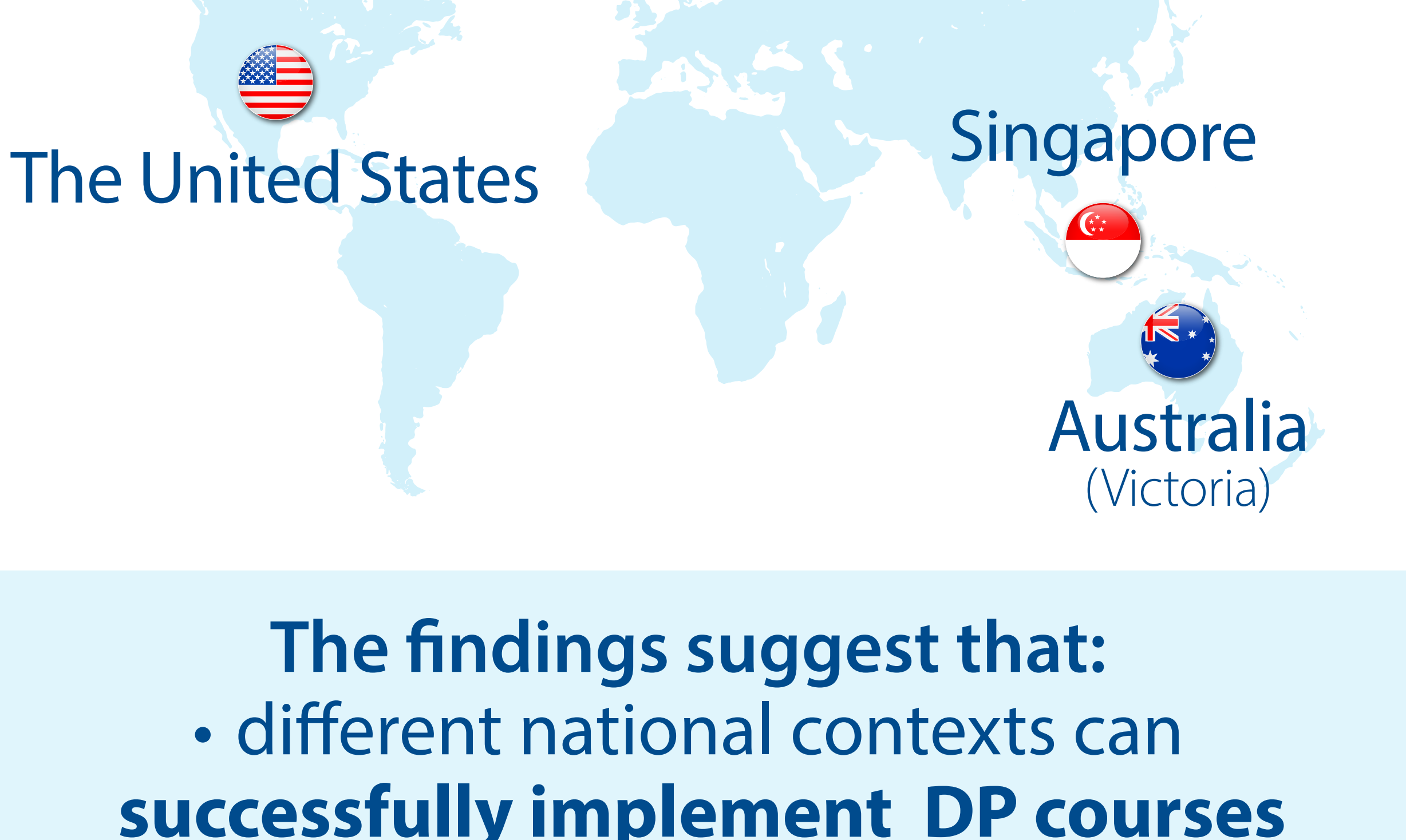


# IB Diploma Programme

## courses meet or exceed international standards

A series of studies compared the **Diploma Programme (DP)** with upper secondary systems in:



The findings suggest that:

- different national contexts can **successfully implement DP courses**
- DP courses support **breadth and depth of learning.**



The studies show that the DP courses examined are rigorous. **DP higher level (HL)** courses tend to cover **more breadth and depth** compared to the other curricula or standards studied. In many comparisons, **DP standard level (SL)** courses are **equally demanding** as those of the other locations. In some cases, both SL and HL courses are more demanding.

