

St. Clare's, Oxford

— An International Education —



International Baccalaureate Diploma Guide

Recent IB results
University destinations
Choosing your subjects

Introduction

Our IB Guide is designed to give you detailed information about our examination results, university destinations and descriptions of the different subjects which the College offers for the International Baccalaureate Diploma and the Preparatory IB Programme.

It also gives me the opportunity to share some of the highlights of the previous academic year. They include:

- An extraordinarily good set of examination results with three students achieving the perfect score of 45 points and a Diploma pass rate of 99%. This needs to be put into the context of fewer than 100 students worldwide achieving top marks and an average world pass rate some 20% less than that achieved by students at St. Clare's. It is also far too easy to forget that St. Clare's achieves these results from a student body where the majority are second language learners of English and who only spend two years studying the Diploma.
- As part of the College's drive to improve the residential accommodation of its students, we have refurbished two more houses at a cost of £1.4 million. This has involved a complete re-modelling of the internal structure of 14-16, Lathbury Road to provide space for 29 students in single or double rooms each with its own bathroom, plus two laundries and two student common rooms.
- A third science lab for Physics has been replaced at a cost of £60,000.

All of the above paints a picture of a College which is providing a very high standard of education and care to its students whilst continually trying to upgrade its facilities. The Diploma provides a real education through an integrated programme which both engages and challenges students at all stages of their intellectual development.

I hope that you find this Guide interesting and that it will stimulate questions about St. Clare's and encourage you to find out more about us. We are proud of the work that we do here and I would welcome the opportunity to talk to you about our College, its ethos and its mission.

With my best wishes,

Paula Holloway
Principal



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Rebecca Steinke

Germany
44 points
Cambridge University
Engineering

'My time at St Clare's was really a time full of surprises, new challenges and inspiration. My two years at St. Clare's shaped me into a more knowledge-seeking, fulfilled person, not only academically but also in the sense of culture, friendship and community life. I will certainly never forget my time here'

Part 1 – Results: The Pattern of Recent IB Results

St. Clare's is pleased to announce another very pleasing set of results in the May 2011 exams which reflects the outstanding work of students and staff together.

We achieved:

- An outstanding overall pass rate of 99% and an average points score of 35.89 – this kept us well ahead of the world average points score of 29.69.
- 62 students with 35 points or more (considered equivalent to 4.5 grade As at A level).
- 3 students with 45 points - the highest possible mark, achieved by only 0.2% of candidates around the world.
- 24% of students gaining the elite category of 40+ points (top 5% in the world).

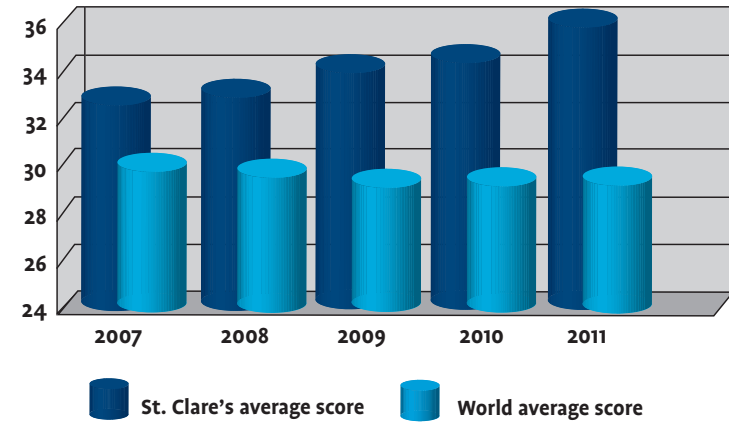
This is the seventh consecutive year in which we have had 45 point students, an outstanding achievement in the fiercely competitive IB environment.

Comparison of St. Clare's 2011 results with previous years

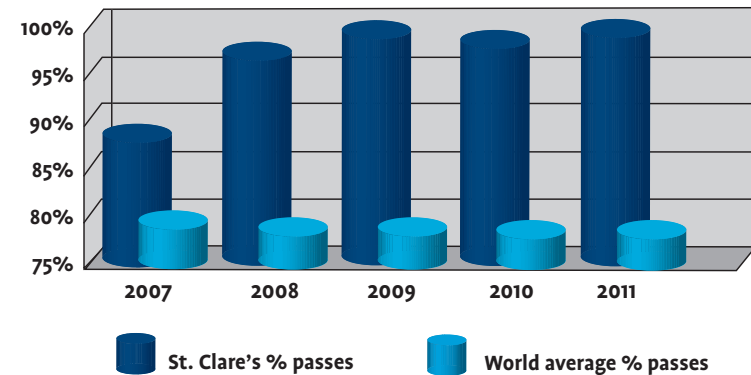
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Students with 40 points or more	10.8%	10.0%	16.7%	14.7%	24.0%
Students with 30 points or more	68.7%	72.7%	83.3%	82.9%	90.6%
Students with 24 points or more	94.0%	97.3%	99.0%	99.1%	100%
Mean score (excluding retakes)	32.49	32.85	34.35	34.50	35.89

The maximum score is 45 points and the pass mark is 24 points.

