



2023-24 Grade 10 Course Selection Guide



BRANKSOME
HALL ASIA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction from the Middle Years Program Coordinator	3
Introduction to the Diploma Program	5
University Guidance	7
Course Descriptions	8
Arts	
Design	
Computer Science	
Individuals and Societies	
Sciences	
Mathematics	
English	
Course Selection Form	15

Introduction from the Middle Years Program Coordinator

Dear Parents and Grade 9 Students,

The Grade 10 Course selection booklet is designed to inform students and their parents of the choices available in the MYP 5 curriculum offered at Branksome Hall Asia. BHA offers Grade 10 students choice in their Arts, Design, Individuals & Societies and Science courses. These courses are designed to allow the Grade 10 students to pursue their interests, as well as specialize and strengthen their learning.

In order to assist students with their course selections, this information booklet has been produced. It provides a brief introduction to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and information related to course offerings in Grade 10 for 2023-2024. Furthermore, this booklet will assist students to make informed decisions about the courses they wish to study in Grade 10.

I would like to encourage parents with their daughters to review and discuss the information in this booklet, especially the descriptions of each of the courses offered before making the course selections.

The following course selections are offered, and every Grade 10 student will be required to study:

- **Two** Individuals and Societies courses that will be studied for **one semester** each, selected from:
 - Business Management;
 - Economics;
 - Geography, and;
 - History.
- **Two** Arts and/or Design courses that will be studied for **one year**, selected from:
 - Theatre;
 - Music;
 - Visual Arts;
 - Computer Science, and;
 - Product Design.
- **Two** Science courses that will be studied for **one year**, selected from:
 - Biology;
 - Chemistry;
 - Physics, and;
 - Sports & Exercise Sciences.
- **One** Mathematics course that will be studied for **one year**.
 - Standard Mathematics, or
 - Extended Mathematics.
- **One** English course that will be studied for **one year**.
 - English A - Language and Literature
 - English B - Language Acquisition

To assist the students, an academic pathways evening has been planned to provide additional information about each of the courses offered. This will help the students make an informed decision. Students will be placed in mathematics and English based upon teacher recommendation.

If you have any questions about your daughter's course selection for Grade 10 please contact me via email PaulaSwartz@branksome.asia and for the Diploma Program please contact Ms Cheryl Osborne CherylOsborne@branksome.asia.

University or careers related questions should be directed to:

Ms Kelley Christman KelleyChristman@branksome.asia; Young Jae Chang YoungJaeChang@branksome.asia; Ms Kaitlyn Waller kaitlynwaller@branksome.asia.

Course selections are due by Friday, February 3rd and are submitted via the hard copy course selection form and given to Advisors. Subsequent changes will need to be completed using the course change request form and require the signature of a counselor and parent.

Warm regards,

Paula Swartz,
Middle Years Program Coordinator.

Introduction to the Diploma Program

An important part of the Grade 10 course selection process is an awareness of the course offerings of the Diploma Program.

The IB Diploma Program provides a rigorous academic experience for students in their Grade 11 and 12 years that prepares them for success in university and beyond.

Students take courses from six separate Groups.

In 2023-24, the following choices will be offered to Grade 11 students:



Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature

- Chinese: Literature
- English: Language and Literature
- Korean: Language and Literature

Group 2: Language Acquisition

- English B
- Ab Initio languages

Group 3: Individuals and Societies

- Business Management
- Economics
- Environmental Systems & Societies
- Geography
- History

Group 4: Sciences

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Design Technology
- Environmental Systems & Societies
- Physics
- Computer Science

Group 5: Mathematics

- Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches
- Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation

Group 6: The Arts/Elective

- Music
- Theatre
- Visual Arts
- Or another course from Groups 1 to 5

Three of the six courses are taken at Higher Level (HL) and three are taken at Standard Level (SL). HL courses require 240 hours of study while SL courses are 150 hours in length. At the core of the Diploma are CAS, TOK and the Extended Essay.

In **Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS)**, students are expected to participate in Creativity, Activity and Service over their two years in Diploma Course. These activities help students

develop self-confidence, initiative, responsibility, concern for others and the ability to work cooperatively with other people. They also provide an important balance to the academic requirements of the program.

The **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)** course is a course designed to teach students to think critically about what they are learning and to appreciate other cultural perspectives. Students complete an essay that is externally graded and an exhibition that is internally marked and externally moderated.

