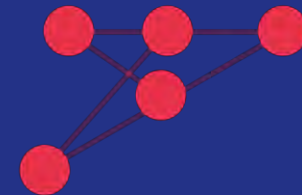


# Career Pathways Info

## Diploma Programme 27 Nov 2025

Juanita Arnaud – DP Coordinator



International  
School  
Utrecht

# Agenda

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**Why the DP?**

**Diploma Programme Model**

**University Acceptance Rates (study)**

**ISU Results**

**Tertiary placements**

**DP Subject Choices**

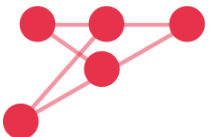
**DP Requirements**

**DP Assessments**

**FAQs**

**University & Career Counselling**

**Additional questions**



# Why the DP?

Preparing critical, empathetic, and ethical learners for higher education and beyond

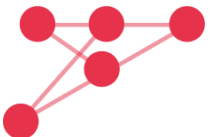
Resilience and self-management skills to undertake global challenges

International-mindedness/global citizenship which aligns with our mission statement that focuses on our diverse community, social, physical, and virtual environments, and creativity

Inclusive curriculum for all kinds of learners. At ISU, we aim to widen accessibility through subject choices (e.g. from humanities, sciences, or arts focus)

University recognition throughout the world

Lifelong learners



# The DP Model

The DP curriculum is made up of six subject groups and the DP core, comprising theory of knowledge (TOK), creativity, activity, service (CAS) and the extended essay (EE).

Through the DP core, students reflect on the nature of knowledge, complete independent research and undertake a project that often involves community service.

Over 200,000 students take the May and November DP exams every year.  
([IB Statistical Bulletins](#))

**IB DP Mission: “Preparing students for success in higher education and to be active participants in a global society.”**



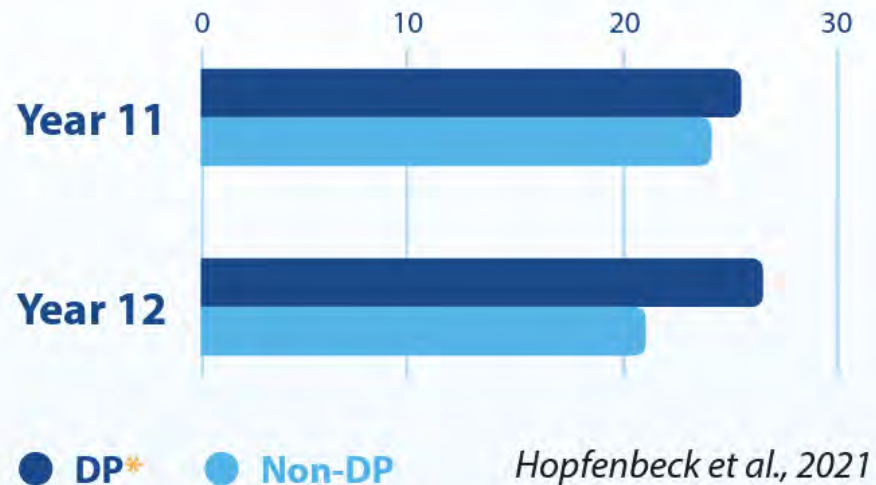
**As of September 2023, there are 3,686 schools offering the DP, in 155 different countries worldwide. ([IB website](#)).**

# Critical Thinking Skills

<https://ibo.org/globalassets/new-structure/research/pdfs/dp-cp-key-findings-a4-en.pdf>



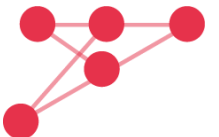
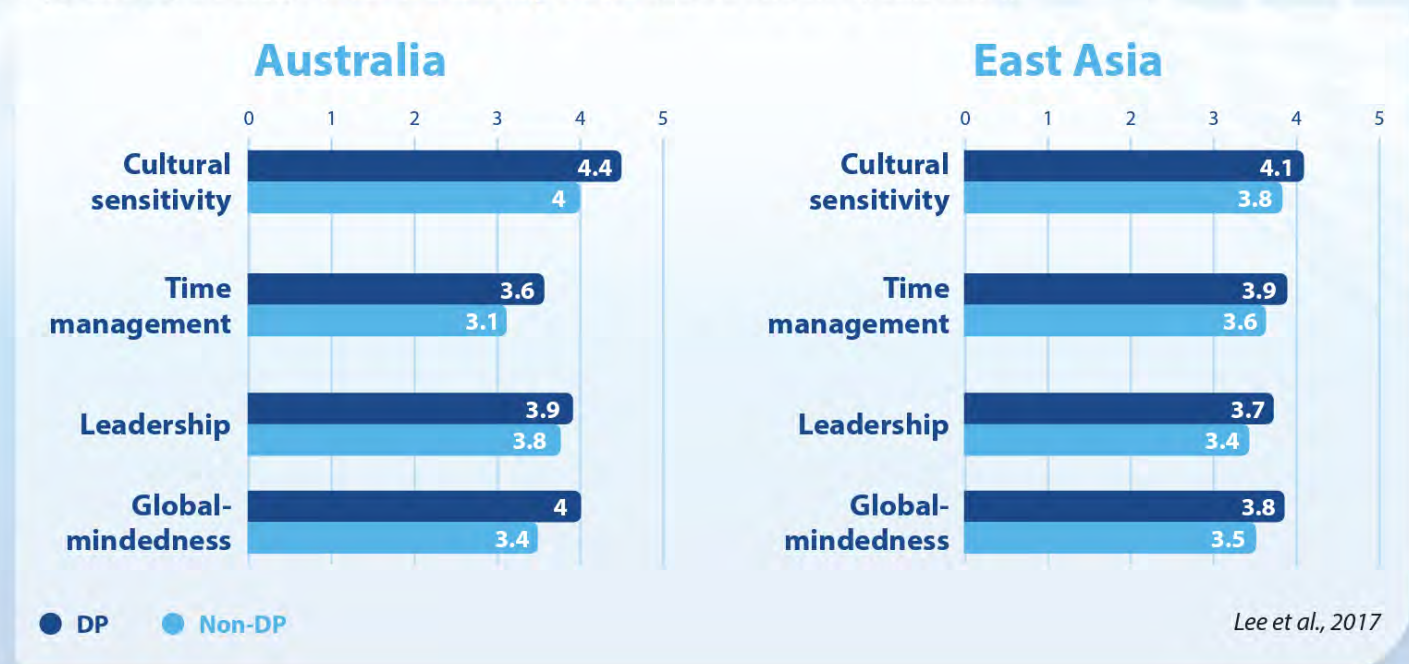
A study in Australia, England and Norway found that DP students\* had significantly higher levels of **critical thinking** compared to their matched non-DP peers. The critical thinking advantage of DP students compared to non-DP students also increased from year 11 to year 12.<sup>4</sup>



# 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Skills

<https://ibo.org/globalassets/new-structure/research/pdfs/dp-cp-key-findings-a4-en.pdf>

In comparison with non-DP peers, DP alumni at universities in **Australia** and **East Asia** reported higher capacities for a variety of **21<sup>st</sup>-century skills** (based on a five-point scale).<sup>6</sup>

