

Philosophy

I. Course description and aims

The Philosophy course provides an opportunity for students to engage with some of the world's most interesting and influential thinkers. It also develops highly transferable skills such as the ability to formulate arguments clearly, to make reasoned judgments and to evaluate highly complex and multifaceted issues. The emphasis of the DP Philosophy course is on “doing philosophy”, that is, on actively engaging students in philosophical activity. The course is focused on stimulating students' intellectual curiosity and encouraging them to examine both their own perspectives and those of others.

Students are challenged to develop their own philosophical voice and to grow into independent thinkers. They develop their skills through the study of philosophical themes and the close reading of a philosophical text. They also learn to apply their philosophical knowledge and skills to real-life situations and to explore how non-philosophical material can be treated in a philosophical way.

Higher Level students also engage in a deeper exploration of the nature of philosophy itself. Teachers explicitly teach thinking and research skills such as comprehension, text analysis, transfer, and use of primary sources.

The aim of the philosophy course is to engage students in philosophical activity, enabling them to:

1. develop an inquiring and intellectually curious way of thinking
2. formulate arguments in a sound and purposeful way
3. examine critically their own experiences and their ideological and cultural perspectives
4. appreciate the diversity of approaches within philosophical thinking
5. apply their philosophical knowledge and skills to the world around them.

II. Curriculum model overview

Core theme

The core theme “Being human” is compulsory for all students.

Optional themes

Higher Level students are required to study two themes from the following list.

1. Aesthetics
2. Epistemology
3. Ethics
4. Philosophy and contemporary society
5. Philosophy of religion
6. Philosophy of science
7. Political philosophy

Prescribed text

Students are required to study one text from the “IB list of prescribed philosophical texts”

Higher Level extension: Exploring philosophical activity

Higher Level students are required to explore the nature of philosophical activity.

Internal assessment

Standard Level and Higher Level students are required to produce a philosophical analysis of a non-philosophical stimulus.