St. Clare's IB Diploma average points scores have consistently outperformed world averages:



St. Clare's IB Diploma pass rates have consistently outperformed world pass rates:



Part 1 – Results: The Pattern of Recent IB Results

IB Highlights from the past 3 years

- In 2009 over 98% of our students achieved the IB Diploma with an average points score of 34.35, compared to figures of 79% and 29.53 points worldwide.
- In 2010 the average points score was 34.50 for St. Clare's students. This compared with 29.49 worldwide.
- In 2011 we achieved a 99% pass rate, an average IB score of 35.9 and 3 students achieved 45 points in their IB Diploma.

In 2009 most of our academic subjects outperformed the world average by a significant margin. The following is just a sample:

- ◆ in Mathematics Standard Level the average was 5.31, compared to 4.45
- ◆ in English A1 Higher Level the average was 5.87 compared to 4.70
- ◆ in English B Standard Level the average was 6.50 compared to 5.72
- ◆ in French B Standard Level the average was 6.11 compared to 4.72
- ◆ in Economics Higher Level the average was 5.86 compared to 5.09
- ◆ in Chemistry Higher Level the average was 5.87 compared to 4.40

In 2010 our results were even more impressive when compared to world averages:

- ◆ in French B Higher Level the average was 6.22, compared to 4.69
- ◆ in Economics Standard Level the average was 6.50 compared to 5.03
- ◆ in Chemistry Higher Level the average was 5.67 compared to 4.36
- ◆ in Spanish ab initio the average was 6.17 compared to 4.91
- ◆ in Psychology Higher the average was 5.68 compared to 4.69
- ◆ in Maths Studies the average was 5.69 compared to 4.75.

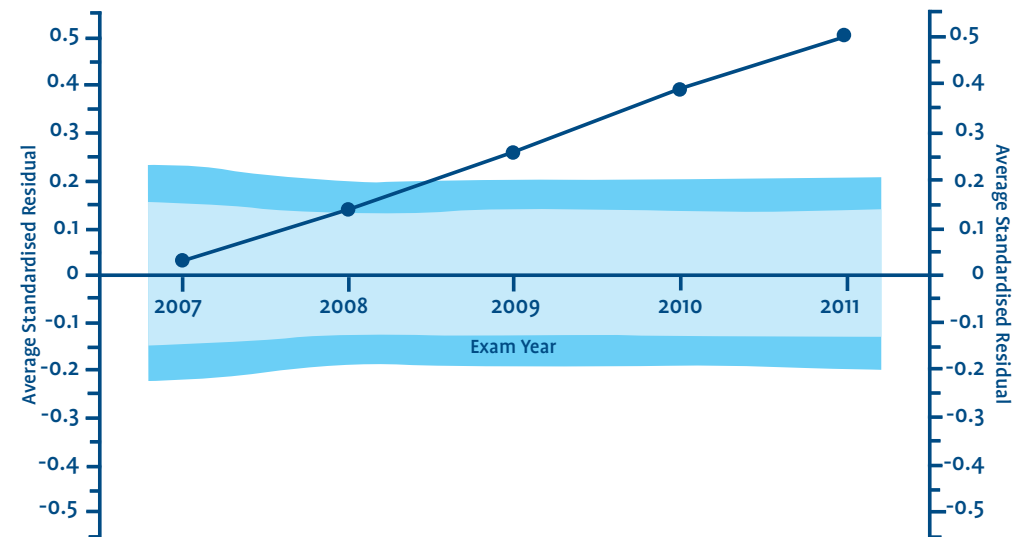
This year (2011) we achieved our best ever results when compared with world averages; here are some examples:

- ◆ in English B Language and Literature Higher Level the average was 6.13, compared to 5.29
- ◆ in Economics Higher Level the average was 6.03 compared to 5.12
- ◆ in Physics Standard Level the average was 6.20 compared to 4.10

- ◆ in Spanish B Higher Level the average was 7.00 compared to 5.59
- ◆ in Theatre Higher Level the average was 6.00 compared to 4.61
- ◆ in Maths Higher Level the average was 5.35 compared to 4.37.

How much value do we add for our students?

The graph below is based on an ALIS analysis (Advanced Level Information System) carried out by Durham University. It compares the progress made by students during their two years at St. Clare's to the progress made by students in other schools and colleges. The results show the excellent progress that students make at St. Clare's between the time of their arrival and sitting the IB exams. It also shows how this indicator of success has improved over the past 5 years.



Part 2 - University Destinations

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2011 – SUMMARY INFORMATION

The vast majority of St. Clare's graduates go to university as the next step in their career. Our students are welcomed by institutions all over the world, and during their two years at St. Clare's they are well prepared for and guided through decisions and applications.