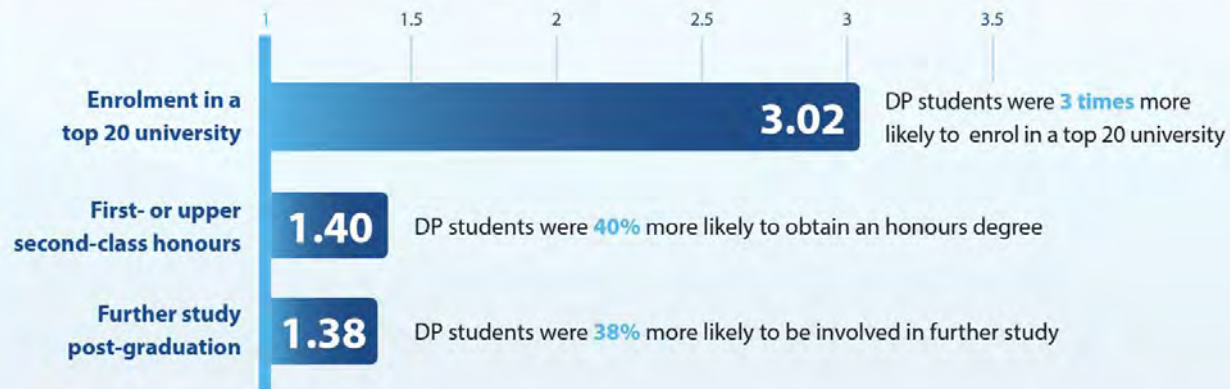




# Higher Education Outcomes

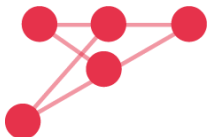
<https://ibo.org/globalassets/new-structure/research/pdfs/dp-cp-key-findings-a4-en.pdf>

In the UK, DP students were more likely to achieve many positive **higher education outcomes** compared to matched A level students.<sup>3</sup>



**Notes:** This figure displays odds ratios. An odds ratio of greater than 1 means that DP students have greater odds of achieving that educational outcome compared to similar (matched) A level students.

*Duxbury et al., 2021*





## Massachusetts Institute of Technology

### Cambridge, Massachusetts

Location

**7.2%**

Acceptance  
Rate

**23.1%**

IB Diploma Student Survey  
Acceptance Rate

#### IB Course Credits Awarded?

**Yes**, specified HL subjects in which you've scored at least a 6 (Mathematics only) or 7 (all other exams) are eligible for credit. The higher your grade, the more credit you will receive. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).



## Stanford University

### Stanford, California

Location

**4.65%**

Acceptance  
Rate

**17%**

IB Diploma Student Survey  
Acceptance Rate

#### IB Course Credits Awarded?

**Yes**, specified HL subjects in which you've scored a 5 or 6 are eligible for credit. A maximum of 45 quarter units of transfer and test credit may be applied toward an undergraduate degree at Stanford. The list of subjects and their respective credit policies is available [here](#).

# University Credits Accepted

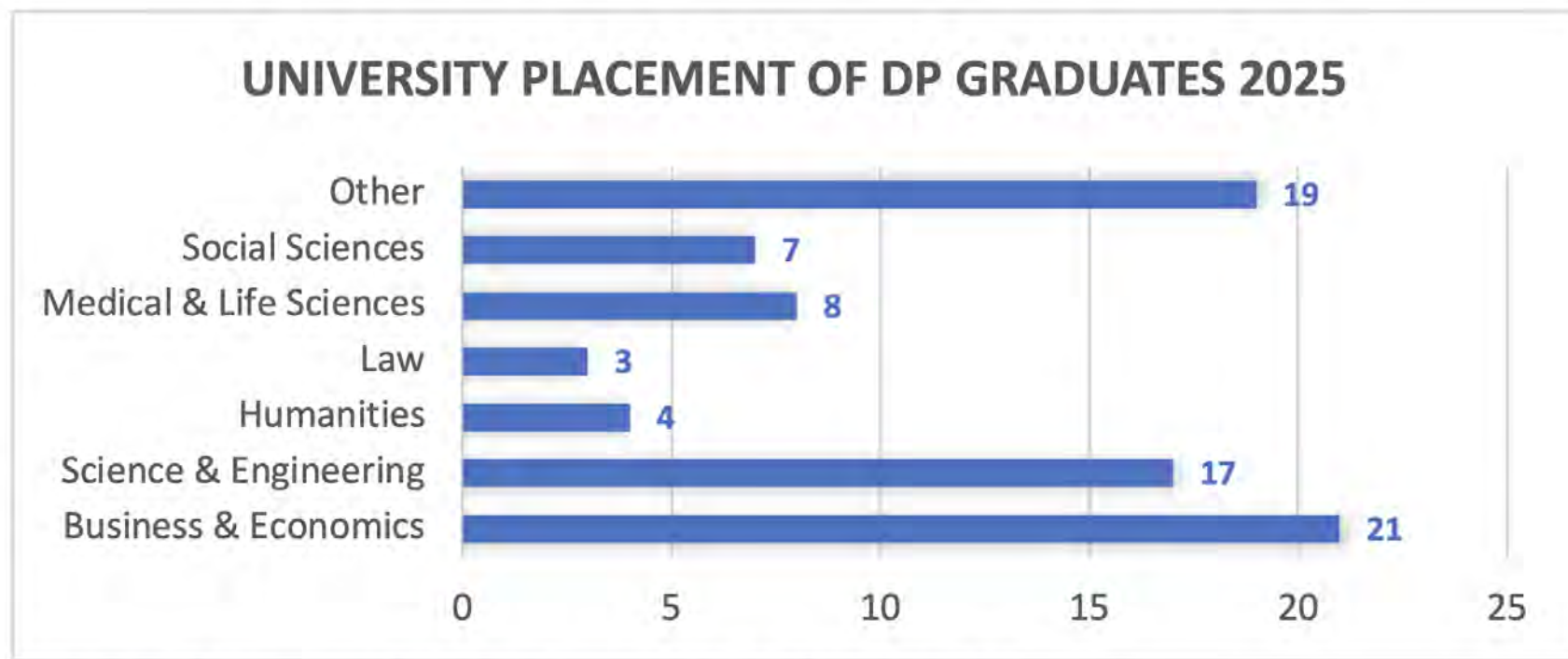




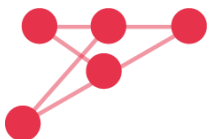
# ISU Tertiary Placements

80% choose to stay in NL and the rest go abroad

See [website](#) for list of universities.