Students will write an **Extended Essay**, a formal research paper, and choose their essay topic in a subject offered by the school. The 4000-word paper will be externally moderated. Combined with the TOK, the Extended Essay may account for an additional 3 bonus points toward the completion of the IB Diploma.

Assessment

Like the MYP, each of the DP courses is evaluated on a scale from 1–7, with 7 being the highest obtainable mark. To receive the Diploma of the International Baccalaureate, students must, at a minimum, achieve a total score of 24 points over the six courses (an average of 4 per course). In addition, students must complete the requirements of the CAS program, TOK course, and Extended Essay.

The maximum number of points available to a student is 45, which includes a possible 3 bonus points from the Extended Essay and TOK course. A hard-working, organized and self-motivated student is expected to achieve a minimum of 24 points with a minimum of 12 points coming from their three Higher Level courses. The student will also study three Standard level courses.

While most of the mark a student receives is derived from externally marked exams, teachers also internally mark students on lab work, oral commentaries and day-to-day course work.

Grade 10 Course Selection

Students in Grade 10 should give consideration to what courses they think they might take in the Diploma Program and ensure they take the relevant Grade 10 course.

For example, a student looking to take DP History, Chemistry, and Visual Arts should ensure that they take Grade 10 History, Chemistry, and Visual Arts.

To do a **Higher Level (HL)** DP course the student must:

- achieve a minimum of 5 in the Grade 10 Semester exam in that subject OR in subjects with similar skills (if the student has not taken the subject).

To do a **Higher Level (HL)** DP **mathematics** course the student must achieve a minimum of 6.

On the following page, you will find guidance provided to Diploma Program candidates on what courses they should take in the DP if they are interested in a particular university degree or career.

University Guidance

The IBDP curriculum allows for many options. University systems in different parts of the world may have very specific entry requirements. The following general guidelines are a starting point, however, requirements for specific programs can vary from country to country, and university to university. It is essential that students conduct their own research to ensure their Diploma Program subject selection meets their needs.

University Degree or Career	Suggested subjects at DP Higher Level
Accounting	Math; Business Management; Economics
Advertising and Marketing	Business Management, Economics, Geography or History; Visual Arts; Design Technology
Actuarial Science	Math
Administration, the Civil Service, etc.	Language and Literature; History, Economics, or Geography
Agriculture, Agricultural research, Land Surveyor	Biology, Chemistry, and/or Physics; Geography (course dependent)
Architecture	Math; Physics, Design Technology; Visual Arts
Banking, Finance, Insurance	Business Management, Economics; Math; Physics
Business Studies	Economics, Business Management
Chemistry	Math; Chemistry, Physics, or Biology
Chemical Engineering	Math; Chemistry or Physics
Classics, Archaeology, Oriental Languages	Language and Literature; History
Computer Science, Statistics	Math; Physics, Computer Science
Creative Writing	Language and Literature; History; Theatre
Design	Design Technology, Physics and/or Math (engineering); Visual Arts
Engineering	Physics; Math, Design Technology, Economics
English	English A; History; Theatre
Film, Video and Photographic Arts	Visual Arts; Music; Theatre; Language and Literature
Fine and Studio Art	Visual Arts; Language and Literature
Geography (art emphasis)	Geography, History, Economics; Language and Literature
Geography (science emphasis)	Geography; Physics, Biology, Chemistry
Geology	Geography; Two of Chemistry, Physics, Biology
History, Anthropology	History, Economics; Language and Literature
History of Art	Visual Arts; History; English A
International Relations, Politics	History, Economics, Geography; Language and Literature
Law	No specific requirements. History, Economics, Math, English A are useful
Management Studies	Business Management; Math; Economics
Materials Science, Metallurgy	Chemistry, Physics, Design Technology
Math	Math; Physics and a second science
Media and Communication Studies, Journalism	Language and Literature; Music; Theatre
Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry	Chemistry, Biology (or Physics); Math
Modern Languages	Language and Literature; History
Music	Music
Natural Sciences	Math; two of Chemistry, Physics, Biology

Pharmacy	Chemistry, Biology, Math
Physics, Applied Physics, Mathematical Physics	Math, Physics, and a second science
Psychology	Biology and Chemistry, Physics, or math
Teaching and Education	Language and Literature
Theatre	Theatre, Music; Language and Literature
Town and Country Planning	Geography, Economics; Design Technology, Physics

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ARTS, DESIGN, COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students in Grade 10 will select **two courses** from the **five choices** below and will take each course for **one year**.