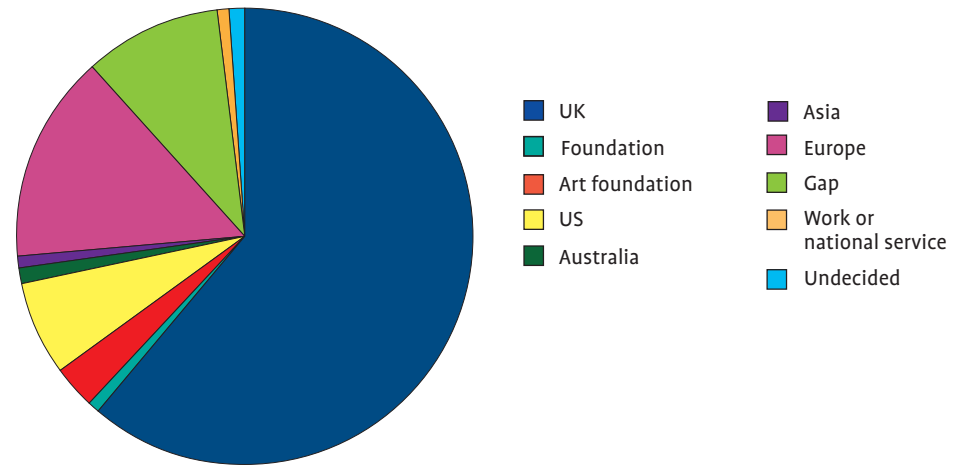
Most students start university immediately, while a small proportion choose to develop their personal skills and interests by taking a 'gap year' in which to travel, work or volunteer and thus improve their career prospects prior to continuing in education.

Students applied far and wide and have been successful in taking places at prestigious universities around the world. This has been a year of excellent results which has ensured success for our students, particularly at a time when competition is strong: those going to universities in the US are the most successful group of applicants from St. Clare's in the last decade based on the average rank and acceptance rate of the institutions they are going to. 83% of students applying to UK universities have been successful in achieving their 'first choice', which is higher than usual.

Students who left St. Clare's in 2011 will be in:

Destination	Students
UK universities (see below for details)	63
US universities and liberal arts colleges (see below)	7
European universities and colleges including Bocconi (Italy), Zeppelin (Germany), Maastricht (Netherlands), IE (Spain), Poznan (Poland) and Glion (Switzerland)	14
Asian university: in Japan	1
Australian university: Macquarie University	1
Art foundation: including Oxford Brookes, Parson's Paris	3
Gap year (most already placed in universities)	10
Employment	1
Undecided	3

2011 worldwide destinations of IB leavers



Sven Wenner

Germany
41 Points
Durham University
Philosophy, Politics & Economics

'For me St. Clare's means excellent teaching. All of my teachers taught in an interesting way which often triggered me to research beyond the syllabus'

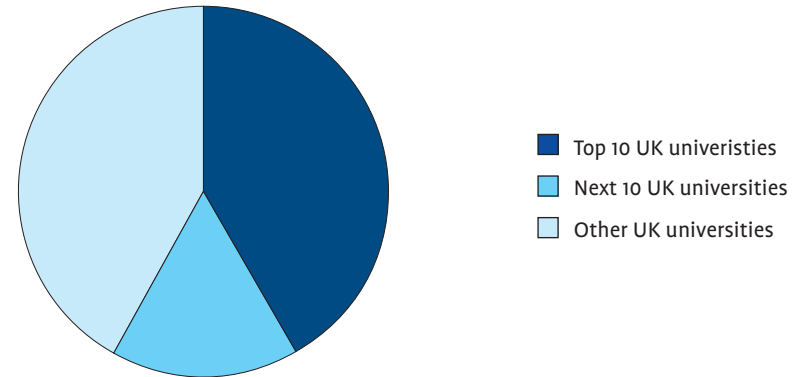
Part 2 - University Destinations

US and UK university league tables

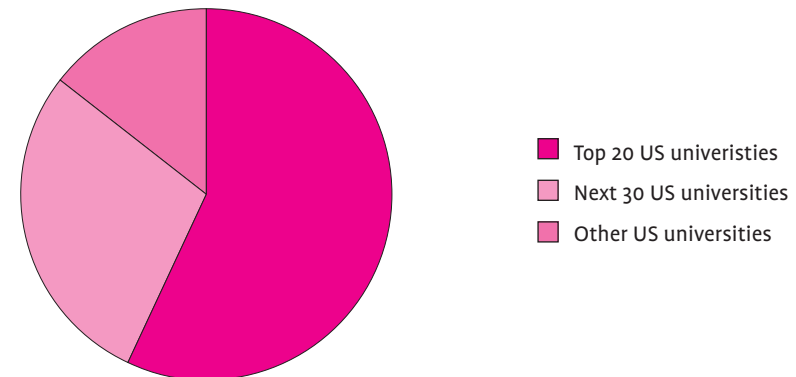
For 2011, 39 St. Clare's graduates (including those who took a gap year from 2010) have been placed in the top 20 UK universities (as ranked by The Times Higher Education Supplement) with 28 in the top 10 (see below). Those placed in the US top 50 universities include New York University and Brandeis University which are ranked 33 and 34 according to the standard ranking list by U.S. and News Report, and one will attend a specialist art college. Rankings represent an average of each university's provision, for example, in teaching, research, entry standards, staff-student ratio, degrees awarded, job prospects, resources, retention rates and spending per student. Students placed in the top US and UK universities are as follows:

