

COMBINATIONS OF IB SUBJECTS APPROPRIATE FOR PARTICULAR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

SOME EXAMPLES

The examples below are intended to serve as a general guideline in selecting IB courses. Very competitive Universities/Courses will require the most rigorous of course combinations. When selecting courses, however, one must keep in mind one's own ability in the subject. Although choosing the most rigorous combination shows academic ambition, it is purposeless unless followed by the expected or desired accomplishments. Conversely, selecting a less rigorous course combination for the sole purpose of grade accumulation will prove equally ineffective for admission purposes, as competition will disqualify applicants with a comparatively unappealing course combination.

ARCHITECTURE: Visual Arts at HL (Physics at SL at least may be useful also, but only for a very small number of Universities).

ENGINEERING:

MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL, MARINE: Math HL & Physics HL

CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL: Math HL & Physics HL (Environmental Systems SL would also be highly recommended)

CHEMICAL: Math HL & Chemistry HL (Physics at SL at least might be helpful; Physics HL recommended)

MEDIA: Visual Arts or Theatre Arts HL or SL World Cultures would be helpful also; The level of the English course should be the *highest* the student can successfully meet the standards and expectations for.

GRAPHIC ARTS, DESIGN, TEXTILES, etc: Visual Arts HL

LAW: History HL (a subject such as Social Anthropology at either HL or SL might also be helpful). The level of the English course chosen should be the *highest* the student can successfully meet the standards and expectations for. For the competitive Law Departments, English A1 HL is highly recommended. The National Aptitude Test for Law (LNAT) (www.lnat.ac.uk) is also a compulsory pre-selection test for certain Law Faculties.

ECONOMICS: Economics HL & Math HL (for the competitive Universities). Mathematics SL will usually suffice for all other universities.

BUSINESS-RELATED COURSES:

MARKETING, ADVERTISING, MANAGEMENT:

Business & Management at either HL or SL and Visual or Theatre Arts at SL, at least, or Psychology, Social Anthropology, World Cultures at SL at least, Environmental Systems at SL. Visual Arts SL at least, if interested in the Creative Advertising courses.

ACCOUNTANCY/FINANCE:

Business & Management at either HL or SL and Math HL (preferably), though Math SL may suffice for some Universities. Economics HL (preferably) will further strengthen such an application.

MEDICINE:

Chemistry HL and Biology HL; Mathematics SL (at least); Proof of GCSE or GCE (Advanced) Level Physics knowledge is highly recommended. This is also desirable for the BMAT (www.bmat.org.uk) and for certain Chemistry HL topics. A further pre-selection test required by a number of medical and dental schools is the UKCAT (www.ukcat.ac.uk).

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Computer Science HL and preferably Math HL; Math SL, at least.

INFORMATION/TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT: Math HL and Computer Science SL, at least.

PSYCHOLOGY: Psychology HL; Mathematics SL or Math Studies SL; Biology SL, at least.

BIOLOGY: Biology HL and Chemistry HL. Although Chemistry is preferred, in some cases Math HL can be offered instead.

PHARMACY/PHARMACOLOGY: Chemistry HL and Biology SL, at least.

Philosophy, Politics, Economics (PPE): Economics HL, Mathematics HL and History HL is the preferred subject combination. For PPE at Oxford the Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA) (formerly PPEAT) is also required (www.tsa.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/ppe/). A similar combination is also recommended for the highly selective Politics and Economics courses.

PLEASE NOTE:

Other pre-interview tests and/or samples of written work may be required for courses offered at Oxford: http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/how_to_apply/tests/index.html

and Cambridge: <http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/apply/tests.html>