

# AP Chemistry and IB Chemistry

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## Similarities between AP Chemistry and IB Chemistry

- Both are rigorous choices devoted to educational excellence; each uses high performance standards for students. Critical thinking and breadth of knowledge are very important for both of the courses.
- Both use external assessments and external evaluators to score assessments. AP Chemistry exams are scored by the evaluators from College Board. IB assessments are scored by evaluators from the International Baccalaureate Organization
- Both are for highly motivated students who wish to excel academically and hope to attend the most selective colleges and universities.
- Both are recognized by the most highly competitive colleges and universities for consideration for college credit or advanced standing based on exam scores.
- Both require successful completion of honors chemistry as a prerequisite course.

## Differences between AP Chemistry and IB Chemistry

- AP Chemistry promotes access to students who may wish to concentrate in specific academic disciplines such as science, engineering or mathematics.
- IB chemistry promotes access to students who are motivated to pursue a more holistic education across the six disciplines; English, Modern Language, Science, Mathematics, Individuals and Societies, The Arts and Electives.
- AP Chemistry scores are based on the two-part AP Exam:  
Section 1: Free Response  
Section 2: Multiple Choice
- IB Chemistry scores are based on the internal assessment tasks and IB exams. The IB Chemistry SL exam has 3 parts:  
Paper 1: multiple-choice  
Paper 2: free response on core topics  
Paper 3: free response optional topics
- Only Chemistry students enrolled in the IB program may take the IB exams or receive IB credit.
- It is possible for a student to take AP Chemistry exam without enrolling in the AP Chemistry class.
- AP chemistry moves at a rapid pace similar to first year two semester college chemistry class.
- IB Chemistry SL course moves at a different pace and doesn't cover as much depth as AP Chemistry.
- IB Chemistry SL has very broad number of topics but brief coverage of each topic.

# Why do AP?

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**Recognition.** AP is recognized by approximately 3,000 American colleges and universities, which grant credit, advanced placement, or both for AP courses and exam scores. More than 400 additional universities in 27 countries also recognize AP courses and exam grades in the admissions process. Colleges and universities recognize the value of AP for preparing students to succeed in rigorous university courses.

**Affordability and Flexibility.** AP is affordable--the exam fee is \$82 per examination, \$22 of which may be waived in cases of economic need. AP offers flexibility for schools, which can offer one or many AP courses, and different AP courses from year to year. AP also offers flexibility for teachers, who have latitude to determine their own curricula.

**Access and Equity.** AP promotes open access to students who may excel in a specific academic discipline. The AP Program is designed to give all students an opportunity to challenge themselves with a rigorous academic experience.

**Exam Reliability and University Standards.** AP emphasizes statistical exam reliability to ensure fairness in scoring, along with results that can be trusted by students, schools, and universities. Through regular surveys and comparability studies, the AP Program ensures that courses and examinations reflect actual university-level standards.

# Why Do IB?

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**A High Level of Recognition.** Universities in 102 countries welcome IB diplomas as well as individual courses for admissions, placement, and credit purposes. Individual IB courses are recognized as signifying a student's rigorous preparation in an academic discipline; the IB diploma signifies such preparation in all six academic disciplines, service to community, and development of an international perspective.

**Fair and Balanced Assessment.** Using International Standards, IB assessments are of many types, occur several times over the duration of the IB courses, and include the classroom teacher as a partner. IB students' work is assessed by several examiners, and assessments are carefully moderated by an international examining board. IB teachers receive detailed formal feedback on every aspect of their students' IB assessment each year.

**A Remarkable Degree of Flexibility.** IB curricula and examinations are available in IBO's three official languages of English, Spanish, and French. The IB Diploma offers schools a wide variety of courses, teachers a wide choice of topics, and students a wide variety of assessments and areas of specialization.