

Guidelines for IB Diploma Programme Subject Choices

Please read these guidelines carefully before choosing your IB subjects.

Choose a total of 6 subjects, one from each of the six subjects groups.

Choose 3 higher level (HL) subjects and 3 standard level (SL) subjects.

N.B. In exceptional cases, students can choose four subjects at higher level and two subjects at standard level. If you are considering doing this, contact the IB Coordinator in advance of your application (please see his contact details below).

SUBJECT GROUP GUIDELINES

Group 1: Best Language

In Group 1 students choose their best language. For the majority of students, this means the language that they learnt as a child. Stenhus Gymnasium offers English A and Danish A as taught courses. If your best language is neither English nor Danish, you can study your best language as a Self-Taught Language Language A course.

If you are bilingual, you may choose to study two languages at language A level.

Group 2: Additional Language

Group 2 languages are second language acquisition courses. To study a Language B at higher level, you need approximately four years of prior experience. To study a Language B at standard level, you need approximately two years of prior experience. Spanish ab initio and Mandarin ab initio are courses aimed at beginners.

The most common language choices in Danish IB schools are:

Danish A HL or SL, combined with English B HL
Danish A HL or SL, combined with English A HL or SL (for bilingual students)
Self-Taught Language A SL, combined with English B HL

All incoming IB students will be tested in English at the beginning of the school year to ensure that they are placed at the correct level.

Group 3: Social Science

Please note that History is a requirement at Danish universities if you wish to study within the Humanities or Social Sciences. The exception is some social science courses at Copenhagen Business School, the University of Copenhagen, and the University of Aarhus where they accept either Economics and/or Global Politics.

Group 3 subjects are very popular among IB students. Many IB students choose an extra Group 3 subject. At Stenhus Gymnasium you can study the subject combination History/Psychology, the combination History/Economics, the combination Global Politics/Psychology, or the combination Global Politics/Economics.

Group 4: Experimental Science

Chemistry SL, Biology SL, Physics SL: it is a definite clear advantage to have some prior knowledge of the science subject that you wish to study in the IB Diploma Programme.

Environmental Systems & Societies SL: You do not need to have prior knowledge of this subject, though some prior knowledge of Biology would be useful.

Chemistry HL, Biology HL, Physics HL: you must have obtained one of the top grades in the subject in your previous schooling.

Physics: you can only choose Physics if you choose either Mathematics SL or Mathematics HL.

If you want to study science at university, you will need to choose two sciences in the IB Diploma Programme. You can choose the following combinations: either Chemistry/Biology, or Chemistry/Physics.

Group 5: Mathematics

Mathematics HL: it is common knowledge within the IB that Mathematics HL is an extremely tough course. You must have obtained a grade A (or its equivalent) in your previous schooling to do Mathematics HL in the IB Diploma Programme.

All incoming IB students will be tested in Mathematics at the beginning of the school year to ensure that they are placed at the correct level.

Group 6: Options

In Group 6 you can either choose Visual Arts or you can choose: a third language; a second social science; a second science.

If you have any questions regarding your subject choices, please contact IB Coordinator Paul Bjergfelt at pb@stenhus-gym.dk, or at (+45) 59 40 09 35