	No. of students
US MIT	1
University of Pennsylvania	2
Johns Hopkins University	1
UK Oxford University	1
Cambridge University	2
Imperial College, London	3
London School of Economics	1
Durham University	2
University College London	8
University of Warwick	3
York University	3
King's College, London	5

IB students attending top 20 UK universities



IB students attending top 50 US universities



The choice of degree subjects includes medicine, law, engineering, human sciences, natural sciences, chemistry, physics, history/politics, economics, business studies, hospitality, anthropology, modern languages, psychology, international relations, film studies and liberal arts.

We pride ourselves on helping students to make well informed choices and applications for their future. Our careers and higher education programme provides a strong foundation for future study, work and life. Students comment on its value many years after they have left St. Clare's.

Liz Reece
Careers & Higher Education Adviser

Paul Sinclair
US Universities Adviser

Part 3 – Choosing your Subjects

- Students have to choose six subjects, one from each group
- Three of these must be at higher level (H) and three at standard level (S)

Group	Subject	Details
1	LITERATURE or LANGUAGE and LITERATURE	Your first or best language. The following Literature courses are offered: H and S: English, German, Italian. S only: Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Czech, Dutch, French, Greek, Icelandic, Japanese, Korean, Lithuanian, Mandarin, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and other languages on request. Language and Literature is available only in English.
2	LANGUAGE B	A second language. H and S: English, French, Spanish and German. Some previous knowledge is necessary. S only: Chinese for beginners and Spanish for beginners.
3	INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES	H or S: History, Geography, Psychology, Economics. H only: Business and Management. S only: World Politics.
3 or 4	TRANSDISCIPLINARY	S only: Environmental Systems and Societies.
4	SCIENCES	H or S: Biology, Chemistry, Physics. S only: Astronomy
5	MATHEMATICS	H: Mathematics S: Mathematics S: Mathematical Studies
6	ELECTIVES	H or S: Visual Arts, Music, Theatre, or another Language or another Individuals and Societies subject or another Science.

Some subjects run only if there is sufficient demand.

How to choose your programme:

- Choose your Highers from those subjects which you enjoy most and which support your career aspirations. These subjects are the ones that you will study in depth.
- Choose your Standards to give you a good balanced programme. You will be asked to record these subject choices on the application form.

Part 4 – Subjects

GROUP 1 – LITERATURE or LANGUAGE and LITERATURE

LITERATURE

- Literature is the study of a range of literary works e.g. novels and poetry in the mother tongue.
- Most of the students in the class will be native speakers of the language and will have been educated in the language.
- Only English, German and Italian are offered at both Higher and Standard levels.
- If you want to study Standard level and your language is not mentioned in the list, do not worry: we will almost certainly be able to find a teacher for you.

The Course

You will study about 13 (H) or 10 (S) works of literature in the language, at least 3 of which will be World Literature in translation. Written and spoken communication in the language is assessed by coursework and external examination.

Previous Knowledge

You must have native or near-native knowledge of the language. Wide background reading will give students a head start, but is not essential.

LANGUAGE and LITERATURE

Language and Literature is available only in English. It is aimed at bilingual students who are already taking Literature in their mother tongue (in this case the student would have two subjects in Group 1 and possibly none in Group 2).

Native speakers of English may study Language and Literature as an alternative to the Literature course.



Aska Matsunaga

Britain-Japan
37 Points
Kent University
Psychology

‘St. Clare’s has meant change for me. I’ve met lifelong friends, been given opportunities that would have been unimaginable elsewhere and will always look back on my time here with a smile’

Part 4 – Subjects

GROUP 2 – LANGUAGE B

- Language B is for foreign learners of the language.
- It is not primarily a literary course, though literature is studied as a means of understanding the complex use of the language.
- The emphasis is on communicative skills in speech and writing and on understanding the culture of the language.

The Course

Students learn the language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking through a range of resources related to three themes: Relationships, The Media and Global Issues. Reading and writing are tested by externally set examinations and written coursework (70%), while oral skills are tested internally (30%).

Previous Knowledge

You should have at least 2 years of serious study in the language, a good knowledge of grammar and vocabulary, and be fairly fluent in ordinary conversation.