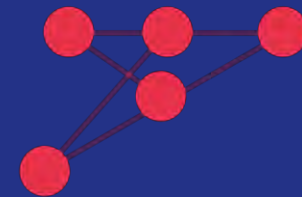


*University Placement of ISU Graduates 2025 (Cohort Size: 77)*



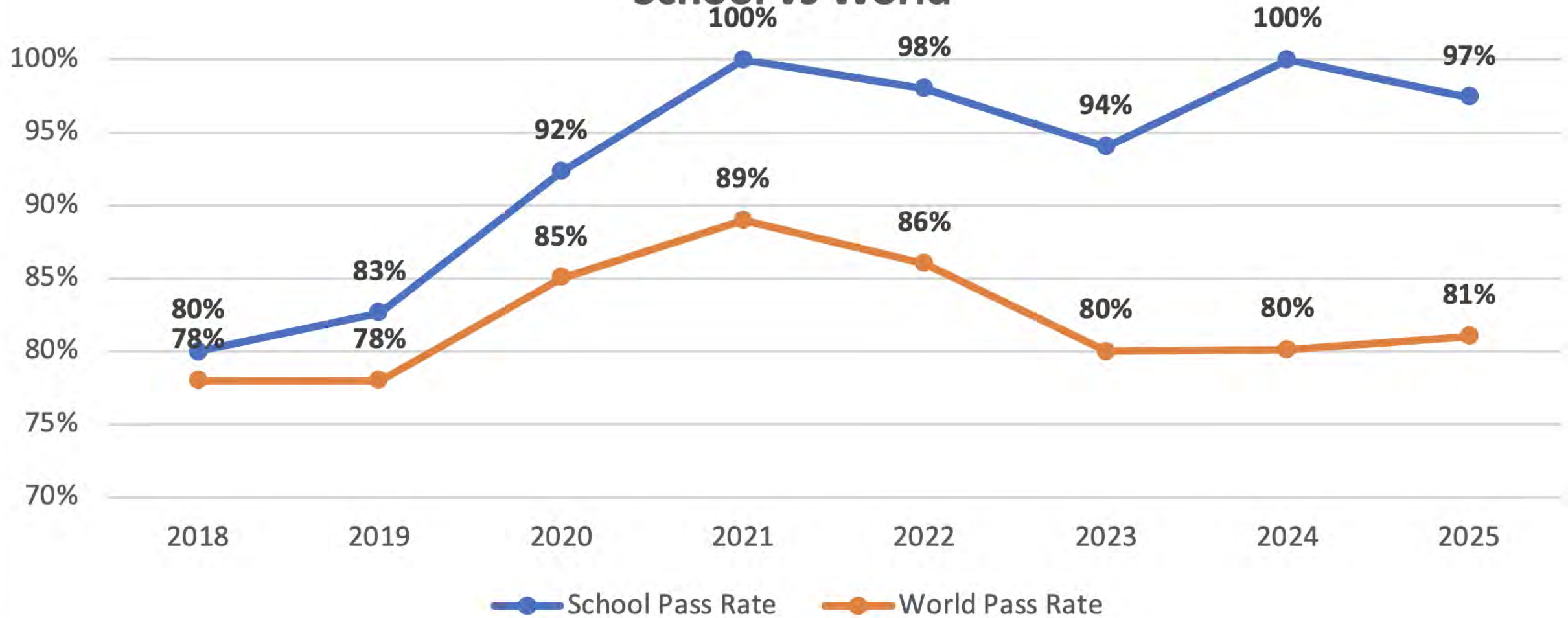
# ISU DP Exam Results 2018 (first cohort) to 2025

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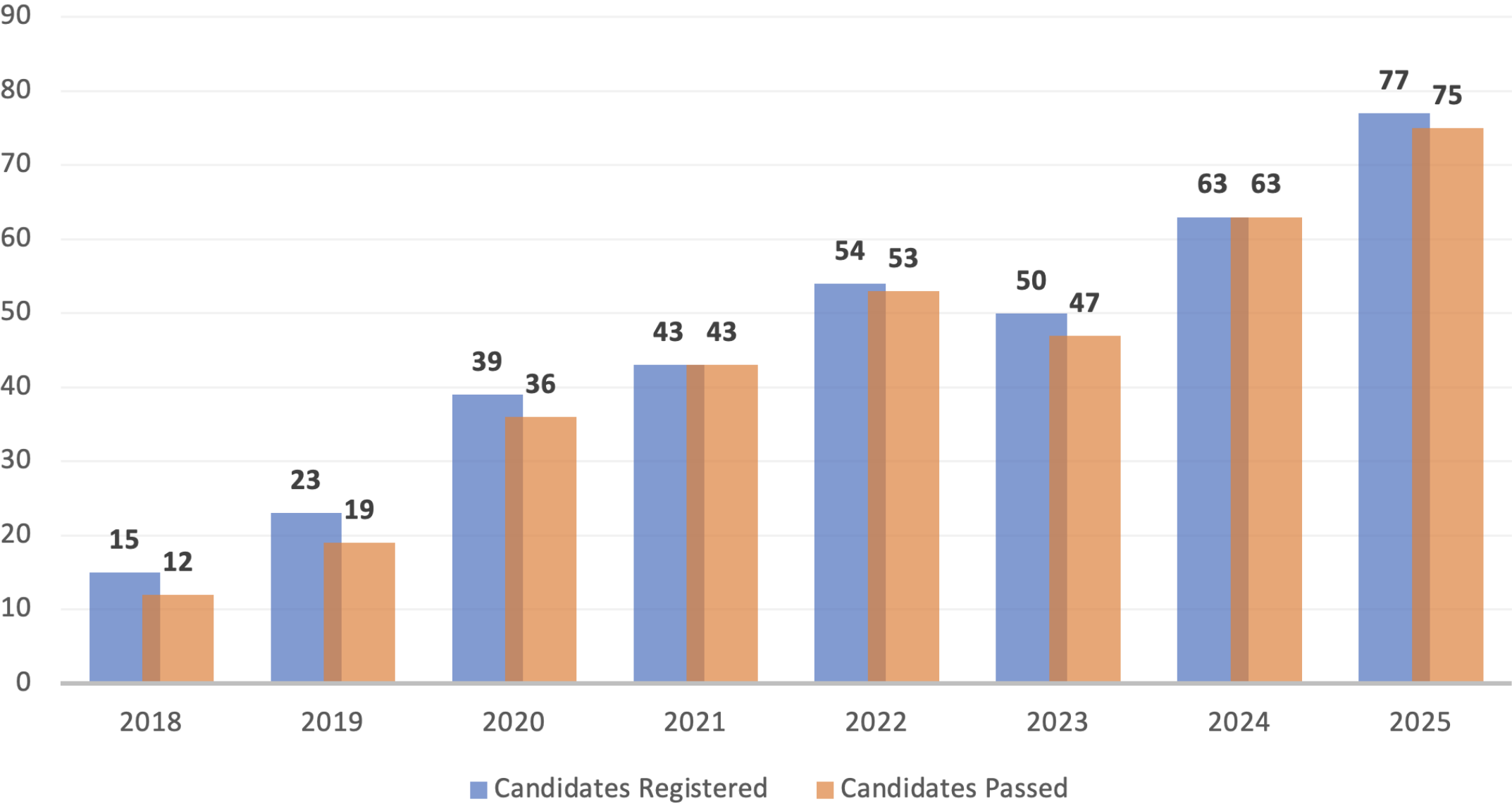