### THE STUDIES EXAMINED\*:



the **learning outcomes** that students demonstrate on completion of a course



how much the **content overlaps** across different curricula or standards



how **demanding** the courses are, including volume of work



## KEY FINDINGS

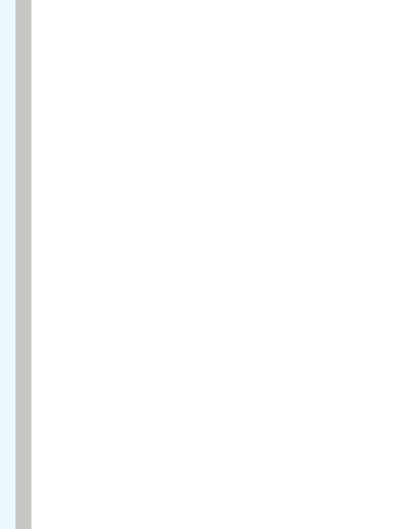
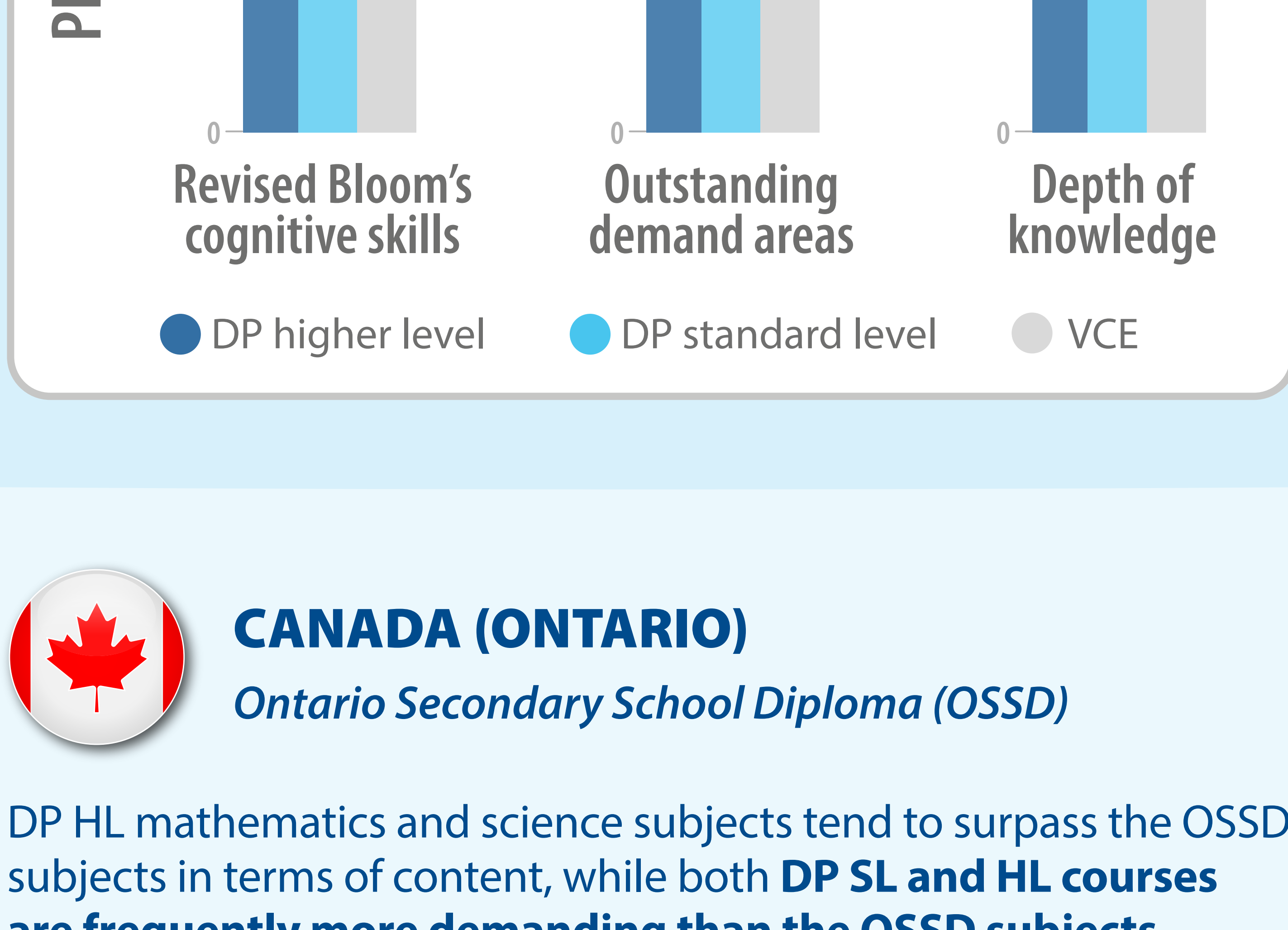
By way of example, the below visuals display demand results for one subject (physics) for each location



### AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA)

*Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)*

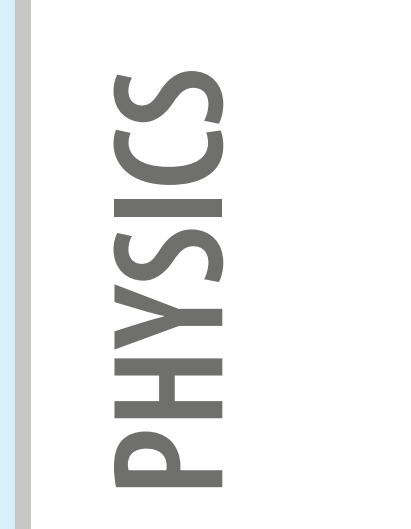
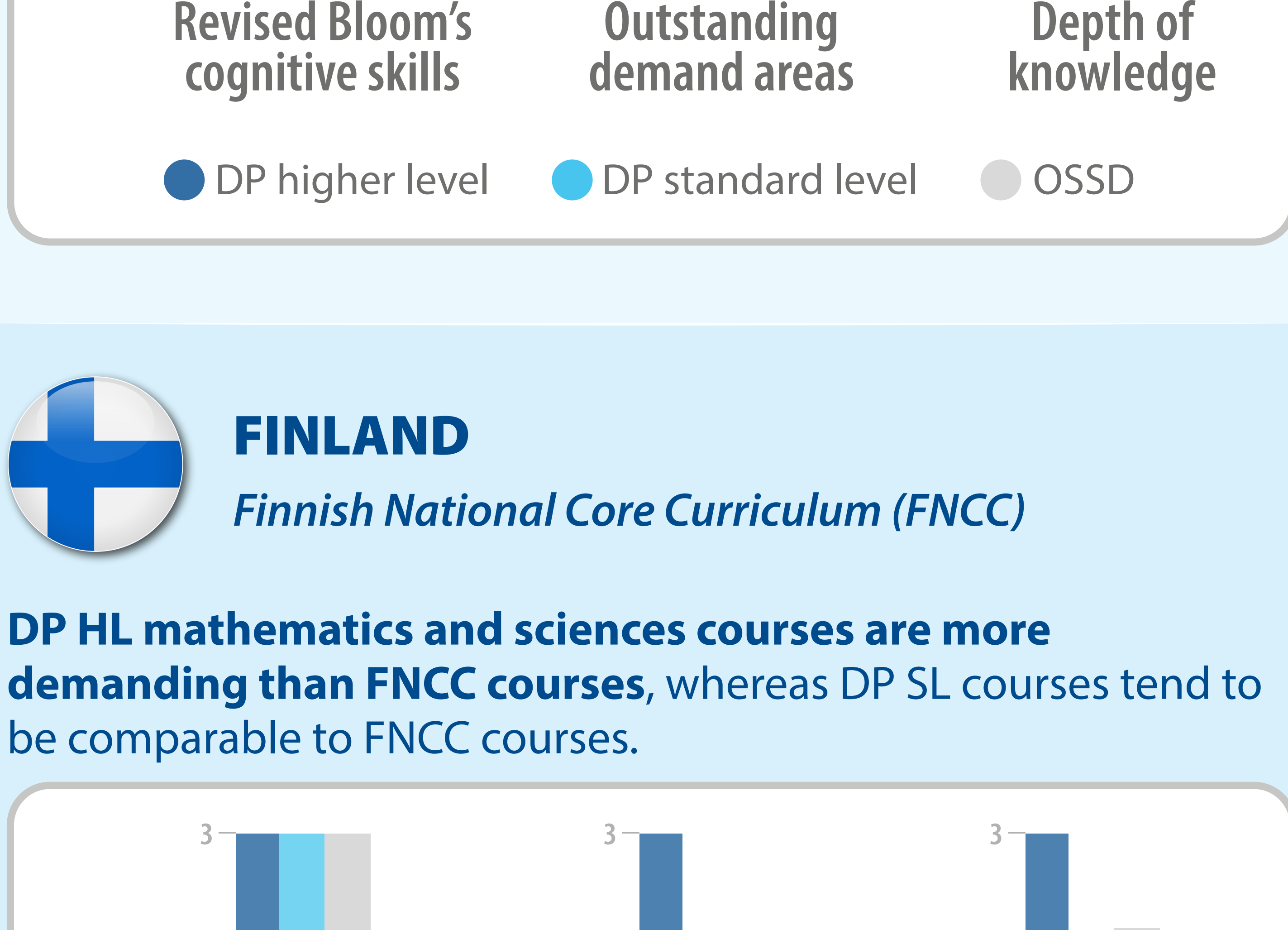
**DP HL mathematics and science courses tend to surpass VCE courses in both content and demand**, whereas DP SL courses are comparable to VCE courses.