LANGUAGE B Ab Initio (beginners)

- If you want to learn a new language or do not have a second language, you should choose Spanish Ab Initio or Chinese Ab Initio.
- These are offered at Standard level only.

The Course

You will acquire a good basic knowledge of the language so that you can engage in conversation to do with everyday situations and understand and write short pieces.

Previous knowledge

Obviously you don't need any. However, any start you can make on the language (e.g. a Teach Yourself book) in the summer before you come to us would help you to get a good start.

GROUP 3 – INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES

Previous knowledge

All these courses may be taken without previous knowledge. Clearly, if they have been studied before, this will be helpful.

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT (H only)

You will be learning to understand why business organisations are formed, the principles, practice and basic competence employed to make them successful and their decision-making processes. Real life examples and case studies will be used. Assessment is via project (25%) and final examinations (75%).

ECONOMICS (H and S)

You will learn how to use economic reasoning and apply the tools of economic analysis to everyday problems and social issues. You will learn how individuals and societies organise themselves in the pursuit of economic objectives and will seek answers to questions such as:

- How are resources allocated between alternative uses to attain maximum levels of output?
- How do governments intervene in the economy to foster desired levels of economic stability and growth?
- How do societies around the world interact with each other, via trade or other mechanisms, to create an international economic framework?

Part 4 – Subjects

- How do societies create new wealth?
- Why have some been more successful than others?
- Why does the spectre of poverty still haunt many nations?

GEOGRAPHY (H and S)

Geography is a bridge between the social and the natural sciences. The IB programme reflects the concern with man's relationship with the environment while retaining topics such as human geography, population, economic development and human settlements. Examples of human and physical geography are taken from all over the world. The subject is assessed through a combination of coursework and a final examination. The Standard level course deals largely with some current global problems (e.g. population, refugees, inequality, urbanisation, environmental hazards, food), and is attractive to students with an interest in current affairs and the environment. Higher Geographers study more physical geography with an emphasis on geomorphological processes. Both Higher and Standard level students will use spreadsheets, computer mapping and geographical databases.

HISTORY (H and S)

Higher level History covers major trends in Europe and the Middle East from the mid 19th century. In the 20th century, the course extends to other parts of the world to avoid a Eurocentric view. One of the major themes is the Arab-Israeli conflict, which helps the student better understand the tensions in the world today.

Higher and Standard level students study three twentieth century world topics:

- the causes, practices and effects of war,
- origins and development of authoritarian and single-party states, and
- the Cold War.

Both H and S Level students prepare a piece of Internal Assessment on a topic of their choice.

PSYCHOLOGY (H and S)

You will be helped to an increased understanding of the nature of human beings, as individuals and in social groups, and you will learn to appreciate psychology as an academic discipline.

You will learn the various methods of psychological enquiry and examine the subject from biological, cognitive, learning and humanistic perspectives. Internally assessed experimental work during the programme will count (20%) towards the final marks.

WORLD POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (S only)

World Politics and International Relations familiarises students with the framework for understanding the perspectives, behaviours, and decision-making procedures of international organisations, governments, and various other national and sub-national groups.

The four modules covered are:

- The underlying principles of modern world order and power;
- The world and regional integration;
- Human rights and international law; and,
- Conflict, peace and reconstruction.

The course draws its examples from the contemporary world.

World Politics may not be combined with Astronomy.

Part 4 – Subjects

GROUP 3 OR GROUP 4 – TRANSDISCIPLINARY

ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS AND SOCIETIES (S only)

This is a transdisciplinary course which covers the requirements of Group 3 and Group 4 subjects. This broad course aims to give you an understanding of scientific method whilst at the same time heightening your awareness of the multidisciplinary (biological, geographical, political, economic, social and historical) aspects of environmental issues. The areas studied are: Ecological principles; Ecosystems; Conservation and Biodiversity; Pollution; Population and Resources.

GROUP 4 – SCIENCES

All science courses on the IB share a common structure. Each is in three parts:

- a core of material that is studied at both Higher and Standard levels,
- additional material that is taken at Higher level only,
- options, which may be for Standard level only, Higher level only, or for both levels.

All students take part in a cross-disciplinary Science Group Project. The assessment pattern is the same for all sciences. Exams at the end of the course contribute 76% of the final mark. The remaining 24% is based on practical work set and assessed by the College.

Previous knowledge

For Higher level sciences, some previous knowledge is essential, though a general science course should be sufficient. At Standard level, previous knowledge is helpful, and students without a science background should try to do some reading before they start.



