

IB ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP AGENDA

DP Environmental Systems and Societies (Level 1)

King George V School, Hong Kong

2 – 4 October 2009, Friday - Sunday

Workshop Leader

Laura Brown

Laura is British by birth and graduated from the University of Manchester with a BSc. in Environmental Biology in 1992. She then went on to acquire a MSc. in Environmental and Ecological Sciences and qualify as a teacher of Science with a specialism in Biology.

In more recent years, Laura was a participant in the Diploma Review Committee for the IB Ecosystems and Societies pilot and has been teaching the course for seven years in two large international schools in the Asia Pacific region. She is currently Head of Biology at Sha Tin College, Hong Kong and is also an Assistant Examiner and Workshop Leader for Biology.

All participants are requested to bring with them the following:

- A copy of this Agenda
- A copy of the new Environmental Systems and Societies Study Guide
- A copy of their own school calendar or overview of the school year for use in Session 2

Participants are also invited to bring:

- A few copies of favourite practical investigations or activities (from Environmental Systems, Biology, Geography etc. which are related to the subject material in the new ESS syllabus) for use in Sessions 5 & 11
 - A list of other resources-books, websites etc.
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Please note: session topics are subject to change based on needs of the group

Friday, 2 October

0830 - 0900

Welcome & Introduction

0900 - 1000

Session 1: Group introductions and course overview

The aim of this session is to introduce the course and set the scene.

- Introductions between members of the group – Names & schools, IB experience, subject background and what you hope to achieve during your 3 days
- Structure of the Diploma hexagon and where trans-disciplinary subjects fit in
- The Diploma Programme – mission statement, learner profile and “who’s who”
- Group 3 & 4 requirements and how the skills required relate to the IB learner profile
- Basic course structure ESS 2009 (assessment structure and basic syllabus outline)

1000 - 1030

Morning Break

1030 - 1200

Session 2: ESS- Managing the syllabus

The aim of this session is to look at the syllabus content, identify links between topics and plan / develop a course outline

- What approaches can be used to teach the course?
- What are the main objectives of the ESS study guide?
- Possible links between topics
- Incorporation of TOK & CAS into the course and promoting internationalism
- Changes from the old Environmental Systems course (participant dependent)

1200 - 1300

Lunch

1300 - 1430

Session 3: Internal Assessment – The Practical Scheme of Work Part I

The aim of this session is to familiarise participants with the internally assessed practical component of the course; in particular the development of a PSoW structure, the assessment criteria and the overall outcome in the form of the complete student portfolio.

- What has to be achieved by the IA deadline?
- What help is available in the study guide?
- Managing the Practical Scheme of Work (PSoW)
- Using the Form 4 PSOW
- The assessment criteria. How do we interpret them?
- What sorts of activities are suitable?
- How is the work assessed?
- Making a mark scheme
- What happens at the end of the course?

1430 - 1500

Afternoon Break

1500 - 1630

**Session 4: Internal Assessment –
Marking and selection for moderation**

The aim of this session is to familiarise participants with applying the assessment criteria to student's practical reports

- Marking graded and ungraded practical work
- Selection for moderation and moderation feedback

1630

End of Day 1

Saturday, 3 October

0830 - 1000

**Session 5: Practical Scheme of Work –
Part II**

The aim of this session is to develop material to address the assessment criteria and to ensure a reasonable spread of activities to incorporate various components of the syllabus.

- Share ideas and develop practical activities which can be related to the ESS syllabus from previous experience teaching other courses (participants may bring possible activities as a hard or soft copy to share with the group)
- Discuss what can be counted as 'PSoW 'hours' and design coursework opportunities which can fulfil the requirements of the internal assessment component of the course.

1000 - 1030

Morning Break

1030 - 1200

**Session 6: External Examinations -
Exam structure and tips for success Part I**

The aim of this session is to make sure participants are familiar with the examination structure, weighting and techniques for success

- Format of overall examination
- Paper 1
- Paper 2 & resource booklet
- Using the mark scheme and the value of the examiner's report

1200 - 1300

Lunch

1300 - 1430

**Session 7: External Examinations –
Marking scripts**

The aim of this session is to try marking sample scripts and compare these to the examiner's marking (sample scripts with and without examiner's marks and comments will be provided)

- Looking at previously marked scripts
- Marking an exam and grading a paper

1430 - 1500

Afternoon Break

1500 - 1630

Session 8: ICT and ESS

The aim of this session is to share ideas for using ICT as a tool to enhance the teaching of DP Environmental Systems & Societies and provide possible assessment opportunities.

- Using online resources
- Using WIKIs
- Using probes and datalogging
- Suitability for IB assessment

1630

End of Day 2

Sunday, 5 October

0830 - 1000

Session 9: OCC- Using the Online Curriculum Centre

The aim of this session is to familiarise participants with the content of the OCC as well as how to navigate around the website and how the site can be used to assist with course development.

- Navigating the site
- Course pages, forums and resources

1000 - 1030

Morning Break

1030 - 1200

Session 10: How can ESS interact with TOK?

The aim of this session is to outline what TOK is and how we can link our ESS teaching to TOK.

- What is TOK?
- What is its' place in the overall programme?
- Do we need to specifically mention TOK?
- What are our obligations as ESS teachers?
- Where can TOK be incorporated into the ESS syllabus?
- Sample presentation

1200 - 1300

Lunch

1300 - 1430

Session 11: Favourite activities

The aim of this session is to stimulate discussion on the variety of strategies which could be used to teach certain aspects of the course and encourage teachers to widen their methodologies when teaching a course such as DP ESS.

- Participants are invited to bring along an example of a successful activity which could be relevant to a specific area of the syllabus and which could be demonstrated or tried out by the other participants (maximum 5 minutes -voluntary). WSL to do the first one.

1430 - 1500

Afternoon Break

1500 - 1600

Session 12: Extended Essay in ESS / Conclusion and Reflection

The aim of this session is to ensure that participants leave confident as to the nature, supervision and assessment of an Extended Essay on an environmental topic. Participants should also have an opportunity to reflect on what they have learnt and bring up any queries that have remained unanswered.

- Introduction to the Extended Essay and where it fits into the IB Diploma
- Good and bad titles for an environmental research topic
- Guidelines for supervisors – time allocation, choice of essay, plagiarism and assessment
- Issues with ESS Extended Essays
- Conclusions and reflections
- Questions and answers

1600

Workshop Closes and Award of Certificates*

*** An official "IB Certificate of Attendance" is awarded to participants who have attended all sessions of a workshop. Please ensure that travel arrangements do not preclude candidacy for a certificate.**