International  
School  
Utrecht

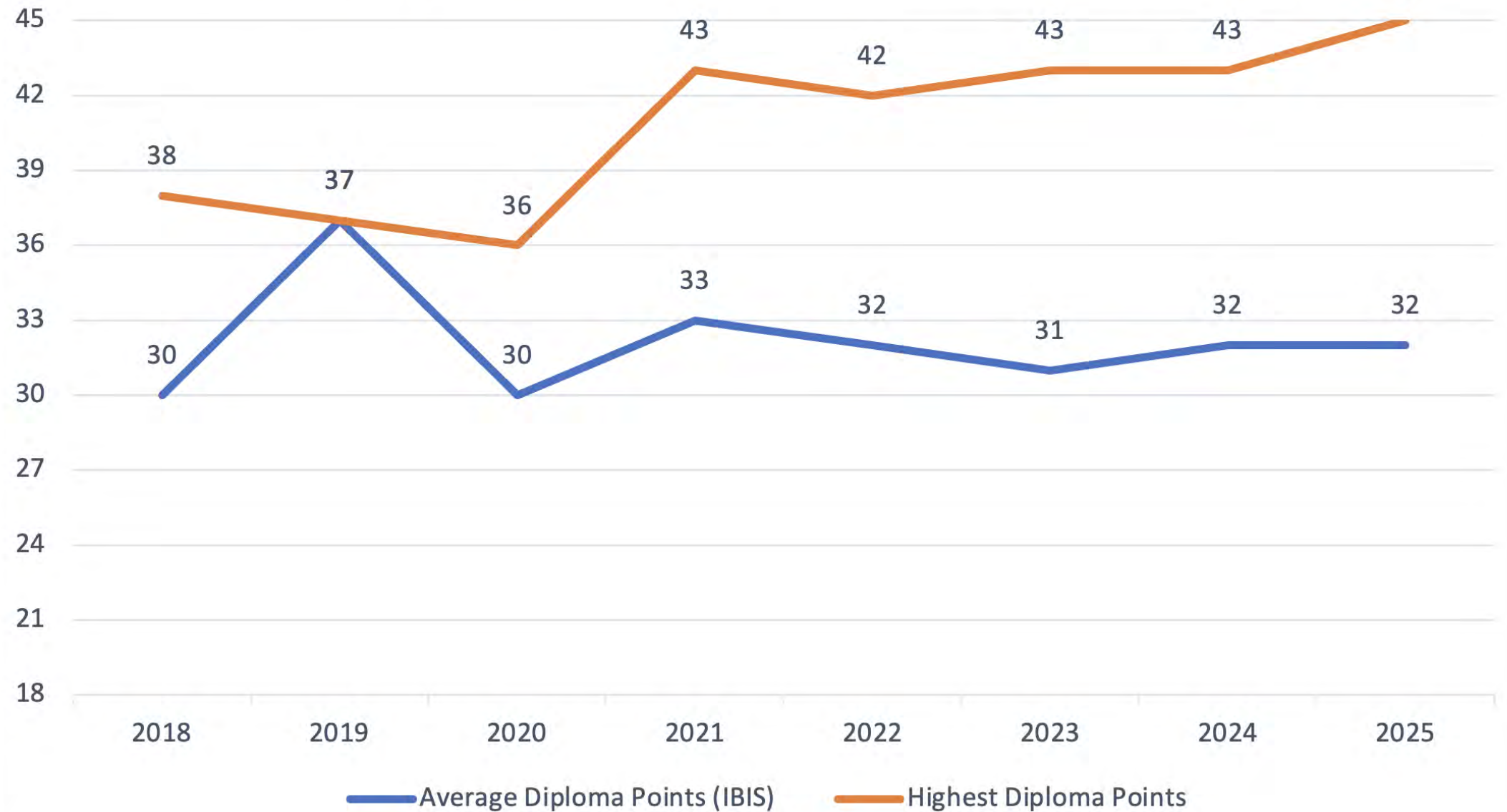
## Pass Rates School vs World



# Candidates Registered & Candidates Passed



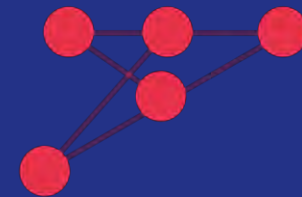
## Highest Diploma Points & Average Diploma Points





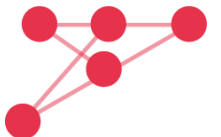
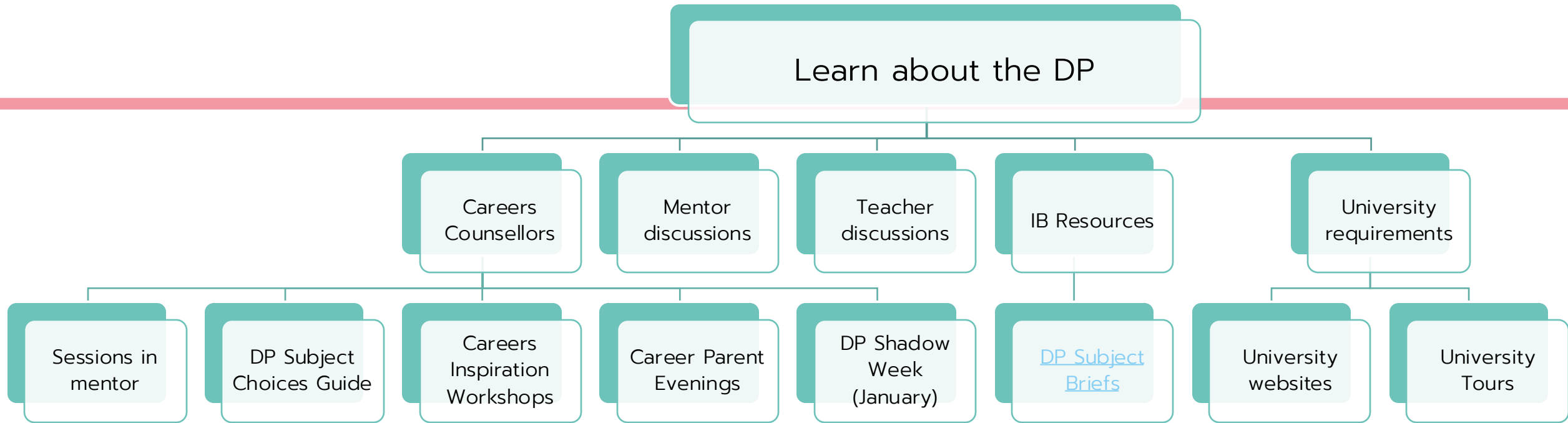
# DP Subject Choices (guidance in Grade 10)

