Group 1: Language A1

Literature has always been a subject of interest for me; the documentation of emotions retained and retold through the generations has always fascinated me. We read about the events in history, wars waged, revolts trampled, conspiracy theories thawed so we know, we know what happened, who did it, where they did it and what they said. We don’t, however know what they felt, what they thought and how they justified. Literature gives us an insight to those valuable game-changing attributes; just as it gives us a view on what those thoughts, justifications and resulting actions did to their subjects.

‘Train to Pakistan’ is one such novel. It talks about an event in Indian and Pakistani history that has since left a scar on both nations left festering for generations to come; The partition. Khushwant Singh manages to bring to the ignorant class of IBDP1 the harsh realities of the time of transition. We as a class of sixteen-seventeen year olds, born in a generation of no great struggles then start to struggle to understand just what our great-grand parents faced.
There is also, besides the darkness a factor of love, of heroism for the sake of love, delivered by one of the brutish characters ‘Jugga’ which provides a slight ray of hope that even after the corruption of the mutual acceptance between religions, love can and does over ride. The topic of love brings me to the other novel that we did this semester; ‘The Lover’. This novel, consisting of a woman’s complicated thoughts and actions, was that which served as one for extending the boundaries of our thinking capabilities but for most part baffled our lot of sixteen year olds. While it does manage to introduce to us the details of experiences that we have only yet heard of and not bothered with, it also in more ways than one makes us question the acceptability of the same and our own sense of rightness. It makes us all look twice and search within ourselves to understand and relate to the complicated emotions, actions and justifications that Durass writes about.

We learn through the evident distress and small bouts of happiness in the events that the author narrates that much is still left for us to experience in life and that the same can be intricately woven to be tirelessly complicated. However also that, at the end life moves on and you only grow from your experiences. Such is the range of exposure that we have managed to gain from just two books of one semester, I tremble at the wide range yet to gather.

- Aboli Goghari
Personally, I found Hindi slightly challenging this semester. We had to give a lot of oral presentations and we also gave our Individual Oral Presentation. It wasn’t that hard per se, given the fact that we practiced a lot in class and developed our spoken Hindi skills. But the major problem was that over the years I have become so used to thinking in English, that its harder for me to speak for a long time in Hindi without using any English words. And my Hindi vocabulary has grown minimal to say the least. Navnita ma’am has advised me to spend more time reading Hindi newspapers and articles to get over my weakness.

The interesting thing about the subject is that while learning Hindi we become more aware about our own country. This semester we learnt a lot about Indian culture, our festivals and the various changes that our country has been subjected to.

Overall, I think most of us sailed through the subject and got decent scores in our examination as well. I definitely plan on improving my writing and speaking skills even more in the coming semesters.

- Anmol Katiya
**Group 3: Individuals and Societies**

**Economics:**

This term, in economics we dealt with a portion of macroeconomics and development economics. The chapters in the section of macroeconomics gave the class an insight into the bigger picture compared to that we had done in the previous section (microeconomics). In macroeconomics we learnt about the macroeconomic objectives including low inflation and low unemployment and we also learnt about macroeconomic equilibrium. What was interesting in macroeconomics was the conflicting nature of the two kinds of perspectives, the new classical or monetarist and the keynesian perspective and also the debate between supply side policies and demand side policies.

The chapters that were a part of development economics were dealt with in the form of presentations. The class was divided into four to five groups. Each group was given a topic from the section of development economics. The groups were then given a week to prepare and present their topic in front of the class in a creative manner. This way everyone who was presenting explored and understood the topic given to them first and then they had to ensure that everyone in the class had knowledge and understanding of the topic.
To do this the groups had to make sure that they were effective communicators. The presentation was followed by questions from the class and the teacher.

All of this gave the class an understanding of ideas that we would not have explored otherwise. Apart from being a good communicator the other IB learner profiles that were used in planning and preparing the presentations and communicating ideas and knowledge with the class included being a thinker, being reflective and being an inquirer.

