**Supplemental Information on IB and Cut Scores**

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**IB Diploma Programme (DP):**

To be awarded the IB diploma, students must fulfill a variety of requirements including taking at least six IB assessments in different subject areas (scored 1 to 7) and earning a total of 24 points toward the diploma, primarily through their scores on these assessments as well as through fulfilling other diploma requirements.3 Students can take IB courses at standard level (SL), representing 150 hours of instruction, or higher level (HL), representing 240 hours of instruction. For the IB diploma, students must earn a passing grade of 4 on six IB subject exams, including three higher level exams.

Research shows that students who complete the DP do better in college. IB considers a 4 a strong threshold for universities to start granting credit. It may differ by courses as students score higher in some subjects (see the [Statistical Bulletin](http://www.ibo.org/contentassets/bc850970f4e54b87828f83c7976a4db6/2014-november-statistical-bulletin.pdf) (pp. 16-21), which documents grade distributions for the different subjects). In some ways it does matter if they took an SL or HL because some score higher on particular SL courses than HL and even vice versa sometimes.

**SL vs. HL:**

The [first study](http://edex.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/publication/pdfs/APIB_9_0.pdf) shows that IB SL curricula is expected to prepare students as well or better than AP curricula.

*First college courses taken by Florida IB students*. This study touches on performance in college courses in relation to scores on IB exams.  The study summary is available here: <http://www.ibo.org/contentassets/d74675437b4f4ab38312702599a432f1/firstcollegecoursestakenbyfloridaibstudents-2011.pdf> The full report is available here: <http://www.ibo.org/contentassets/d74675437b4f4ab38312702599a432f1/flcoursesresearchbrief2011-04-06.pdf>

**4 vs. 5 vs. 6 & 7**

Question: Does IB state that a 4 is like a C grade, 5 is like a B grade, 6-7 is like an A grade, or anything like that?

Answer: We do not have an equivalency chart that we use for IB grades unfortunately. Many IB schools often have their own grade scales which they use so it really varies. However, NCAA has one that does a good job of making equivalencies if this is something you are really looking for:



Question:  Would this grading scale apply to both SL and HL options?  Seems to me that a student who takes the SL option and gets a 4 might not be as well prepared at the “satisfactory” level as a student who took the HL option and also got a 4.  Thoughts?

Answer: The scale applies to both because the SL and HL content is different and is to be thus examined independently of each other. So a satisfactory in SL course would be relative to the curriculum offered within that course, not comparing it to an HL course if that makes sense.