



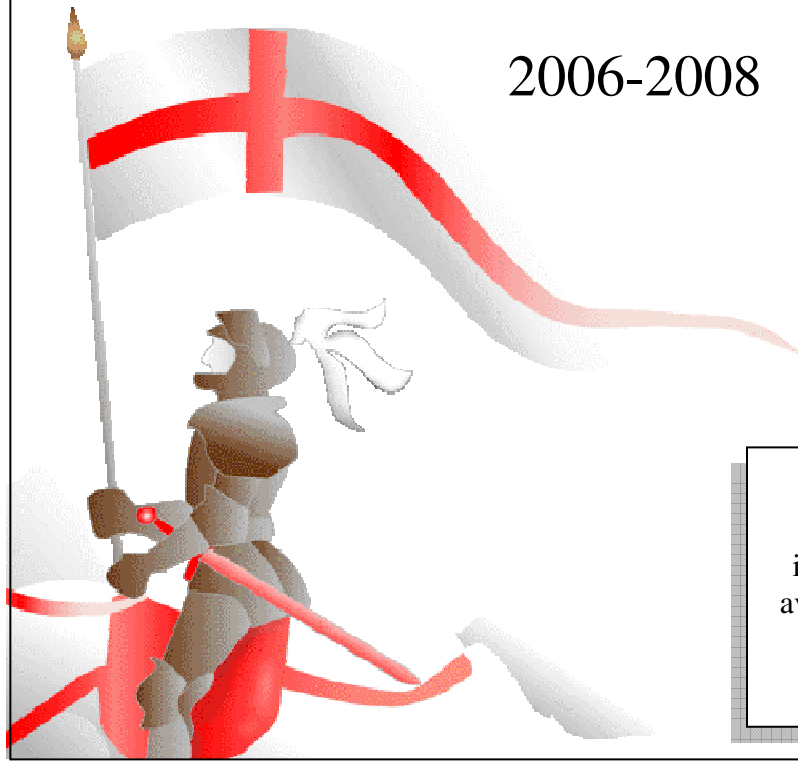
International Baccalaureate

At

ST GEORGE'S

BRITISH *INTERNATIONAL* SCHOOL

2006-2008



IB Option Booklet

This booklet contains information about the choices available to Year 11 students as they consider their future at St. George's School.

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The School Mission Statement

The aim of the school is to fulfil the potential of each individual child and to do so in a safe and caring environment that aims at the highest international standards. The school draws on the inherited educational expertise of the National Curriculum in Britain and shares the aims of the International Baccalaureate Organisation:

‘to develop the individual talents of young people and teach them to relate the experience of the classroom to the realities of the world outside. Beyond intellectual rigour and high academic standards, strong emphasis is placed on the ideals of international understanding and responsible citizenship, to the end that ... pupils may become critical and compassionate thinkers, lifelong learners and informed participants in local and world affairs, conscious of the shared humanity that binds all people together while respecting the variety of cultures and attitudes that makes for the richness of life.’ (IBO Council of Foundation, 1996)

Introduction

The International Baccalaureate (IB) programme is a comprehensive and rigorous two-year curriculum leading to examinations for students aged between sixteen and nineteen. Based on the pattern of no single country, it is a deliberate compromise between the specialisation required in some national systems and the breadth preferred in others. The general objectives of the IB are to provide students with a balanced education, to facilitate geographic and cultural mobility and to promote international understanding through a shared academic experience.

In the four decades since its founding, the IB Diploma has become a symbol of academic integrity and intellectual promise. The student who satisfies its demands demonstrates a strong commitment to learning, both in terms of the mastery of subject content and in the development of the skills and discipline necessary for success in a competitive world. Colleges and universities are well served by encouraging the enrolment of these able young scholars.

Overview

The Diploma candidates choose their programme of six subjects to be studied over two years from the following:

- Group 1 Language A1 (best language)**
This involves the study of literature including selections from World Literature.
- Group 2 Languages:**
Either Language B (second language) which provides a foreign language course for students with previous experience of learning the language.

Or Language Ab initio (second language) which is a foreign language course offered at Standard Level only. It is for students who have no previous experience of learning the target language.
- Group 3 Individuals and Societies**
History, Geography, Economics, Business and Management and Art History (SL).
- Group 4 Experimental Sciences**
Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.
- Group 5 Mathematics**
Mathematics (HL), Mathematics Standard (SL), Mathematical Studies (SL).
- Group 6 Arts and Electives**
Visual Arts, Music, Theatre Arts or another subject from Groups 1 to 4.