Casper Da Costa-Luis

India
40 Points
Imperial College, London
Physics

‘St. Clare’s is not just a place with international people, it is a place where people expect you to be international; a place where you are accepted and understood regardless of your background; a place where doing your best, and still better is considered trendy. St. Clare’s really takes the ethos of the IB to heart’

Part 4 – Subjects

BIOLOGY (H and S)

In Biology you will study the science of living things and how they function. The Core includes Cells, Genetics, Ecology and Human Physiology. The additional material takes these further, and adds some more, such as Plant Science, and Defence Against Disease. Linking themes are Structure and Function; Universality versus Diversity; Equilibrium within Systems; and Evolution. Some Options are: Diet and Human Nutrition; Evolution; Ecology and Conservation; and Further Human Physiology.

CHEMISTRY (H and S)

In Chemistry you will study materials, and the conversion of substances one to another. Core and Additional Higher level: material covered here includes such important themes as Atomic Theory; Bonding and Structure; the Periodic Table; Acid-Base and Oxidation-Reduction Behaviour; Energetics; Equilibrium; and Organic Chemistry. Some Options are: Human Biochemistry; Environmental Chemistry; Fuels and Energy; Modern Analytical Chemistry.

PHYSICS (H and S)

In Physics you will study the properties and interactions of matter and energy. Core and Additional Higher level: these introduce the central concepts of Mechanics; Atomic and Nuclear Physics; Waves; Thermal Physics; Electricity and Magnetism. Options: Standard only: Mechanics; Atomic and Nuclear Physics; Energy. Higher and Standard: Biomedical Physics; History of Physics; Astrophysics; Relativity; Optics.

ASTRONOMY (S only)

Four distinct areas are studied in Astronomy - The Stars, The Planets, Galaxies and Cosmology.

The Stars looks at our sun in detail and then goes on to stellar evolution / the life cycle of a star. The Planets focuses on the formation of our solar system and then planets in general. Galaxies concentrates on the constituents of our Milky Way galaxy and then galaxies in general. Cosmology is the evolution of the universe otherwise known as 'Big Bang theory'.

Astronomy may not be combined with Physics or World Politics.



James Cavalot

Britain

37 points

Bristol University

Chemistry with Industrial Experience

'Having experienced St. Clare's, I would never want to have gone anywhere else! It really was a once in a lifetime experience and I have gained so much from my time here'

Part 4 – Subjects

GROUP 5 – MATHEMATICS

MATHEMATICS (H)

This is a challenging programme designed for students with a strong background and ability in mathematics. You may choose this level because you aim to study Mathematics at university, because you need it to support university study in subjects such as physics, engineering or technology, or simply because you enjoy mathematics.

MATHEMATICS (S)

This is a demanding course requiring strong background knowledge and ability. The programme contains a broad range of mathematical topics and is designed to help those students who wish to pursue further studies with a high degree of mathematical content such as chemistry, economics, geography and business.

MATHEMATICAL STUDIES (S only)

This programme is designed to develop the skills needed to cope with the mathematical demands of a technological society. Emphasis is placed on the application of mathematics to real-life situations. You should choose this course if you do not need advanced mathematics for your future studies.

GROUP 6 – ELECTIVES

In this group you can study another subject from Groups 2, 3 or 4 i.e. another second language, another Individuals and Societies subject or another science. Or, you can take:

VISUAL ARTS (H and S)

There are two parts to the course: Studio Work (practical) and Research Workbook (theory). Higher level students study both. Students choose either a course which is 60% practical and 40% theory or alternatively a course which is 60% theory and 40% practical.

You will discover, develop and enjoy different means of creative visual expression in the studio and elsewhere. You will also learn about the visual arts in all their forms, from the past, the present, and emerging trends.

Choose this subject if you have some practical skills in drawing and painting and some natural talent and interest in the subject.

MUSIC (H and S)

You will gain a worldwide and historical perspective of music as well as studying its elements. You will also create and perform music. The Standard level is a subset of the Higher level. It is helpful to have some earlier study and some musical qualification.

For Higher level it is essential to be able to play a musical instrument or to offer the voice. At Standard level the ability to play and/or sing at a reasonable level is required.

THEATRE (H and S)

You will learn to understand the nature of theatre by making it as well as studying it. Making will include developing performance skills and mounting theatre productions. Studying will include historical and theoretical theatre developments and play analysis and interpretation. No previous experience is required, though it would be helpful.

Part 5 – Core Elements of the IB Programme

The IB Diploma is a complete educational programme. The subjects provide both breadth and depth, and there are three core elements which help to provide overview, additional academic specialisation, and recognition of interests outside the classroom. These are the course in the Theory of Knowledge, the Extended Essay and Activities (CAS).

Theory of Knowledge

While students choose their programmes from a range of subject areas, these are still separate subjects. With the Theory of Knowledge course, the IB adds two further qualities to a student's study. First, by looking at the pattern of all knowledge, that which is gained from subject studies and that which is gained from friends, family, the media and other sources, a sense of perspective is achieved. Students can see how new knowledge relates to the world of knowledge as a whole. Second, students are trained in the critical evaluation of knowledge, so that they can see how different types of knowledge have to be judged in different ways, and so that they can assess the value of new knowledge claims.

