



# ITGS HL

This course, at both standard and higher levels, involves the study and evaluation of the impact of information technology (IT) on individuals and society. The course explores the advantages and disadvantages of “digital culture”, and provides a framework for the student to make informed judgements and decisions about the use of IT within contemporary social contexts.

## Summary

The course develops students' understanding of the capabilities of current and emerging IT systems and the impact of these systems on a range of stakeholders. Students are encouraged to apply their knowledge of existing IT systems to various scenarios and to make informed judgements about the effects of IT developments on these scenarios. Furthermore, students are required to use their knowledge of IT systems and practical IT skills to justify IT solutions for a specified client or end-user.

## What specific online tools are used in the delivery of the course?

- Diigo® is a social bookmarking tool that enables students to share links and annotated web pages with each other.
- Blogs provide the medium for students' online journals.
- Google Docs® is used by the students for the storage of documents.
- Podcasts are used as an alternative method to communicate for certain assignments during the course.
- Netvibes® is used as a way to aggregate a large number of feeds from different web pages that bring together topical technology-based news articles for students to read.
- Online Concept Mapping is used for collaborative revision of major topics in the last semester.
- The Atomic Learning® site provides site provides software tutorials which the students can use throughout the course
- Wikis will be used extensively by students to bring together a large repository of knowledge over the two years.

## Syllabus

The IB ITGS HL course, is constructed around three strands:  
Strand 1: Social and ethical significance investigates the widespread use of information technology (IT) and raises questions about the social and ethical considerations that shape the world today. Students explore contemporary global examples of both advantages and disadvantages in the use of IT, critically analysing situations and evaluating possible solutions.  
Strand 2: Application to specific scenarios requires students to explore information technology themes in the context of real situations. Students apply their knowledge from the topics taught in class or researched independently to demonstrate not only their understanding of the IT systems involved but the ethical issues and social impacts involved as well.  
Strand 3: IT systems cultivate students' knowledge and understanding of technical concepts. Here students develop a broad technical knowledge of technical language and how IT systems work.

## What are the main differences between ITGS HL and ITGS SL?

The Higher Level course in ITGS differs from the Standard Level course in terms of the hours devoted to teaching (150 hours for SL compared to 240 hours for HL) and the extra depth and breadth of study required for HL through the inclusion of “extension topics”.

HL students study two extension topics: “IT systems in organisations” and “robotics, artificial intelligence and expert systems”.

The HL course has an additional externally assessed component that comprises a previously seen case study based on a fictitious organisation – this allows students to research various aspects of the subject, which may include new technical concepts and additional subject content, in greater depth.

