

IB Diploma Programme and IB Career-related Programme

May 2026 examination schedule
FINAL VERSION
All exam zones (A, B, C)

An examination cannot be rescheduled without authorization from the Assessment Division, IB Global Centre, Cardiff.

Legend of Subject Groups:

	Interdisciplinary subjects		Sciences
	Studies in language and literature and Language acquisition		Mathematics
	Individuals and societies		The arts

**Please note that for Studies in language and literature
and Language acquisition, English, French and Spanish are scheduled
individually from all other languages.**

Examination Schedule

Friday 24 April			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
--- No exams ---		SBS	School-based syllabus SL paper 1
			Language & culture SL paper 1 1h 30m

Week 1

Monday 27 April			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
SBS	School-based syllabus SL paper 2		Language A Literature HL paper 1 Language A Literature SL paper 1 Language A Language & Literature HL paper 1 Language A Language & Literature SL paper 1
	Language & culture SL paper 2	1h 30m	2h 15m 1h 15m 2h 15m 1h 15m * Except: English, French & Spanish

Tuesday 28 April			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
	Language A Literature HL/SL paper 2 Language A Language & Literature HL/SL paper 2 * Except: English, French & Spanish	1h 45m 1h 45m	Physics HL paper 1 (1a and 1b) Physics SL paper 1 (1a and 1b) Sports, exercise & health science HL paper 1 (1a and 1b) Sports, exercise & health science SL paper 1 (1a and 1b)
			2h 1h 30m 1h 45m 1h 30m

Wednesday 29 April			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
	Physics HL paper 2 Physics SL paper 2 Sports, exercise & health science HL paper 2 Sports, exercise & health science SL paper 2	2h 30m 1h 30m 2h 30m 1h 30m	Business management HL/SL paper 1 Business management HL paper 3
			1h 30m 1h 15m

Thursday 30 April			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
	Business management HL paper 2 Business management SL paper 2	1h 45m 1h 30m	Computer science HL paper 1 Computer science SL paper 1 Environmental systems & societies HL paper 1 Environmental systems & societies SL paper 1
			2h 10m 1h 30m 2h 1h

Friday 1 May			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
	--- No exams ---		--- No exams ---

Week 2

Monday 4 May			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
	Computer science HL paper 2 Computer science HL paper 3 Computer science SL paper 2 Environmental systems & societies HL paper 2 Environmental systems & societies SL paper 2	1h 20m 1h 1h 2h 30m 2h	History HL/SL paper 1 History HL/SL paper 2
			1h 1h 30m

Tuesday 5 May			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
History HL paper 3	2h 30m	Language B HL paper 1 Language B HL paper 2 - Reading comprehension Language B SL paper 1 Language B SL paper 2 - Reading comprehension Language ab initio SL paper 1 Language ab initio SL paper 2 - Reading comprehension	1h 30m 1h 1h 15m 1h 1h 1h
		* Except: English, French & Spanish	
		Latin HL paper 1 Latin SL paper 1	2h 1h 30m

Wednesday 6 May			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
Language B HL paper 2 - Listening comprehension Language B SL paper 2 - Listening comprehension Language ab initio SL paper 2 - Listening comprehension	1h 45m 45m	Psychology HL paper 1 Psychology SL paper 1	2h 2h
* Except: English, French & Spanish			
Latin HL paper 2 Latin SL paper 2	1h 30m 1h 30m		

Thursday 7 May			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
Psychology HL paper 2 Psychology HL paper 3 Psychology SL paper 2	2h 1h 1h	English A Literature HL paper 1 English A Literature SL paper 1 English A Language & Literature HL paper 1 English A Language & Literature SL paper 1	2h 15m 1h 15m 2h 15m 1h 15m
		English B HL paper 1 English B HL paper 2 - Reading comprehension English B SL paper 1 English B SL paper 2 - Reading comprehension English ab initio SL paper 1 English ab initio SL paper 2 - Reading comprehension	1h 30m 1h 1h 15m 1h 1h 1h

Friday 8 May			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
English A Literature HL/SL paper 2 English A Language & Literature HL/SL paper 2	1h 45m 1h 45m	Geography HL paper 1 Geography SL paper 1	2h 15m 1h 30m
English B HL paper 2 - Listening comprehension English B SL paper 2 - Listening comprehension English ab initio SL paper 2 - Listening comprehension	1h 45m 45m	Philosophy HL paper 1 Philosophy SL paper 1	2h 30m 1h 45m
Literature & performance SL paper 1	1h 45m	Social & cultural anthropology HL paper 1 Social & cultural anthropology SL paper 1	2h 1h 30m

Week 3

Monday 11 May			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
	Geography HL/SL paper 2 Geography HL paper 3	1h 15m 1h	
	Philosophy HL/SL paper 2 Philosophy HL paper 3	1h 1h 15m	Biology HL paper 1 (1a and 1b) Biology SL paper 1 (1a and 1b)
	Social & cultural anthropology HL paper 2 Social & cultural anthropology SL paper 2	2h 30m 1h 30m	2h 1h 30m

Tuesday 12 May			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
	Biology HL paper 2 Biology SL paper 2	2h 30m 1h 30m	
			Economics HL/SL paper 2 World religions SL paper 1
			1h 45m 1h 15m