- Minouti Contractor
Business Management:

Business and Management is a class that I truly enjoy. Couple my favourite subject with an amazing teacher and the class becomes really fun.

We spent the semester learning various new business ideologies that would help us to better assess a company’s situation. The most important thing that happened was the introduction of the Internal Assessment. The IA for BM students is a report on a problem faced by a real firm and we have to deduce the best solution using our knowledge in Business Management. The entire process is way more complicated, though. We were also advised to start with the research and finalize our topics as soon as we could to avoid frantically doing things in the future. So by the end of the semester, we all submitted our research proposals, which listed our research questions and our planning regarding how we were going to go about our projects.

I think it is very interesting that we are being given the freedom to interact with various other entrepreneurs and people as we gather our primary data for analysis.

Taking this course has definitely made me a better thinker, has improved my communication skills and has also taught me more about what it is to be reflective. I really look forward to the next term!

- Siddhant Keshwani

With more case studies I think that I have improved my writing skills. Introduction of balance sheet and profit and loss account interested me the most.
- Shashvat Shah
**Group 4: Experimental Sciences**

**Physics:**

Physics is a really interesting subject but when it comes to scoring, it is really difficult to score. Though the topics were thought-provoking it was difficult to understand the concepts. At first I thought that physics would be easy to learn and score because I found it interesting, but after sometime it was the most difficult subject of all to get a good score.

The practicals were a lot more fun than theory; I understood the concepts twice as fast practically than I did learning it theoretically. Practical physics is far more interesting than theoretical physics also it is more fun.

Overall, physics is one of the most challenging and interesting subjects I have ever encountered. I still need a lot of hard work to score in physics. It is not that easy as a subject as I always thought it would be. I will always take it as a challenge because more difficult it gets more interesting it becomes.

- Nishant Shah
Understanding how the IB Diploma works was not a piece of cake. It took me most of the first semester to understand it and settle into working on different subjects. Of the entire set of subjects, Chemistry was the toughest for me to crack. Gone was the Chemistry of IGCSE—no more of the simple titration experiments or calculating number of protons and electrons from given data. IB Diploma Chemistry introduced me to much complex topics like $K_C$, electron affinity, electron negativity, what the real meaning of pH is, reaction quotient (Q) and many more concepts. I struggled to keep pace in class.

On searching on the internet, I found a lot of helpful study material and videos. On solving a quiet a few worksheets based on this topic and watching a few tutoring videos about it, I got the hang of it and started answering questions precisely.

I repeated this for all the topics that provided a challenge for me. They seemed very difficult to understand to start with but after reading about each topic, practicing and solving worksheet I was able to do things correctly. Helpful inputs from my Chemistry teacher, Dr. Anjali were a great support.

Dr. Anjali has seen my improvement over the last few months but maintains that I need to work harder and practice more. This means my job isn’t yet done. There is more hard work in store. And I’m really keen about it!

- Shashwat Shah
Biology:

We covered quite a few topics in biology last semester inclusive of the cell theory, molecular biology, genetics, ecology, nucleic acids, and our respective options. I found the option topic; Ecology and conservation interesting as we could relate to it very easily to the world around us and it also shed light on roles of keystone species and the interdependence organisms have on each other. Nucleic acids, a relatively new chapter for the higher level was also interesting even though a little difficult to grasp at first. The science fair and the model making, explaining to others really helped clarify and understand about stem cells and its prospects in treatment better, and was also a fun experience for all of us.

We also did many new experiments this year, such as beetroot permeability, effects on salts on germination and also brushed up on our previously learnt skills by using the microscope, making slides. The practicals were a useful tool that helped understand the theory better as we could actually experience taking a view of it. We also had presentations by each student in class on portions of the assigned chapter, which proved to be beneficial for each of us. The constant recaps and chapter revisions alongside tests also aided in learning all of the content.

