematics develops logic to enable students to solve problems.

At Le Régent International School we offer two different courses on the IBDP programme.

Mathematical Applications and Interpretation (Standard Level only)

This course caters for students who are interested in the application of Mathematics in everyday life. The focus on statistics and modelling allows students to develop the skills needed to deal with mathematics in real life contexts. It is more suitable for students wishing to study courses with little or no mathematical content at university.

Subject Brief: [Mathematics AI](#)

Mathematical Analysis and Approaches

This course can be considered a pure Mathematics course, focusing on the development of strong skills in mathematical thinking. Additionally, the students develop analytical and technical skills when dealing with real life and theoretical mathematical problems. At standard level, students need a sound mathematical background coupled with decent algebraic ability. The course provides good preparation for studies with a more mathematical focus. At Higher Level, students are expected to have a proven, very strong foundation in Mathematics. This rigorous course can sometimes be a requirement for students wishing to study subjects such as Physics, Engineering, Architecture and Technology.

Subject Brief: [Mathematics AA](#)



The Arts

Music

The 21st century music student faces a world in which global musical cultures and industries are rapidly changing. This course is grounded in the knowledge, skills and processes associated with the study and practice of music and offers a strengthened approach to student creativity through practical, informed and purposeful explorations of diverse musical forms, practices and contexts. The course also ensures a holistic approach to learning, with the roles of performer, creator and researcher afforded equal importance in all course components.

A student of music could go on to pursue a diverse range of academic and career paths such as performance, composition, sound production and engineering, acoustics, arts and venue management, conducting, communications, marketing, film, music business and education. On top of these tangible pathways can be added the pleasure and enhanced quality of life that comes with a deepened relationship with this fundamental form of human expression, and the range of complementary cognitive benefits of musical activity. As a specialist subject with academic prerequisites this course will only run with a minimum class size of three students, alternatively it will be available as a private subject.

Subject Brief: [Music](#)

Visual Arts

Becoming visually literate enhances our ability to operate in a world which relies increasingly on visual culture. Theories and practices in Visual Arts are dynamic and ever-changing, and connect many areas of knowledge and human experience through individual and collaborative exploration, creative production and critical interpretation. Students learn to be truly creative, finding practical and conceptual solutions to develop original ideas

Students learn to express ideas with confidence and competence and to realise that there are many ways to interpret the world and to appreciate its diversity. As well as developing their practical art-making skills, students also develop their oral, written and visual communication skills. Studying Visual Arts at the IB level allows students to continue with studies in Architecture, Design, Fashion and Fine Art.

Subject Brief: [Visual Arts](#)



The IB Core

The Core of the IB Diploma Programme broadens every student's educational experience and challenges them to apply their knowledge and skills to a variety of different situations. The IB Diploma Programme requires all students to successfully complete **three elements:**

Theory of Knowledge (ToK) gives students the opportunity to reflect on the nature of knowledge and on how we know what we claim to know.

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) enables students to get involved in a diverse range of activities, as well as completing an individual CAS project.

The Extended Essay (EE) gives students the chance to research a specialist topic and complete a 4,000 word essay which is an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a Viva Voce.

Why study ToK?

Theory of Knowledge (ToK) is an engaging and important subject. A lot of learning is about trying to memorise information; however, ToK teaches us how to question what we learn, and appreciate the way that knowledge is interwoven into society.

What is the value of ToK?

ToK teaches us to put knowledge under scrutiny, a skill that can help protect people from misinformation. It also encourages learners to appreciate the vast number of different perspectives and complexities that exist in real life.

What skills will you develop?

You will become more open-minded and be able to discuss, debate, question and communicate effectively.



Why do an Extended Essay?

The Extended Essay is a compulsory element of the IB Diploma Programme and must be completed with a passing grade to receive the IB Diploma.

What is the value of the Extended Essay?

The Extended Essay will help you develop as an independent learner, providing invaluable experience of researching and writing a formal academic essay. The EE is the perfect preparation for university. By researching and writing on a topic of your choice, you will have the opportunity to explore in depth an area of interest to you.

What skills will you develop?

- Academic honesty (avoiding plagiarism & developing referencing skills)
- Research skills (finding, analysing and evaluating print and online sources)
- Digital Citizenship and Information Literacy (media and ICT literacy)
- Critical Thinking (lateral thinking, reasoning and problem solving)
- Essay writing skills
- Time management skills

Why study CAS?

CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) is at the heart of the IB Diploma Programme together with ToK and the EE. CAS enables students to enjoy fascinating experiences. It is centred on your interests, skills, talents, morals and beliefs. Each student will identify an interest or passion which has a wider impact on society, locally and globally, and explore it in more depth.

What is the value of CAS?

CAS will enable you to discover and extend your talents. You will learn more about yourself and how to discover and engage with others in your community. There will be various challenges which will require planning, evaluation, communication and reflection.

What skills will you develop?

CAS is about applying knowledge and taking action to meet the needs of the community. This process will involve the analysis of problems, critical thinking, determination and working in collaboration with others, considering ethics and becoming socially responsible.