### CANADA (ONTARIO)

*Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)*

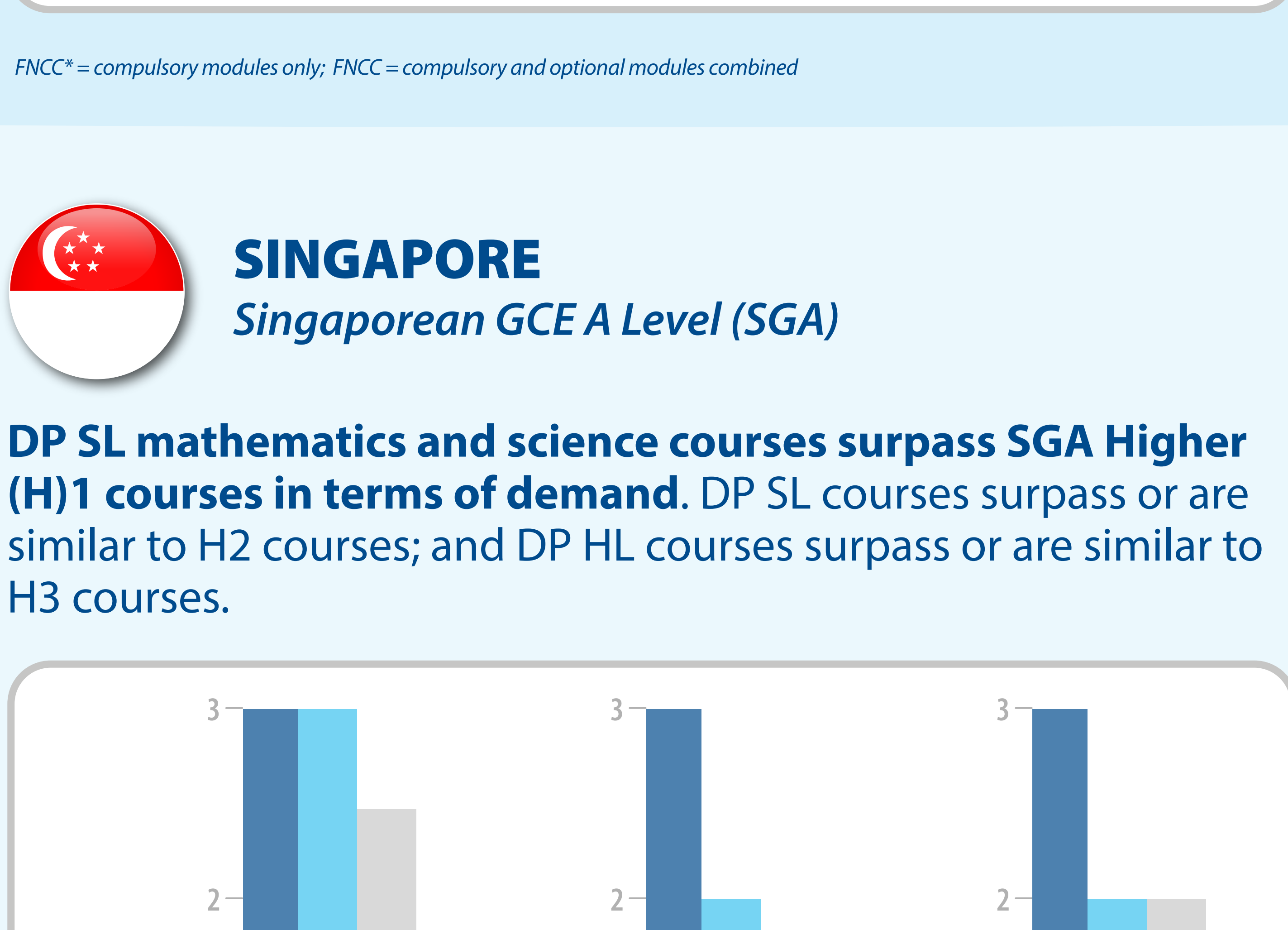
DP HL mathematics and science subjects tend to surpass the OSSD subjects in terms of content, while both **DP SL and HL courses are frequently more demanding than the OSSD subjects.**