- Priyanka Jagadeesan

Biology is my favorite subject and even though it gets a bit complicated at times, I absolutely love studying the subject. The different cell functions and molecular biology interests me a lot.
- Vanesha Majithia
Group 5: Mathematics

This term I was introduced to the topic of calculus, a branch of mathematics. At first by the name itself it seemed daunting, as I browsed through the unit I found new and unheard terminologies in calculus. Initially I started of quite slowly but steadily, the first chapter itself took a lot of time due to plenty of holidays in January, but later on when my base in differentiation was strong and clear the class and I rapidly cruised further on the other topics, finishing differentiation, curve sketching, integration and their applications all well before the examinations in April, I could comfortably revise the whole calculus unit again. Personally I found Integration very difficult to understand, at first it used to overwhelm me, but later on with meticulous and regular practice I was able to understand the whole core topic of calculus and integration too.

After the examinations, our math teacher conducted some extra classes, we were introduced to the optional mathematics, in particular differential equations and series. The series part of the option intrigues me the most as it has a lot of abstract thinking and logic.

For me I thoroughly enjoyed this term as it had calculus in it. I can relate calculus to many practical models in contemporary life, which I can relate to for a better understanding. It was an exhilarating experience.

- Aditya Patel
In the second semester of our IB Diploma Programme, we were now familiar with the new Visual Arts Course and had not only acquired drawing and painting skills but we had also learned how to Compare and Contrast between artworks and artists, analyse artworks and had also learned new and interesting techniques in different kind of mediums.

The new Visual Arts IBDP course urges us to explore art in each way, from drawing using acrylic colours to critically analysing artworks. The course is divided into three sections and in the second semester we completed one of the most important sections of the course, which is ‘Compare and Contrast’. In this section we are required to choose artists and their respective artworks and compare and contrast from the point of Line, Texture, Focus etc. Personally, this exercise has helped me majorly to analyse certain artworks, get into depth about an artist’s life and understand the reason as to why the artists painted them. It has helped me to be a thinker and an inquirer.

One of the main goals of the IBDP course is to offer a holistic approach to studies and I’ve realised that taking Visual Arts as one of my subjects offers me an aggregated experience and the chance to explore and study the subjects offered in each group by the IB Diploma Programme.

- Riya Haria
An Overview

Last semester saw a lot of inspired students taking part in various areas of CAS. Along with their activities under the creativity and action criteria, they also went about taking more challenges in Service. While some chose to work in large groups, others worked in smaller ones comprising of their friends and set out to bring about positive changes in the society.

At the same time, maintaining our studies was top priority too. With the end of term exams approaching and other extra exams like the SAT 1 and Subjects SATs, last semester was pretty hectic and really tedious. It gave us an idea about how time management is essentially one of the most important skills that one must develop.

Internal Assessments and Extended Essay were also introduced to us last semester. Another area to apply our now time management skills and at the same time these projects are an opportunity for us to inculcate better methods of research, data collection and analysis, therefore making us better thinkers, inquirers and making us better citizens. TOK has also helped us improve our thought process as it got us familiarized with the various Ways of Knowing and questioning our sources of information.

I am definitely looking forward to the next term and evolving not just as a student, but also as a better part of the society.

-Anmol Katiya
Service
Students in Chemistry class solving numericals on the board.

Business Management students solving case studies in class.
IB Reflections

**Biology**
The more practicals and the higher level chapters of biotechnology was very fun to know and also the other chapters introduced were easy to comprehend.

**Chemistry**
Chemistry never ceases to amaze me. I had a chance to ascertain many new theories and concepts. Starting my investigatory project further improved my knowledge and understanding of the subject, and made me a better thinker.

**Hindi**
Good experiments and theories made for a great term in physics. Grasping concepts of field proved to be a little challenging, but nonetheless, it was amusing to learn new things.

**TOK**
TOK played a major role in making me question each and every thing we learn.

**Physics**
We did presentations in class about a wide range of topics from cultural traditions to global problems. All these presentations not only helped boost my confidence in the use of language but also improved my vocabulary, writing and speaking skills.