PRODUCT DESIGN

The Grade 10 Product Design course prepares students to study Design Technology in the IB Diploma Program. In this course, students use the design cycle to solve problems through the use of tools, materials, strategies and CAD/CAM systems. The study of product design prepares students to manipulate a variety of materials to create products/solutions to solve a problem and meet the needs of users. A particular focus of the course is the responsibility of designers and the sustainability of their solutions, and using research to develop and justify design decisions. Strong interdisciplinary connections are made to science, math, engineering and humanities as students investigate the power and impact of design on our world.

Students work on a range of projects investigating topics such as sustainability, biomimicry, principles of design, spatial visualization, furniture design, and marketing. The BHA Product Design course is unique in its focus on creating three-dimensional (3D) solutions using computer-aided manufacturing techniques. Students will work on several project-based units, with the possibility of an open-choice unit at the end of the term.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

The Grade 10 Computer Science course prepares students for the future study of DP Computer Science. Students are introduced to fundamentals of computer science and computational thinking through a project-based approach. Emphasis is on connecting the physical and human world with the digital. To this end, students engage in programming and digital design projects that use the Arduino programming and development environment, app coding, and other digital design challenges. The final unit is an open unit where students can revisit concepts and skills to develop a meaningful and unique solution to a design problem.

THEATRE

The Grade 10 Theatre course introduces and successfully prepares students, in an MYP context, for the rigors and demands of the IB Theatre Diploma course. Students build and develop skills to prepare for successful completion of the final two years of their IB education. Students make

theatre as creators, designers, directors, and performers. They learn how to apply research and theory to inform and contextualize their work.

In Grade 10 Theatre, students work individually and collaboratively. They take part in researching, creating, preparing, presenting, and critically reflecting on theatre. As participants and audience members they gain a rich understanding of themselves, their artistic and communicative potential, and the role that art plays in shaping a better world. Students are required to record and reflect on their learning and progress throughout the course in a 'Process Journal'. The Grade 10 Theatre course is a challenging but also an extremely rewarding program.

MUSIC

Students who select Music as a course of study in Grade 10 will have the opportunity to develop their music knowledge, abilities and skills. It is essential that students have fluency reading musical notation and are competent on at least one musical instrument. Through the study of theory, composition and arrangement, cultural and historical analysis, and performance, students refine and develop their musicianship, and engage in learning that develops music literacy and cultural awareness. These are preparatory skills for IB Music Diploma.

Course topics include:

- Jazz and blues / Improvisation
- Music for the stage – Opera, Ballet, and other Dance Music including salsa, rumba, waltz, hip-hop, tango, and merengue are all part of this unit.
- 20th Century Music with a slant on Music Technology.

VISUAL ARTS

The Grade 10 Visual Arts course centers on extending students' understanding of different artistic knowledge, skills and techniques. This will be attained through exploring and communicating artistic intention through both a practical and annotated inquiry of artworks from various cultures and time periods.

Students are required to keep a process portfolio that documents their class tasks, experiments, processes, research and ongoing reflections and evaluations of their artistic development. Studio work will refer to Artists influences, experimenting with media and exploration of a range of ideas to create well-resolved final artworks.

Course topics include:

- Paint as Language - exploring styles and techniques
- Altered Reality - conceptual perspectives
- The Human Form - Sculptural explorations
- Printmaking - as a Visual Art making technique
- Movement - Memory - Fragmentation - capturing movement in any media

INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETIES

Students in Grade 10 will select **two courses** from the **four choices** below and will take each course for **one semester**.

BUSINESS

The Grade 10 Business Management course is split into two units that both provide Diploma level skills and content. The first unit provides an introduction to the business environment, in which students will discover the different business structures and methods of growth. This unit is followed by an ethical enterprise project that allows a deeper understanding of functional departments. Students will discover the purpose of the marketing, finance and human resources departments. Students will continually develop analytical and critical thinking skills necessary to become a successful Diploma student and eventually an entrepreneur.

ECONOMICS

The Grade 10 Economics course will introduce students to basic economic concepts, models, and systems. The course will investigate important economic fundamentals such as choice, opportunity cost, scarcity, economic growth and development. The course will also introduce and consider the basic role and relationships of market forces (supply and demand), cost and price, production and consumption, and the role of government in an economy.

HISTORY

The Grade 10 History course will begin with a focus on the ideological, political, and economic causes of the Cold War through multiple perspectives. This unit develops critical thinking and writing skills. The second unit examines "Propaganda and Minorities." Students explore how propaganda works and how to use propaganda to determine values and beliefs in a given place and time about women. This unit emphasizes source skills such as source analysis and evaluation, as well as the use of sources in historical writing. Throughout the entire course, students will be introduced to skills that are necessary for success in DP History while also introducing them to topics studied in DP History.