Wednesday 13 May			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
	Economics HL paper 1 Economics HL paper 3 Economics SL paper 1	1h 15m 1h 45m 1h 15m	
	World religions SL paper 2	1h 30m	Classical Greek HL paper 1 Classical Greek SL paper 1
			Spanish A Literature HL paper 1 Spanish A Literature SL paper 1 Spanish A Language & Literature HL paper 1 Spanish A Language & Literature SL paper 1
			Spanish B HL paper 1 Spanish B HL paper 2 - Reading comprehension Spanish B SL paper 1 Spanish B SL paper 2 - Reading comprehension Spanish ab initio SL paper 1 Spanish ab initio SL paper 2 - Reading comprehension
			2h 1h 30m 2h 15m 1h 15m 2h 15m 1h 15m 1h 30m 1h 1h 15m 1h 1h 1h

Thursday 14 May			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
	Classical Greek HL paper 2 Classical Greek SL paper 2	1h 30m 1h 30m	
	Spanish A Literature HL/SL paper 2 Spanish A Language & Literature HL/SL paper 2	1h 45m 1h 45m	Mathematics: analysis and approaches HL paper 1 analysis and approaches SL paper 1
	Spanish B HL paper 2 - Listening comprehension Spanish B SL paper 2 - Listening comprehension Spanish ab initio SL paper 2 - Listening comprehension	1h 45m 45m	Mathematics: applications and interpretation HL paper 1 applications and interpretation SL paper 1
			2h 1h 30m 2h 1h 30m

Friday 15 May			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
Mathematics: analysis and approaches HL paper 2 analysis and approaches SL paper 2	2h	Chemistry HL paper 1 (1a and 1b) Chemistry SL paper 1 (1a and 1b)	2h
	1h 30m		1h 30m
Mathematics: applications and interpretation HL paper 2 applications and interpretation SL paper 2	2h	Design technology HL paper 1 Design technology SL paper 1 Design technology HL/SL paper 2	1h
	1h 30m		45m 1h 30m

Week 4

Monday 18 May			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
Chemistry HL paper 2 Chemistry SL paper 2	2h 30m	Digital Society HL paper 1 Digital Society SL paper 1	2h 15m
	1h 30m		1h 30m
Design technology HL paper 3	1h 30m	Global politics HL/SL paper 1 Global politics HL/SL paper 2	1h 15m 1h 45m

Tuesday 19 May			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
Digital Society HL/SL paper 2 Digital Society HL paper 3	1h 15m	French A Literature HL paper 1 French A Literature SL paper 1 French A Language & Literature HL paper 1 French A Language & Literature SL paper 1	2h 15m
	1h 15m		1h 15m
Global politics HL paper 3	1h 30m	French B HL paper 1 French B HL paper 2 - Reading comprehension French B SL paper 1 French B SL paper 2 - Reading comprehension French ab initio SL paper 1 French ab initio SL paper 2 - Reading comprehension	2h 15m
			1h 15m
			1h 30m
			1h
			1h 15m
			1h

Wednesday 20 May			
Morning session		Afternoon session	
French A Literature HL/SL paper 2 French A Language & Literature HL/SL paper 2	1h 45m	Mathematics: analysis and approaches HL paper 3	1h 15m
	1h 45m		
French B HL paper 2 - Listening comprehension French B SL paper 2 - Listening comprehension French ab initio SL paper 2 - Listening comprehension	1h	Mathematics: applications and interpretation HL paper 3	1h 15m
	45m		
	45m		

Local start times for the examination session

- Schools must ensure that they are aware of their allocated exam zone, which does not change between examination sessions.
- The local start times for all zones are detailed in the table below. There is no variance in start times within morning or afternoon sessions.
- The local start times indicated are based on the local time and do not need to be adjusted for daylight saving.

Exam zone		Morning session start time	Afternoon session start time
A	12	10.00	14.00
A	11	10.00	14.00
A	10	10.00	14.00
A	9	10.00	14.00
A	8	09.30	13.30
A	7	09.00	13.00
A	6	09.00	13.00
A	5	09.00	13.00
A	4	09.00	13.00
A	3	09.00	13.00
B	3	10.00	14.00
B	2	09.30	13.30
B	1	09.00	13.00
B	0	09.00	13.00
C	-3	10.00	14.00
C	-4	09.30	13.30
C	-5	08.30	12.30
C	-6	08.30	12.30
C	-7	08.30	12.30
C	-8	08.30	12.30
C	-9	08.30	12.30
C	-10	08.30	12.30

Principles used in creating the IB Examination Schedule:

- It is not possible to take into account public, national or school holidays (apart from 01 May) because of the number of countries in which the IB Diploma Programme is offered.
- Registration data has been used to ensure that the minimum number of students globally are impacted by subject timetable clashes.
- Where there are subjects with particular regional or cultural links the IB will endeavour to take these into account, for example Arabic literature/language examinations will not be scheduled on a Friday.
- Almost all subjects are scheduled on consecutive days. This is to minimise the impact of absence on any given day, whilst maintaining continuity for students.
- Subjects with the highest candidature are not scheduled consecutively and are spread as evenly as possible over 4 weeks to try and distribute the workload for students. Language examinations and science examinations are scheduled on each of the 4 weeks for the same reason.
- The examination schedule is as short as possible to maintain an acceptable balance between the number of conflicts in the schedule.

Rescheduling Policy

- Rescheduling of an exam for a student requires approval from IB.
- The criteria and the process for applying for a reschedule can be found in the Diploma Programme/Career-related Programme *Assessment procedures*.

2027 examination Schedule

- The examination schedule in 2027 will start on Friday 23 April 2027, and end on Wednesday 19 May 2027 (with no exams on 1 May), subject to confirmation in 2025.