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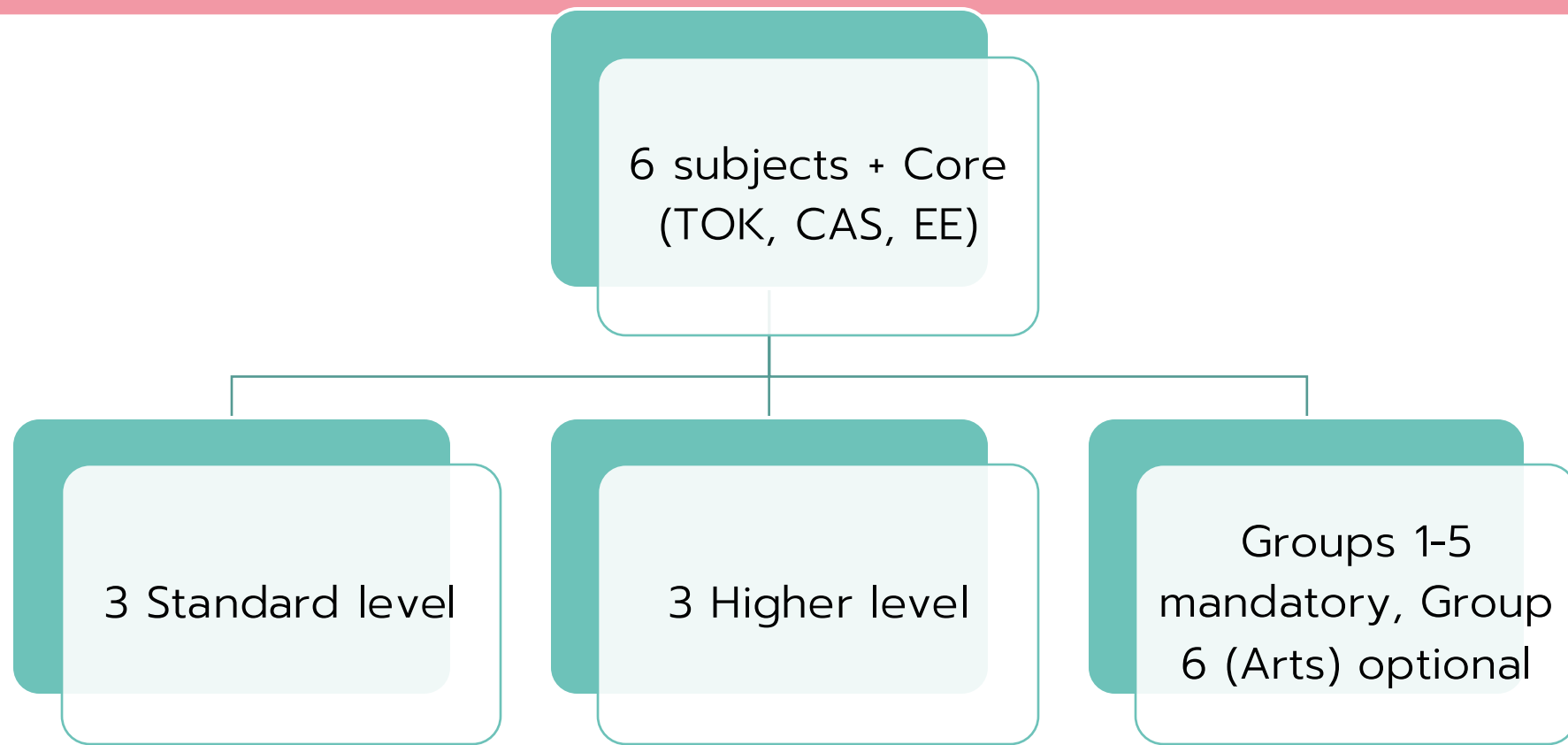


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# DP Subject Choices: Resources



# DP Subject Choices: Requirements



# Group 1: Language and Literature



English LL  
SL or HL



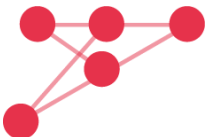
Dutch LL SL  
or HL



SSST  
(School  
Supported  
Self-Taught)  
Literature –  
SL only

SSST

- Literature only (7 texts for independent literary analysis)
- One scheduled lesson a week
- Proficient home language
- Need to find a tutor outside school (at least 1x per week)
- Combined with English B HL (results in bilingual diploma) or English LL



# Group 2: Language Acquisition



Dutch B SL or HL



Dutch ab initio SL (little or no formal learning of language)



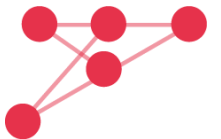
English B HL



Spanish B SL or HL



A choice from group 1 (results in bilingual diploma)





# Group 3: Individuals and Societies

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History SL or HL



Business  
Management SL or  
HL



Geography SL or HL



Economics SL or HL



Environmental  
Systems and  
Societies SL or HL  
Also counts as a Group 5  
(Science)



# Group 4: Experimental Sciences



Biology  
SL or HL



Chemistry  
SL or HL



Physics SL  
or HL



If medicine or biomedical science is an interest, universities often require three sciences (Bio, Chem, Phy).

This means students do not take a Group 3 or Group 6.

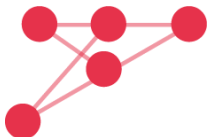


Environmental  
Systems and  
Societies SL or HL

Also counts as a Group  
4 (I&S)



Design  
Technology  
SL or HL



# Group 5: Maths



## Mathematics Topics

Number and algebra

Functions

Geometry and trigonometry

Statistics and probability

Calculus



## Mathematics Analysis and Approaches SL or HL – [Subject Brief](#)

Theoretical approach

Science or engineering studies at most universities

German students who might attend university in Germany



## Mathematics Applications and Interpretation SL or HL – [Subject Brief](#)

Applied approach

Non-science/engineering studies at university

Math AI HL is required for some Business/Economic courses

# Math Pathways

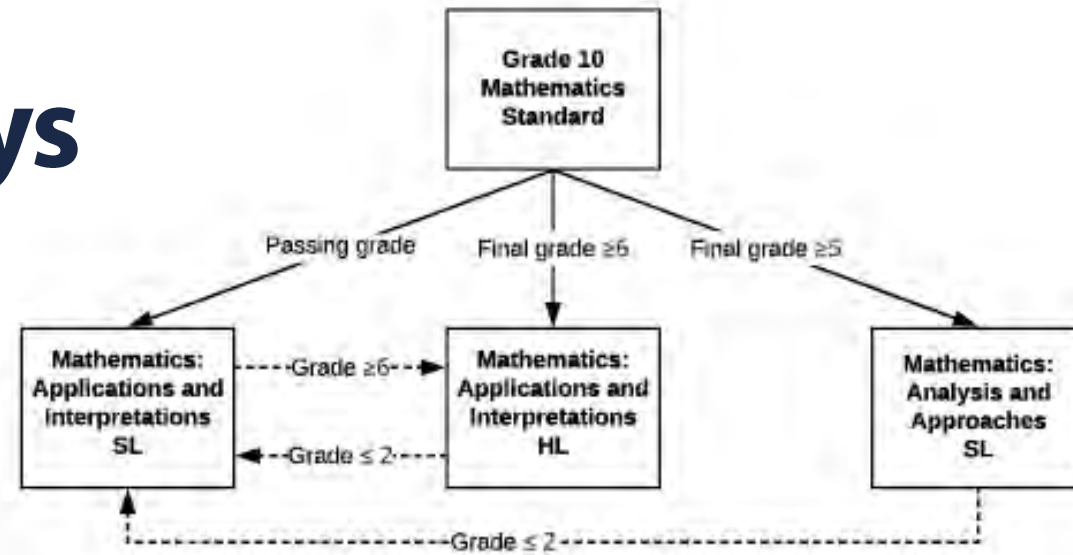


Figure 2. Pathways from Grade 10 MYP Mathematics Standard to DP Mathematics and DP Mathematics requirements.