GEOGRAPHY

Grade 10 MYP Geography will investigate two important topics in human geography; population and migration. We will explore geographical concepts and apply them to real world situations as we analyze the implications of population growth and movements, including their social, economic and environmental consequences.

The unit on Population Dynamics (Key concept: Change) concerns population change, a dynamic process which responds to the social and political environment and which can be influenced by management intervention. Our main inquiry questions are, What factors influence population change? What is an optimum population? To what extent can population change be managed?

The unit on Migration – Moving and Changing (Key concept: Global interaction), investigates the profound impact migration has on both the migrants themselves and the communities they join, as well as the communities they depart. Our main inquiry questions are, How can different types of migration be classified? Who benefits from migration? To what extent does migration affect individual and community identity?

Geography is a skills-based course with a focus on spatial analysis as well as research skills. Students will learn how to balance perspectives to develop arguments and solutions based on evidence. Students will develop valuable DP level skills such as debate, investigation, synthesis, evaluation, data collection and resource analysis. This course is recommended for those that like to follow current events, enjoy discussions and are comfortable sharing their opinions with others.

SCIENCES

Students in Grade 10 will select **two courses** from the **four choices** below and will take each course for **one full year**.

BIOLOGY

Grade 10 Biology centers on developing proficiency in scientific processes and techniques through the investigation of biology. This will be a laboratory intensive course that offers the opportunity to develop inquiry skills including designing experiments, collecting and analyzing data, and making conclusions. If you are interested in studying living things and enjoy doing lab work then consider taking biology.

Course topics include:

- Cells
- Genetics
- Diffusion and osmosis
- Digestive system and enzymes
- Ecology
- Evolution and Natural selection

CHEMISTRY

The periodic table of elements is at the heart of chemistry. In Grade 10 we study how elements combine to make compounds and how these elements and compounds react together in different ways, the faster reactions being very thrilling to observe. From the basics of atomic structure to the complexities of chemical reactions and their stoichiometric analysis, both inorganic and organic, the Grade 10 course offers a practical approach to understanding key concepts in the DP chemistry course.

Course topics include:

- Atomic theory
- Bonding models (ionic, metallic and covalent)
- Mole theory
- Chemical reactions
- Rates of reaction
- Energy changes during chemical reactions
- Organic chemistry

PHYSICS

Physics attempts to understand all physical phenomena: from the smallest particle, to the entire universe. The language of physics is mathematics and students will be required to manipulate formulas, equations, and graphs. Throughout the course students will develop practical skills by performing investigations on key concepts. Students who enjoy building things, using mathematics, and learning how the physical world works, should consider taking physics.

Course topics include:

- Motion
- Forces and Energy
- Electricity and Electromagnetism
- Waves
- Medical Physics

Sports & Exercise Sciences

This course centers on the science of human performance. Students will investigate the application of scientific concepts to sport and exercise. In addition to participating in a variety of sports, students will develop inquiry skills where they design and conduct experiments on aspects of human performance. If you are interested in sports performance, physical activity or studying and applying science to authentic contexts, this course is for you.

Course topics include:

- Physiology (Fitness)
- Biomechanics & Anatomy
- Sport Psychology
- Skill Acquisition
- Fitness Training and Nutrition

MATHEMATICS

Students in Grade 10 will be placed in **one course** from the **two options** below and will take this mathematics course for **one full year**. Students will be placed in a course based upon teacher recommendation.

STANDARD MATHEMATICS

Grade 10 Standard Mathematics aims to give all students a sound knowledge of basic mathematical principles while allowing them to develop the skills needed to meet the objectives of MYP Mathematics. Standard Mathematics would prepare students adequately for Standard Level Mathematics courses in the Diploma Program.

Course topics include:

- Sequences and Series
- Probability Sample Space
- Representing Data
- Polynomials
- Binomial Probability Distribution
- Modelling Growth & Decay
- Applications of Trigonometry

EXTENDED MATHEMATICS

Grade 10 Extended Mathematics extends many of the standard mathematics topics and supplements with additional topics and skills. This level provides the depth and complexity of problem solving for students looking for a higher level of mathematical challenge in their program. Topics will be addressed from a rigorous standpoint with the goal of preparing students for Higher Level Mathematics courses in the Diploma Program. A recommendation from your mathematics teacher is required to be considered for admission into this course, as well as a score of at least '6' in Grade 9 Mathematics.