Extended Essay

During the two years of their Diploma studies, students are required to undertake a specific piece of research. This is usually research into an aspect of one of their subjects. For example, History students might look at a battle or a political incident that is of special interest to them. Economics students might look at the performance of a company that they know well. Biology students might study one particular ecosystem or one organism in that system.

The results of this research must then be written up in the form of a research paper of up to 4000 words. This can be a challenging task, but intellectually very satisfying for a good student.

CAS

CAS stands for Creativity, Action and Service. It is realised by the IB that many students will have extensive interests outside their academic studies. In order to give recognition and encouragement to these, the IB asks them to spend one afternoon or the equivalent time each week undertaking activities that come under one or more of these headings. For example, activities that involve Creativity include Studio Art and Photography. Action could be a team sport like football or an individual activity like swimming. For Service, students may help people in the community such as the

old or the disabled, or may help charities such as Oxfam or each other (by teaching a language, for example). Some activities cover more than one heading. For example, a play performed at a local school or old people's home may well involve creativity, action and service.

PSHE

Though not an assessed part of the IB programme, St. Clare's offers students a course in Personal, Social and Health Education covering a wide range of topics such as relationships, study skills, citizenship, substance abuse and healthy eating.

The PSHE curriculum includes a programme to develop career management skills and preparation for higher education. The college provides a dedicated careers and higher education adviser to co-ordinate this programme and to provide individual guidance.



Elohor Onomakpome

Nigeria

35 points

Nottingham University

Chemical Engineering with Environmental Engineering

'A perfect bridge between high school and university. The cultural diversity here made me feel like I was living in an international village whilst developing my academic interests'

Part 6 – Grading System: IB and St. Clare’s

The system used for internal purposes during the course is that employed by the International Baccalaureate Organisation in the award of the Diploma. Each of the six subjects studied is graded on a 1-7 scale as follows:

Grade	Description
7	Excellent
6	Very good
5	Good
4	Satisfactory
3	Mediocre
2	Poor
1	Very poor

Award of the Diploma

The IB Diploma will be awarded to candidates who in the examinations obtain a total points score of 24 points or more.

This total must be achieved in conformity with the following provisions:

- a. Higher level subjects: in principle the candidate should achieve a Grade 4 or above in each Higher level subject. Nevertheless, ONE Grade 3 (but not a Grade 2, nor a Grade 1) will be acceptable if compensated by Grade 5 or above in another subject offered at Higher level.
- b. Standard level subjects: results of subjects offered at this level must not include:
 1. A Grade 1
 2. More than ONE Grade 2.
- c. Overall results: this must not include:
 1. More than three Grade 3s
 2. More than one Grade 3 if there is a Grade 2 at Standard level.

Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay

Each is graded on one of 5 bands:

Band A	Work of an excellent standard
Band B	Work of a good standard
Band C	Work of a satisfactory standard
Band D	Work of a mediocre standard
Band E	Work of a poor standard

In Theory of Knowledge, written work completed during the course is graded externally. Presentations in class are assessed at St. Clare’s. Extended Essays are graded externally.



Maria Beatriz Coelho

Brazil

41 Points

London School of Economics and Political Science
International Relations and History

‘I have always been interested in the humanities but after coming to St. Clare’s my teachers made me passionate about History and Economics and I was challenged to see these subjects from a new perspective’

Part 6 – Grading System: IB and St. Clare’s

Arriving at a Total Points Score

The total number of bonus points awarded is determined according to the following matrix.

	Theory of Knowledge					
	A	B	C	D	E	
Extended Essay	A	+3	+3	+2	+2	+1
	B	+3	+2	+1	+1	
	C	+2	+1	+1	0	
	D	+2	+1	0	0	
	E	+1				

For example, a candidate who achieves level B for Theory of Knowledge and level C for the Extended Essay will be awarded one bonus point. Candidates who achieve level E for both Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay fail automatically. Candidates who achieve level E for either the Theory of Knowledge or the Extended Essay will be awarded F for their bonus score. The award F is a failing condition for the Diploma unless 28 points or more are scored overall.

The combination of points for subjects and bonus points means that the maximum possible points score for the Diploma is 45.

Internally Awarded Grades

During the course, work is graded on the IB system and the grades form part of the student’s internal record. These internally awarded grades appear on the transcripts issued at regular intervals throughout the course. These internal grades form the basis of the predicted grades for university applications and for the International Baccalaureate Organisation.

Internal grades are awarded as follows:

- Exam Grades – in the first year awarded on the basis of performances in formal exams held in November and June as well as in-class assessments. In the second year awarded on the basis of formal exams in February as well as in-class assessments.

- Course Grades – awarded at the end of each term on course work done during the term. They represent an average grade for oral and written work actually produced by the student.

Transcripts

These give a record of grades achieved during the course, along with activities taken. They are produced at the end of each term, and sent to parents with the reports. They are suitable for sending to universities e.g. in the United States.



