


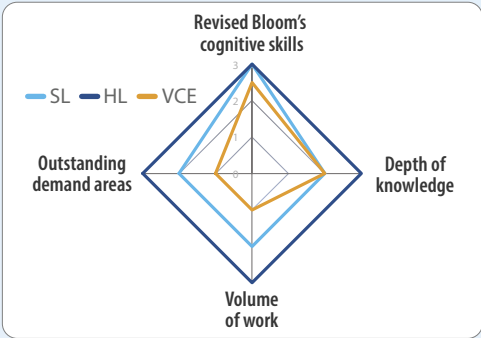
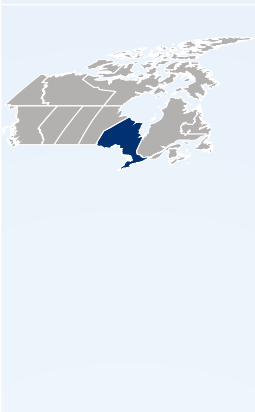
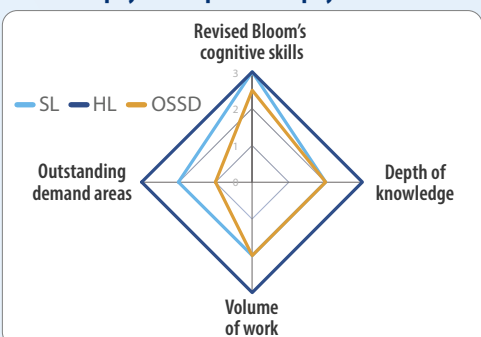
The International Baccalaureate’s Diploma Programme offers world-class courses that meet or exceed international standards

The International Baccalaureate (IB) commissioned [Ecctis](#) to conduct a series of in-depth studies to assess the level of alignment between the Diploma Programme (DP) and the upper secondary education systems of Australia (Victoria), Canada (Ontario)¹, Finland, Singapore, South Korea and the United States (US). The studies include, for all jurisdictions, a focus on mathematics and sciences, with an additional focus on history for Australia, and English for the US. Specifically, the studies examine alignment in learning outcomes, content alignment and demand.

While there is some variation by subject within jurisdictions, there is moderate to high content alignment and, in many instances, the DP higher level (HL) courses cover more depth and breadth of content than the comparison curricula. In terms

of demand, in many comparisons the DP standard level (SL) courses are similar to those of the other jurisdictions, and in some comparisons both SL and HL courses exceed demand in the other curricula. **Taken together, these studies provide substantial evidence that the DP courses examined² can readily be implemented within a variety of national contexts and represent rigorous curricula designed to support significant depth and breadth of learning.**

Below is a high-level overview of key findings from across the jurisdictions as well as illustrative comparisons of demand³. By way of example, this summary displays demand results for one subject (physics) for each location. All results and visuals can be found in the full reports by Ecctis.

Key findings		Demand comparisons (physics)	
	<p>Australia (Victoria)—Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)</p> <p>DP SL mathematics and science courses are generally comparable to VCE courses, while DP HL courses tend to surpass VCE courses in both content and demand.</p>	<p>SL and HL physics surpass VCE physics in demand</p> 	
	<p>Canada (Ontario)—Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SL and HL physics surpass OSSD physics in demand</p> 	

¹The state of Victoria (Australia) and province of Ontario (Canada) were selected because they have the largest number of DP schools in these respective countries.

²Mathematics (at SL and HL): analysis and approaches and applications and interpretation; sciences (at SL and HL): biology, chemistry and physics; English (at SL and HL): language and literature; and history (at SL and HL).

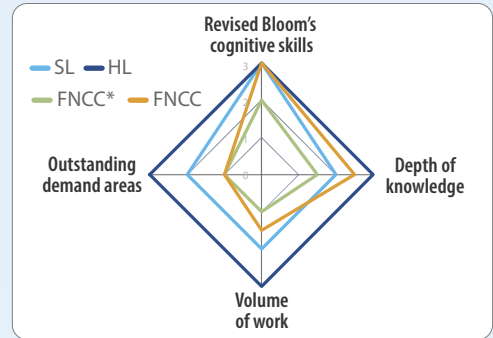
³Demand is compared in these studies using four criteria: revised Bloom’s cognitive skills; depth of knowledge; volume of work; and outstanding demand areas.



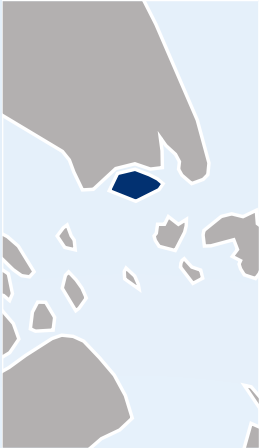
Finland—Finnish National Core Curriculum (FNCC)

In terms of demand, DP SL mathematics and sciences tend to be comparable to FNCC courses, while DP HL courses are substantially more demanding.

SL and HL physics surpass FNCC physics (both compulsory and optional modules) in demand



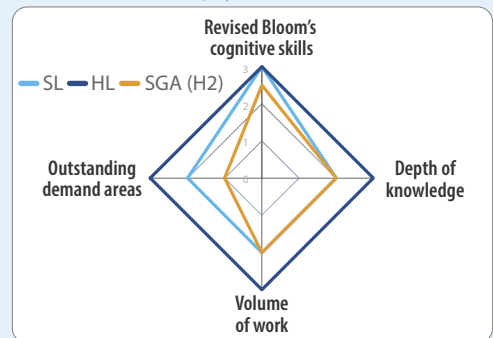
Note: FNCC* = compulsory modules only; FNCC = compulsory and optional modules combined



Singapore—Singaporean GCE A Level (SGA)

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

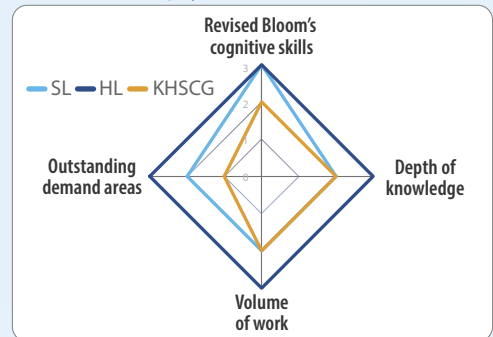
SL and HL physics surpass SGA H2 physics in demand



South Korea—South Korean High School Certificate of Graduation (KHSCG)

In terms of demand, DP SL mathematics and science courses are comparable to KHSCG courses, while DP HL courses tend to be more demanding.

SL and HL physics surpass KHSCG physics in demand

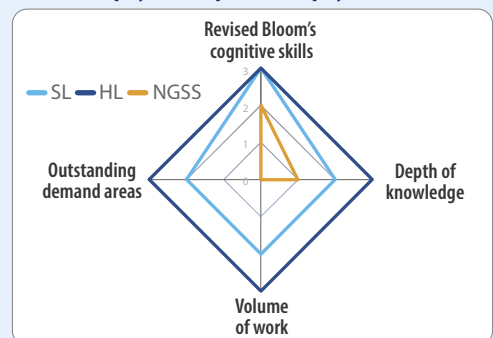


United States—Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for mathematics (CCSSM) and CCSS for English language arts and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

DP HL language and literature is substantially more demanding than the CCSS for English, while all DP SL and HL mathematics courses are more demanding than the CCSSM.

The DP science courses, both at SL and HL, considerably surpass the NGSS in content depth and level of detail as well as in demand.

SL and HL physics surpass NGSS physics in demand



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