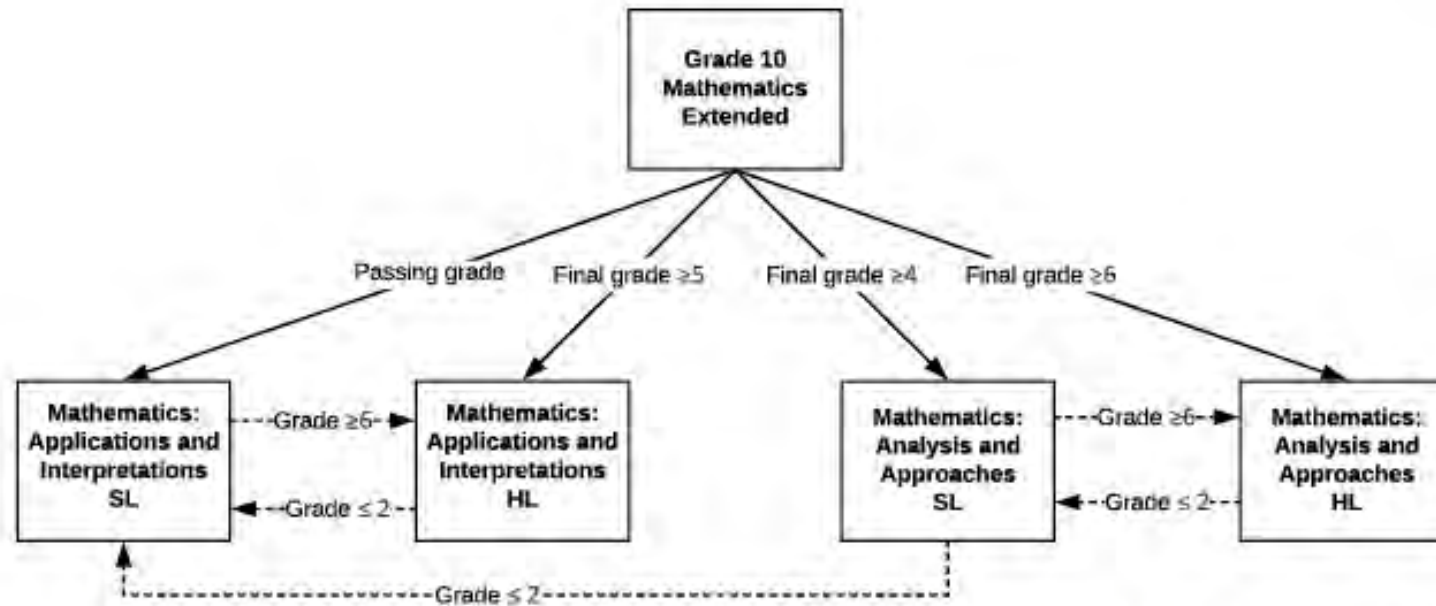


Figure 3. Pathways from Grade 10 MYP Mathematics Extended to DP Mathematics and DP Mathematics requirements.

# Group 6: The Arts

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VISUAL ARTS SL OR HL



MUSIC SL OR HL



SECOND GROUP 3  
OR 4 SUBJECT





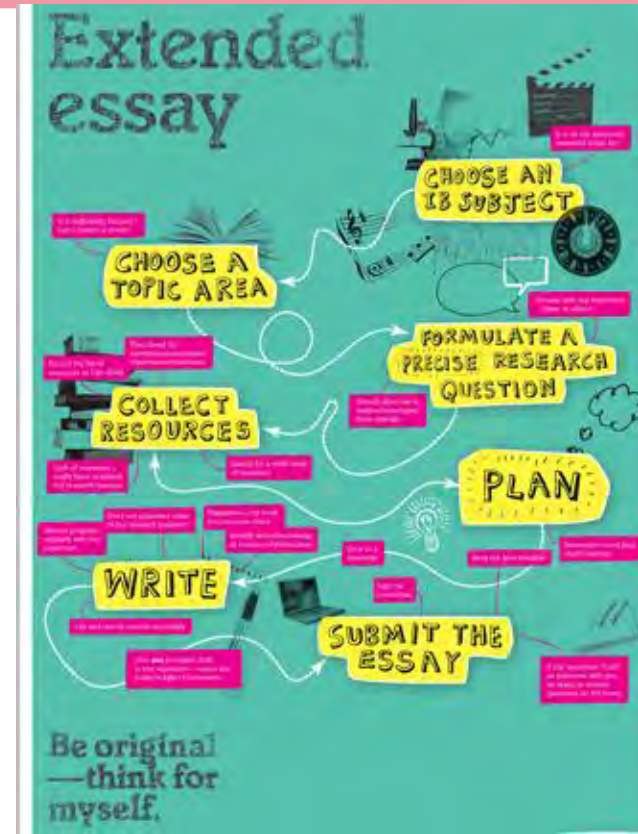
# DP Core: Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

- 2 lessons/week (100 hours)
- Grades A-D\* (cannot be an E)
- 1.5 points in combination with the EE
- DP1 – Exhibition DP1 March
- DP2 – Essay (1600 words) DP2 Feb
- Handbook on Managebac



# DP Core: Extended Essay (EE)

- No scheduled classes
- Grades A-D\* (cannot be an E)
- 1.5 points in combination with TOK
- DP1
  - Core Skills: Sep-Nov
  - Proposals: December
  - Drafts: April – June
- DP2
  - Full version: Sep
  - Final version: Oct
  - Handbook on Managebac



# TOK & EE: Points Awarded

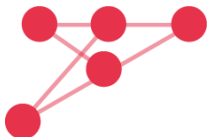
	Theory of knowledge (TOK)					
Extended essay	Grade awarded	A	B	C	D	E or N
	A	3	3	2	2	Failing condition
	B	3	2	2	1	Failing condition
	C	2	2	1	0	
	D	2	1	0	0	
	E or N	Failing condition				

**Note:** Some universities do not count the IB bonus points from Theory of TOK and EE when they calculate admission scores (i.e., they require a certain number of subject points *only*).



# DP Core: Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

- Reflections checked in mentor
- Wed last periods scheduled time for experiences. Different workshops on offer.
- Reflections based on 7 learning outcomes
- CAS Project (service, collaborative) and longer than 1 month.
- No grade but pass or fail
- Handbook on Managebac