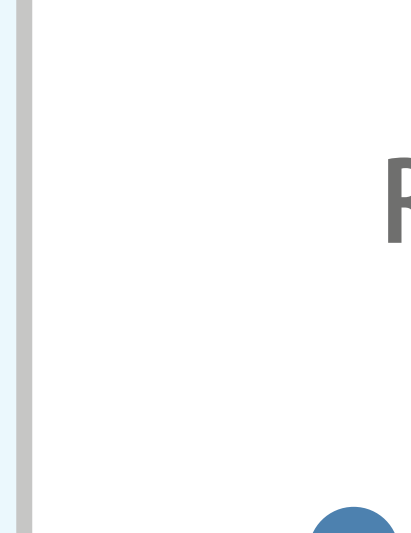
### FINLAND

*Finnish National Core Curriculum (FNCC)*

**DP HL mathematics and sciences courses are more demanding than FNCC courses**, whereas DP SL courses tend to be comparable to FNCC courses.



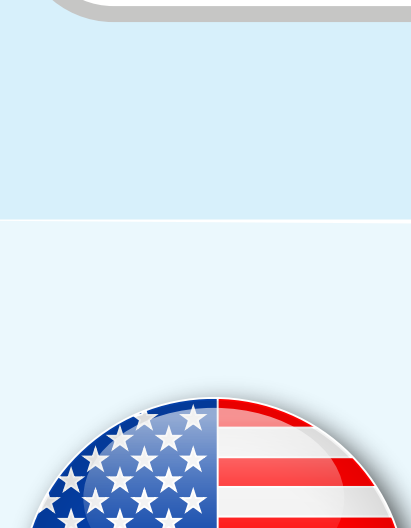
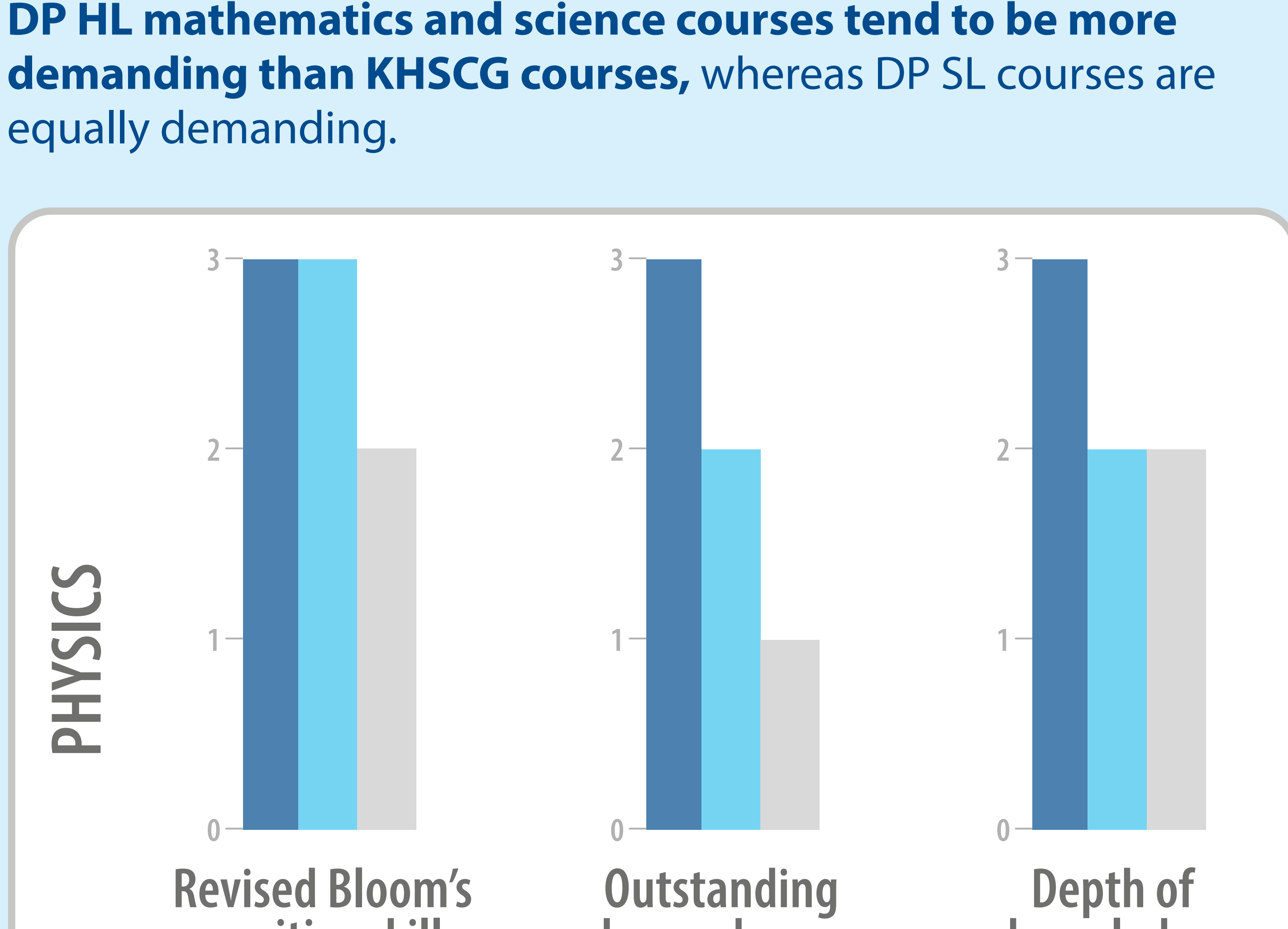
FNCC\* = compulsory modules only; FNCC = compulsory and optional modules combined