Course topics include:

- Polynomials & Complex Numbers
- Trigonometry & Vectors
- Modeling Decrease/Increase
- Data Analysis
- Discrete Methods

Please note that maintaining a good grade in **Extended Mathematics** is required for entrance into a Higher Level Mathematics course in the Diploma Course at BHA.

ENGLISH

Students in Grade 10 will be placed in **one course** from the **two options** below and will take this English course for **one full year**. Students will be placed in a course based upon teacher recommendation.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

The Grade 10 English Language Acquisition course offers students the opportunity to become competent and critical communicators and develop their intercultural awareness through engaging with a variety of multimodal texts. The course is planned with consideration of the students' possible pathway to DP and the framework is designed to reflect the concepts and skills that make up the presumed knowledge for the English B course in the IB Diploma Programme. Students will learn in a variety of contexts, working both individually and in groups, and will develop multiliteracy skills in the various modes of communication. They will also complete a range of written and oral tasks: writing articles, reviews, essays, and taking part in role-plays and debates.

The course aims to develop students' insights into the features, processes and craft of language and the concept of culture. It also aims to make students foster a respect for and understanding of diverse linguistic and cultural heritages, and accept there are different ways of viewing the world. The topics and themes that structure the course are closely related to those studied in the Diploma Programme and invite students to think critically about a number of global issues. Additionally, students will gain an understanding and an appreciation of a variety of literary and non-literary texts, such as novels, plays, editorials, blogs, brochures, reviews, illustrations and photos, all linked to the prescribed themes.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The Grade 10 English Language and Literature course engages students in the study of the communication of various communities and cultures. This includes the investigation of both creative, imaginary literature -- such as short stories, novels, and poetry -- and the analysis of authentic non-fiction communication such as editorials, letters, advertisements and blogs. In addition, students will have opportunities to consider how and why other non-literary and visual forms of textual communication, including films, illustrations, and photographs, can be analyzed and evaluated with many of the same considerations and methods that we apply to the study of formal literature.

The course aims to develop students' awareness of the choices that authors make in the creation of texts so that they can improve as readers, listeners, speakers, and writers of English. The topics and themes of the literary selections will invite students to think critically about the global contexts that inform and inspire authors from a range of cultural contexts. Additionally, as they participate in independent and collaborative close-reading activities, students will observe and analyze various strategies and techniques that will help them to make better interpretations and evaluations of texts they encounter, and learn how to adopt and adapt these strategies in their own communication with others.



**BRANKSOME
HALL ASIA**

***Grade 10 Course Selection Form**

2023 – 2024

Due Date: Friday, February 3rd, 2023

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

ID Number: _____

Advisory: _____

Are you a new student to BHA? Yes No

Arts (Group 6) / Design Science (Group 4) – Students select two arts/science courses and take each one for a full year. Choices include: Theatre, Music, Visual Arts, Computer Science & Product Design. (tick your choice)

1st Choice (choose one):

- ☐ Theatre (Group 6)
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Visual Arts
- ☐ Computer Science (Group 4)
- ☐ Product Design

2nd Choice (choose one):

- ☐ Theatre (Group 6)
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Visual Arts
- ☐ Computer Science (Group 4)
- ☐ Product Design

Individuals and Societies (Group 3) – Students select two humanities courses and take one each semester. (tick your choice)

1st Choice:

- ☐ Business Management
- ☐ Economics
- ☐ Geography
- ☐ History

2nd Choice:

- ☐ Business Management
- ☐ Economics
- ☐ Geography
- ☐ History

Science (Group 4) - Students select two science courses and take each one for a full year. Choices include: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Sports & Exercise Sciences. (tick your choice)

1st Choice (choose one):

- ☐ Biology
- ☐ Chemistry
- ☐ Physics
- ☐ Sports & Exercise Sciences

2nd Choice (choose one):

- ☐ Biology
- ☐ Chemistry
- ☐ Physics
- ☐ Sports & Exercise Sciences

****Mathematics (Group 5)** – Students are placed in one math course and take it for a full year. Options include: Extended or Standard Mathematics.

****English (Groups 1&2)** – Students are placed in one English course and take it for a full year. Options include: English A (Language & Literature) or English B (Language Acquisition).

Parent Signature

Student Signature

**1st and 2nd choices have no bearing on which semester the course is taken.*

***Students are placed in a course based upon teacher recommendation.*