



Approaches to Teaching and Learning

Approaches to teaching and learning in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme

What are the approaches to learning (ATL)?

- ATL are deliberate strategies, skills and attitudes that permeate the IB teaching and learning environment.
- ATL supports the IB belief that a large influence on a student's education is not only what you learn but also how you learn.
- Teaching students how to learn has always been a part of IB teaching, but now the IB is providing more explicit support for teaching these skills, aligning the Diploma Programme (DP) with the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and the IB Career-related Programme (CP).
- Focus on ATL will improve the quality of teaching and learning across the programmes and may result in more engaged teachers and students.

ATL has always been part of IB teaching

"What is of paramount importance in the pre-university stage is not what is learned but learning how to learn ... What matters is not the absorption and regurgitation either of fact or pre-digested interpretations of facts, but the development of powers of the mind or ways of thinking which can be applied to new situations and new presentations of facts as they arise."

—Alec Peterson

Peterson, A. 1972. *The International Baccalaureate: An experiment in International Education*. London. George Harrap.

What are the IB approaches to learning skills?

1. *Thinking skills*
2. *Communications skills*
3. *Social skills*
4. *Self-management skills*
5. *Research skills*

The IB approaches to teaching skills are...

1. *based on inquiry*
2. *focused on conceptual understanding*
3. *developed in local and global contexts*
4. *focused on effective teamwork and collaboration*
5. *differentiated to meet the needs of all learners*
6. *informed by formative and summative assessment.*