### SINGAPORE

*Singaporean GCE A Level (SGA)*

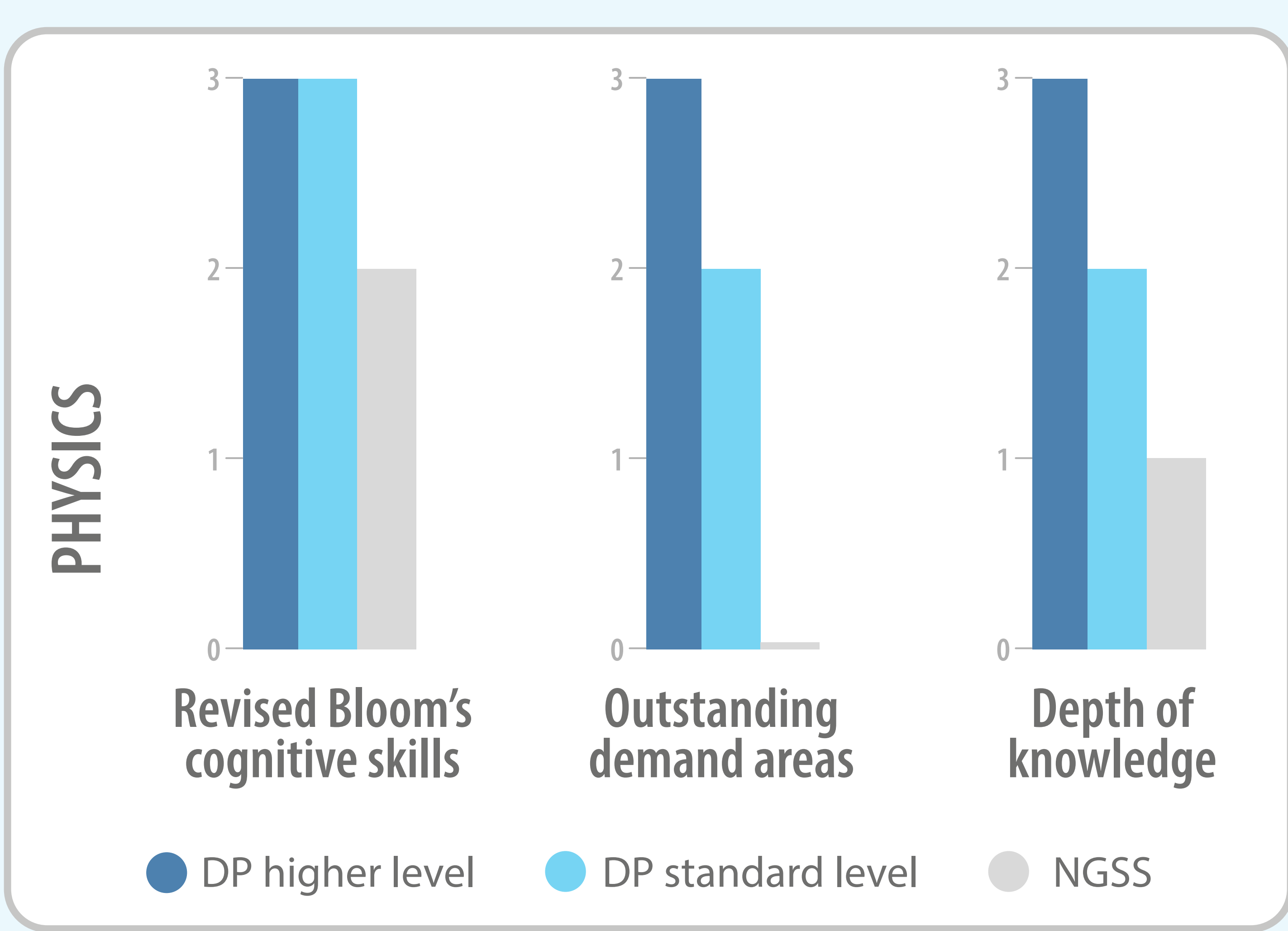
**DP SL mathematics and science courses surpass SGA Higher (H)1 courses in terms of demand.** DP SL courses surpass or are similar to H2 courses; and DP HL courses surpass or are similar to H3 courses.



### SOUTH KOREA

*South Korean High School Certificate of Graduation (KHSCG)*

**DP HL mathematics and science courses tend to be more demanding than KHSCG courses**, whereas DP SL courses are equally demanding.



\* focus on mathematics and science courses

This summary was developed by the IB Research department. The full reports are available at: [ibo.org/research](https://ibo.org/research). For more information on these studies or other IB research, please email [research@ibo.org](mailto:research@ibo.org).

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