Ole Kristoffer Bjelland

Norway
35 Points
Gap Year

‘The experience you are left with when you study at St. Clare’s is the equivalent of travelling the world, it is something you will remember and appreciate for the rest of your life’

Part 7 – The Pre IB Programme

The Pre IB programme at St. Clare's is a one year course designed to prepare students for the IB Diploma. The course consists of the same variety of subjects as the IB Diploma but is structured in a modular way so that students can sample a range of subjects in order to ensure they make the right subject choices when beginning the IB Diploma. Most students do the Pre IB programme because they need a further year's study to deepen and broaden their subject knowledge or to improve their English. Though most students start the Pre IB course in September and complete the full year, some students join part way through the year e.g. in January.

At the start of the academic year, all Pre IB students are tested in English, Mathematics and Science to ensure that the groups they are put in offer the appropriate challenge and support. The year is divided into 5 modules, each of 7 weeks. At the end of each module, students sit exams in all subjects and the results of these are sent home to parents.

The Pre IB programme at St Clare's, like the IB Diploma upon which it is modelled, consists of 6 subjects:

1) **English** – 8 hours a week

This is considered the most important subject and is given a greater time allocation than any other. Students are placed in small groups with others of the same ability level. Topics include newspaper articles, documentaries, films, literary texts, etc allowing students to develop the ability to manipulate language in different contexts.

Native English speakers and fluent second language speakers principally study Literature.

2) **World Literature** – 2 hours a week

The aim of the World Literature course is to introduce students to literary concepts in preparation for the Literature course in their mother tongue and at the same time to improve students' reading skills in the common language of English.

3) **Humanities** – 4 hours a week

In Modules 1, 2 and 3, students take History, Geography and Business. In Modules 4 and 5, they can also study Psychology and Economics.

4) **Science** – 4 hours a week

Students study separate Modules of Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Systems and Physics. The course is a mixture of theory and practical experimentation.

5) **Mathematics** – 4 hours a week

Students are taught in groups divided by mathematical ability but they all study the same topics in the same order. The more advanced groups study the topics in greater depth. Topics covered are: Probability and Statistics, Transformations and Matrices, Number, Algebra and Geometry and Trigonometry.

6) **Arts** – 2 hours a week

Students take one module of Music, one of Theatre Arts and one of Visual Arts. All three Arts subjects are a mixture of theory and practice and are designed to give students a taste of subjects they may well not have taken before. No previous knowledge is required.



Bian Ru Tang

China
Pre-IB Course

'I spent last year doing the Pre-IB and I benefitted a lot from this course. I had a whole year to get to know the IB system and important things like PSHE, CAS and Personal Tutor meetings. For me the IB is no longer a two-year course but split into three which will make it a lot easier.'

Part 8 – Scholarships and Bursaries: IB Diploma

Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded to exceptional students who could not otherwise attend the College. They are offered on the basis of financial circumstances (all awards are means tested), school record, confidential references and performances in an examination and interview held in Oxford.

No more than two full awards (covering tuition and accommodation fees) are made. Most are partial awards, covering a proportion of total fees. Attendance in Oxford for interview and examination is required to be considered for a scholarship.

Scholarship applications are considered in early February of the year of proposed entry. The deadline for applying for a Scholarship for entry in September 2012 is

Friday 3 February 2012 and Scholarship Day is on Saturday 25 February 2012. Please contact the Admissions Office for further details and an Application Booklet.

Bursaries

Bursaries are partial fee awards made on the basis of financial circumstances and likely contributions to and benefit from the IB Course at St. Clare's. Some are awarded to applicants who attend the Scholarship Day. Others are made after the award of scholarships, from March onwards before the September of proposed entry, subject to availability of funds.

Email: admissions@stclares.ac.uk for more information.

Part 9 – How should I apply to St. Clare's?

If you want to apply for the IB or the Pre-IB please send us the following:

- A completed Application Form (4 pages)
- School reports for the last two years of your studies
- If you are not a native English speaker, evidence of your level of English e.g.
 - a copy of an English language examination certificate such as Cambridge Examinations, IELTS or TOEFL
 - a letter from your English teacher stating your level
- 2 recent passport-size photographs
- The Registration Fee of £100

When we have received all of the above, we will assess your school reports. If these are satisfactory:

- We will invite you and your family to visit St. Clare's for an interview
- We may request a confidential reference from your current school

If your interview and reference are satisfactory, we will offer you a place at St. Clare's.

When you accept the offer of a place at St. Clare's you will need to pay a deposit of £2,500 to the College.

Please send all correspondence to:

Chris Osbourn
Admissions Office
St. Clare's, Oxford
139 Banbury Road
Oxford OX2 7AL
UK
admissions@stclares.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 517304
Fax: +44 (0) 1865 513359

St. Clare's, Oxford
139 Banbury Road
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www.stclares.ac.uk/ib