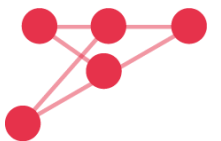
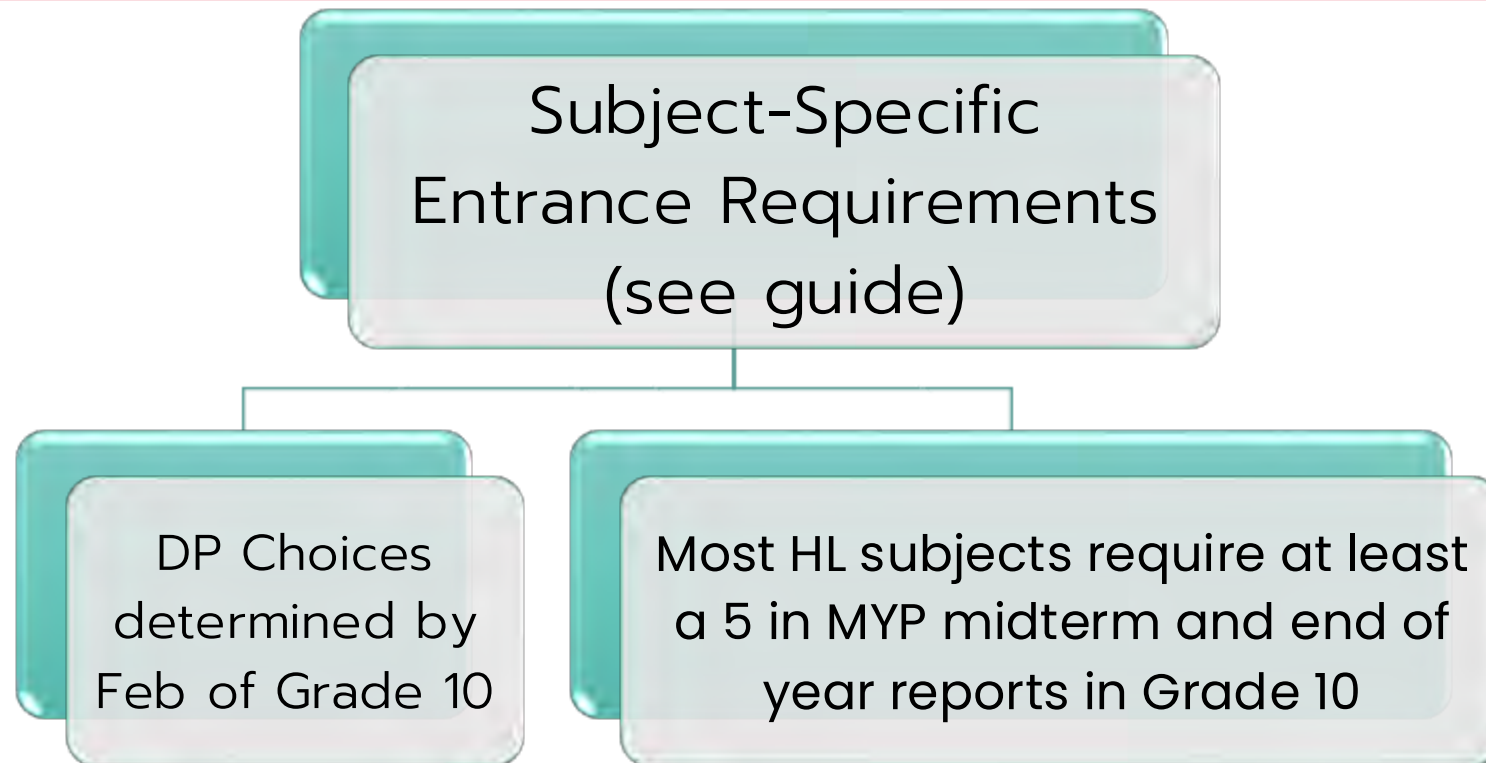
# DP Subject Choices: May 2028 cohort

Cluster A	Cluster B	Cluster C	Cluster D	Cluster E	Cluster F
<b>English A Language and Literature (SL/HL)</b> (Group 1)  <b>English B HL</b> (Group 2)	<b>SSST Lit SL (Group 1)</b>  <b>Dutch A Language and Literature (SL/HL)</b> (Group 1)  <b>Dutch B (SL/HL)</b> (Group 2)  <b>Dutch Ab Initio SL</b> (Group 2)  <b>Spanish B (SL/HL)</b> (Group 2)	<b>Business Management (SL/HL)</b> (Group 3)  <b>Physics SL</b> (Group 4)  <b>Physics HL</b> (Group 4)  <b>ESS (SL)</b> (Group 3/4)  <b>ESS (HL)</b> (Group 3/4)	<b>Business Management (SL/HL)</b> (Group 3)  <b>Econ (SL/HL)</b> (Group 3)  <b>Visual Arts (SL/HL)</b> (Group 6)  <b>Biology (SL)</b> (Group 4)  <b>Biology (HL)</b> (Group 4)	<b>Design Tech SL (Group 4)</b>  <b>Design Tech HL (Group 4)</b>  <b>Chemistry (SL)</b> (Group 4)  <b>Chemistry (HL)</b> (Group 4)  <b>Geography (SL/HL)</b> (Group 3)  <b>History (SL/HL)</b> (Group 3)  <b>Music (SL/HL)</b> (Group 6)	<b>Mathematics Application and Interpretations (SL)</b> (Group 5)  <b>Mathematics Application and Interpretations (HL)</b> (Group 5)  <b>Mathematics Analysis and Approaches (SL)</b> (Group 5)  <b>Mathematics Analysis and Approaches (HL)</b> (Group 5)

