

Notes on Diploma Programme Results May 2009

The excellent results of the best candidates this year demonstrate quite clearly that able students are quite effectively prepared by our programme. However, we also had candidates with a range of abilities who attempted the Diploma. This is very much in keeping with the IB's own recommendations in *The Diploma programme: principles into practice*.

- This year's pass rate amongst Diploma candidates of 84% is higher than the school's average pass rate of several years ago, and exceeds the world average of 80%.
- The average Diploma point total was 31 (passing is 24).
- The average score per subject was 5 (out of 7). A grade of 4 is passing.
- For the first time in the school's history, one candidate had a perfect Diploma (45 points). Fewer than 2/10 of 1% of successful candidates worldwide earn perfect Diplomas. A second candidate earned 42 points (in the top 3% of all Diploma recipients worldwide).
- Three students (one out of every six) received an A in Theory of Knowledge, and one in the Extended Essay. No students received an E (failing grade) in either TOK or the Extended Essay.
- The students enrolled in tutored Languages A1 all received grades well above the world average in each A1 language. Quite apart from the opportunity these language programmes offer the students to study their mother-tongue literatures, these results offer further evidence that enrolment in such courses is highly beneficial to candidates' overall outcomes.

These IB Diploma results gave our candidates entry this year to such universities as Cambridge, Warwick, Goldsmiths (University of London), and Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Mexico.

The IB Diploma programme is quite rigorous, and is the result of two years of hard work for students (including the intervening summer "holiday", because most of the Extended Essay as well as some course work needs to be done during these two months). Students who successfully complete the programme deserve to feel both a sense of accomplishment and of relief. Former students regularly return after graduation to report that, unlike many of their classmates at university, they found the first year quite manageable because of their IB preparation. Sometimes, they add that the IB was possibly even a little *more* of a challenge than the first year of university.

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