

At Hastings we offer two routes for university entry qualifications: the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and A Levels. Both are internationally recognised and respected by leading universities around the world but they are very different. By offering the two systems students can choose which route suits them best.

THE IB DP

The IB DP is a much more holistic curriculum.

Students receive a broad education under the IB programme which develops their character alongside their academic ability.

- 1 Students cover six areas, taking one subject from each group: First language A, Second language B, Individuals and societies, Science, Mathematics, Arts (or a second subject from Groups 1 – 4 instead)
- 2 These subjects are offered at two different levels of difficulty: Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level (SL). Three must be taken at HL and three at SL. Which HL courses students choose will be important for future university applications.
- 3 In addition to those six subjects, all IB students take the following “core” courses:
 - Theory of Knowledge** – a philosophy of knowledge course.
 - Creativity, activity and service** – students must do some activity in each area outside the classroom.
 - Extended Essay** – a 4000 word piece of academic writing which is fantastic preparation for university.

A-LEVELS

This system is narrower and more flexible.

A-Level choices allow students to choose their own ‘programme’ of learning based on their interests, spending no time on courses that may not interest them.

- 1 Students choose three A-Levels and most at Hastings also take Spanish as a fourth.
- 2 There is no requirement to take any particular subject. (Maths, for example, is not compulsory vs IB DP where maths is a required area to cover) Within what is offered in the timetable students can choose any three subjects.
- 3 Alongside A-Levels, students may choose to take:
 - The Extended Project Qualification** (similar to the “Extended Essay” element of the IB)
 - IELTS** (International English Language Testing System)

PCEs and Spanish Public Universities

PCE stands for Pruebas de Competencias Específicas

IB students do not need to take these additional courses as the IB Programme on its own allows students to be awarded up to the maximum points for Spanish university entry.

Spanish subjects taught in Spanish. Currently students taking A levels will need to take two PCEs in order to be able to obtain the maximum 14 points for Spanish public university entry.