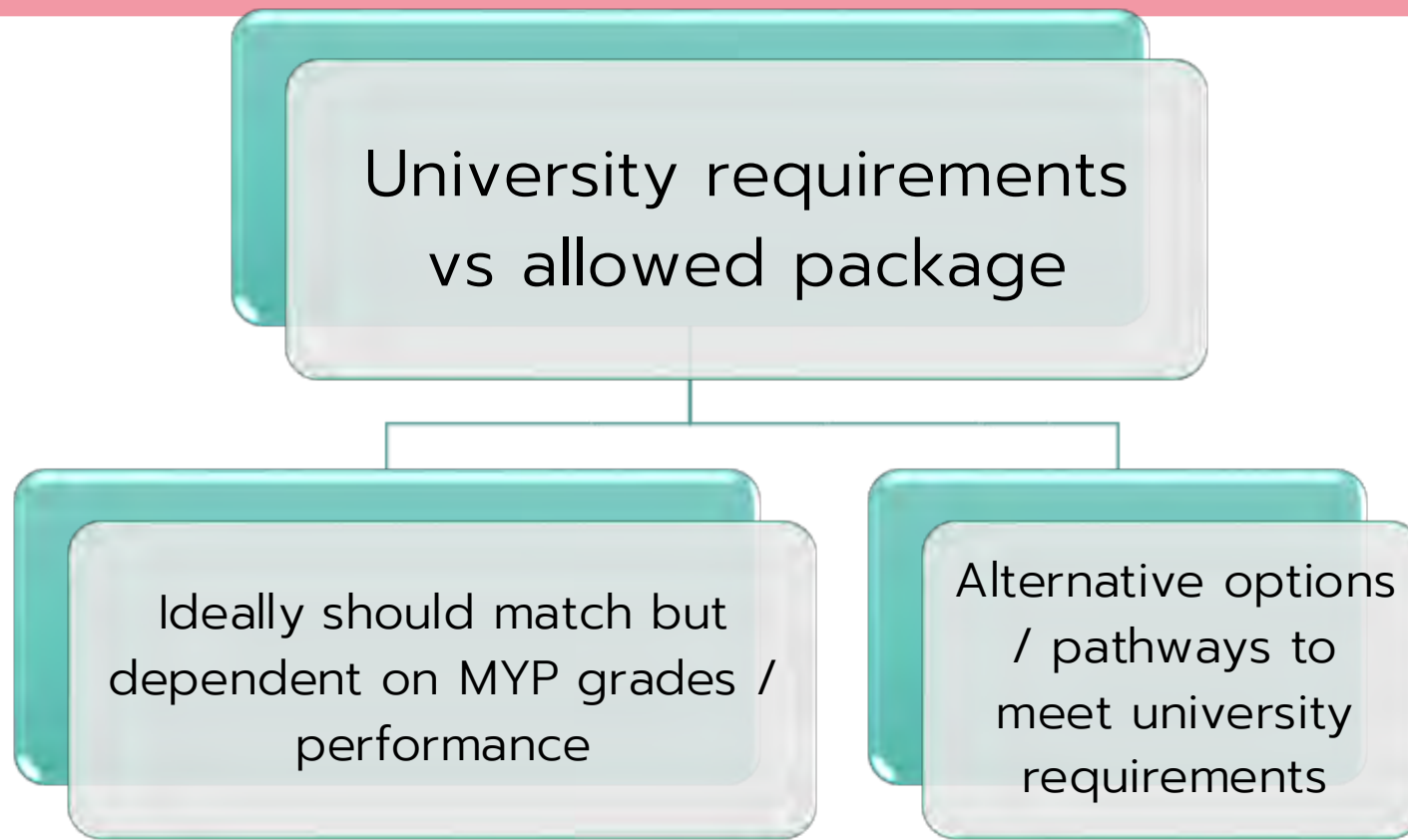




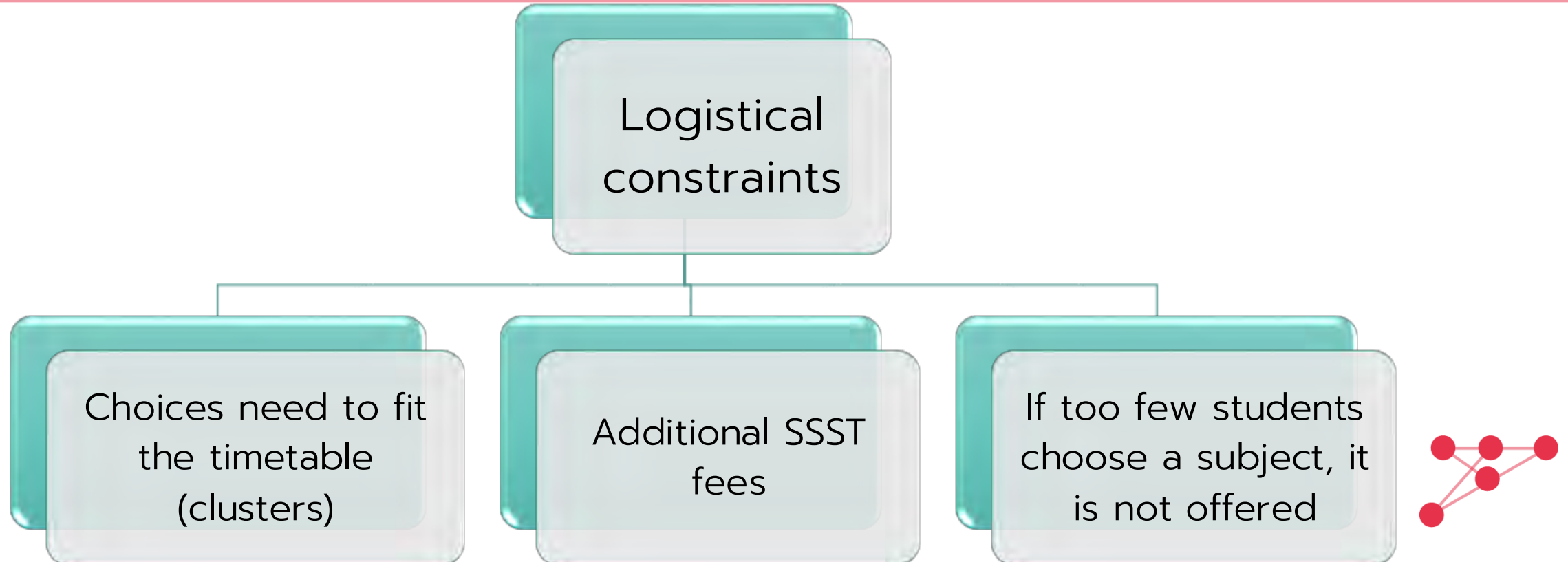
# DP Subject Choices: Limitations



# DP Subject Choices: Limitations



# DP Subject Choices: Limitations



# DP Assessment Components

Subject	Internal	External / Exam
Group 1: Language A	SL: 30%    HL: 20%	SL: 70%    HL: 80%
Group 2: Language B	25%	75%
Group 3: I&S	25%	75%
Group 4: Sciences	20%	80%
Group 5: Mathematics	20%	80%
Group 6: Arts	40%	60% / 0%
TOK	33%	67% / 0%
EE		100% / 0%



# Final Exams (DP2)

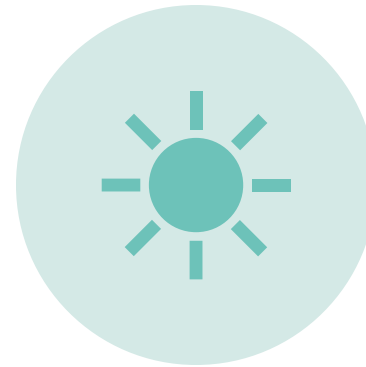
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LAST WEEK OF APRIL AND  
MOST OF MAY



USUALLY OVERLAPS WITH  
MAY HOLIDAY & ASCENSION



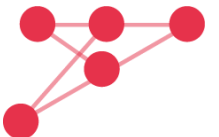
MORNING SESSION +  
AFTERNOON SESSION



# Diploma Requirements

**The minimum threshold for the award of the diploma is 24 points.  
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 student has gained 12 points or more on HL subjects. (For students who register for four HL subjects, the three highest grades count.)
- The student has gained 9 points or more on SL subjects. (Students who register for two SL subjects must gain at least 5 points at SL.)
- The student has not received a penalty for academic misconduct from the Final Award Committee.



# Preparations from MYP



Curriculum alignment to foster MYP transition into DP.



Career discussions, events, and research, starting in MYP4 (Grade 9):

What types of careers do students find interesting/suitable?  
What further education do students need to get there?



Personal Development & mentor lessons focused on career pathways.



Grade 10 to DP Shadow Week in January.



Open days & university visits.



Be familiar with the [DP Promotion Criteria](#) (90% attendance required).



# FAQs



When should students decide on the subjects they are interested in for university? **Preferably considered in Grade 9 when pathway choices are discussed.**



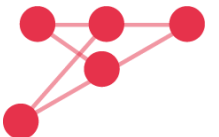
How can students get admission to Universities in Netherlands with a DP diploma etc? **The DP full diploma is fully recognised by the Dutch Ministry. More information through the careers counsellor and university websites.**



In case a student moves to another IB school in the course of the DP, how compatible are DP programs between one IB school and another? **There is some leeway, but subject packages are normally dependent on the school, so transferring may not be fully compatible.**



How are students prepared to choose their DP subjects? **We start providing guidance in Grade 9 and more in-depth during careers sessions in Grade 10.**





# FAQs



How much time is required for students to study in the DP? In general, students are required to study independently (outside of class) 15-18 hours per week.



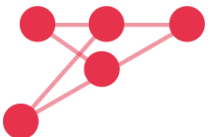
What happens when a student fails? There are retake exams available in November, but this delays their university entrance by 1 year.



What is the DP equivalent to in Dutch schools? This pre-university pathway is equivalent to VWO in the Dutch curriculum, although the programmes are very different.



Other questions?



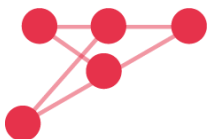
# University/Career Counselling

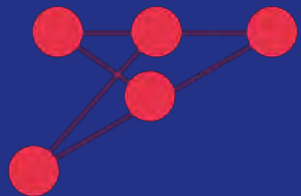
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DP – Kelly Murray  
([kelly.murray@isutrecht.nl](mailto:kelly.murray@isutrecht.nl))





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