What is academic honesty?

International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes encourage students to inquire and to think critically and creatively, and to present their thinking in a variety of ways. They should be able to make their thoughts and their learning visible and explicit, show how they have constructed their ideas, and demonstrate the views they have followed or rejected. This is essentially what scholarship and academic honesty are: making knowledge, understanding and thinking transparent.

Students need to understand how knowledge is constructed and, consequently, their own role in furthering knowledge construction and building understanding. An essential aspect of this is an understanding of the technical aspects of academic honesty, of citing and referencing.

Academic honesty is an essential principle of the IB's academic programmes that enhances the organization's credibility and position as a leader in international education. As stated in the IB learner profile, all members of the IB community strive to be "principled", acting with "integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities".

For more information,
please view the IB learner profile at
http://www.ibo.org/en/benefits/learner-profile/
and the publication Academic honesty in the
IB educational context at
http://www.ibo.org/myib/digitaltoolkit/brochuresflyersposters/

As the legal guardian of a Diploma Programme student, how can we support our children?

- Encourage them to plan each assignment.
- Provide support with the scheduling of their work, as they may have many assignments to complete.
- Establish a good level of communication with the school so that you understand the requirements of the Diploma Programme and what is expected of students.
- Encourage them to ask their teacher for advice if they are having difficulty with their work.

Diploma Programme

Academic Honesty in the Diploma Programme

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What is academic misconduct?

Academic misconduct is a behaviour that results in, or may result in, the student or any other student gaining an unfair advantage (or a behaviour that disadvantages other students) in one or more assessment components. Unfortunately in every Diploma Programme examination session there are students who are investigated for alleged "academic misconduct".

Categories of "academic misconduct" in the IB:

Plagiarism is defined as the representation, intentionally or unwittingly, of the ideas, words or work of another person without proper, clear and explicit acknowledgment. The use of translated materials, unless indicated and acknowledged, is also considered plagiarism.

Collusion is defined as supporting academic misconduct by another student, for example allowing one's work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another.

Misconduct during an IB examination includes taking unauthorized material into an examination room, disruptive behaviour and communicating with others during the examination.

Communication about the content of an examination 24 hours before or after the examination with others outside their school community is also considered a breach to IB regulations.

Duplication of work is defined as the presentation of the same work for different assessment components and/or Diploma Programme requirements.

Good practice—recommendations for students

- Make sure that information you have used is acknowledged in the body of the text and is fully listed in the bibliography using the referencing style agreed with your teacher.
- Cite your sources so that readers can find them; if you cannot state the origin of the source it is probably better not to use it.

The IB has no means of knowing whether an act of academic misconduct was deliberate or not. Students should know how to indicate and cite material that is not their own. Students are also expected to follow the rules of acceptable behaviour in the exam room and around the time of the examination.

For these reasons, a student's intent cannot be taken into account if the IB investigates an alleged breach of the *General regulations: Diploma Programme*.

Be aware that a breach of IB regulations will have serious consequences.

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Acknowledging the work of others

Proper citation is a key element to academic scholarship and intellectual exchange.

More guidance can be found in the IB publication Effective citing and referencing available in the Digitial toolkit section on the IB website (**http://www.ibo.org/myib/digitaltoolkit/brochuresflyersposters/**)

Essentials

- Make clear which words, ideas, images and works are not your own (including maps, charts, musical compositions, movies, computer source codes and any other material).
- Give credit for copied, adapted and paraphrased material.
- When using text, make clear where the borrowed material starts and finishes.
- All sources cited in the text must also be listed in the bibliography (or reference list/list of works cited) and all sources listed in the bibliography (or reference list/list of works cited) must be cited in the text.