Notes

- To be eligible for the award of the Diploma, candidates are required to offer ONE subject from EACH of the groups.
- At least three and not more than four of the six subjects are taken at the Higher Level, the others at Standard Level.
- Each subject is graded by external examiners on a scale of 1 (minimum) to 7 (maximum).
- The award of the Diploma requires a minimum total of 24 points and the absence of any disqualifying conditions.
- The Diploma candidate must meet three additional requirements
 - Submission of an Extended Essay
 - Satisfactory completion of the Theory of Knowledge course
 - Compulsory participation in the extra-curricular CAS programme.

The IB Curriculum

The IB curriculum consists of six subject groups. Every Diploma candidate must take at least one course from each of Groups 1-5, and must satisfy the Group 6 requirement. The following listing is intended to explain St George's offerings in each group and can be used as a reference by potential Diploma candidates. It should be emphasised that the material below is, of necessity, only introductory in nature and that final student programmes will have to work within the constraints of course numbers and staff availability. All students should consult teachers, Department Heads, the IB Co-ordinator, the Head of Sixth Form and Careers Counsellor before making final choices. Course choices, and even choices between Higher and Standard Levels of a course can, in some cases, determine where and in what subject areas a student will be able to pursue further education.

Group 1 - Language A1

This is the student's best language. The programme of study centres on the reading and critical discussion, orally and in writing, of literary texts. St George's regularly offers courses in A1 English and Italian although it may be possible to arrange others. In such cases, the student must make arrangements for regular meetings with a tutor qualified in the chosen language and literature. As the IB requirements for World Literature and the Formal Oral Examination are quite complex, the IB Co-ordinator encourages students to select a language taught at St George's whenever possible.

Those students who potentially have two languages A1 and are especially interested in intensive work in literature may study both as A1 Languages. (In that case, the second Language A1 may either replace a Group 2 language or fulfil the Group 6 requirement.) Most students should choose their A1 Language by taking into consideration which language they need for further study, which they have best mastered, which they think in, and the literature which they prefer.

The first examination paper tests the student's ability to write a commentary on an unseen text—the work for this paper can include some of the most stimulating and varied parts of the course. In the second examination a comparative essay is written: this tests the student's ability to make interesting and illuminating connections between the works they have read.

Assessment takes the form of coursework on World Literature, oral work and two written examinations.

Group 2 - Languages A2, B and Ab initio

All students must study a second language at either Higher or Standard Level.

Language B is a foreign language programme for students who have previous experience of learning the language, probably at least to GCSE level or equivalent. The courses available at St George's are in English, Italian, French, German and Spanish. Other languages can be arranged.

The skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are developed through the study of a wide range of oral and written material alongside the further study of grammatical structures. At the end of the courses students should be able to communicate accurately and effectively in speech and in writing and be able to understand and respond to the language in a range of contexts. The courses study the life and culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Students studying for the Higher Level will also have the opportunity to study works of literature in the language.

Oral skills are internally assessed (and externally moderated) through an Individual Oral test and a group 'Interactive Oral Activity' (together worth 30% of the final marks). The final written examinations consist of a writing task (30%) and 'text handling' exercises designed to test comprehension of and response to written texts (40%).

Language A2 is a course designed for pupils who have a high level of competence in the language – in both its spoken and written form. The syllabus concentrates upon the reinforcement and refinement of language skills. Students explore the culture of the language and read a selection of literary texts. St George's offers Language A2 in English only. This option is most suitable for a student who is studying an A1 language other than English and who is either bilingual or who has received most of his or her education through the medium of English.

Ab initio is a foreign language programme for beginners and is available only at Standard Level. St. George's offers an Ab initio course in Italian only.

By the end of the course students should be able to understand and respond to the spoken language, participate in conversation and write with confidence on matters related to everyday, practical situations. They should also be able to understand written texts of a functional nature.

The pattern of assessment is similar to that of Language B (though at an appropriate level).

Group 3 - Individuals and Societies

The following Group 3 courses are offered at St George's: Business and Management, Economics, History, Geography, and History of Art (SL only).

Business and Management

Business and Management is designed to give students an insight into the most important areas of business management and organisation, and to allow them to become critical and effective participants in local and world affairs. Emphasis in the course is placed on the day-to-day business functions of marketing, human resource management, accounting and finance.

A variety of organisations are studied from both the private and public sectors, ranging from multinational corporations to small local traders. Students are encouraged to apply business tools and techniques in solving real life business problems. An understanding and appreciation of ethical dilemmas and social responsibilities facing businesses is also developed.

The course is assessed via a combination of the exam and internal coursework: 75%/25% for Higher and 80%/20% for Standard Level.

Economics

Economics is concerned with the search for acceptable and rising levels of economic well-being. Individuals, businesses and governments must constantly make choices, and the use of economic theory and knowledge helps to ensure the appropriate choices are made to maximise society's welfare.

Emphasis in the IB course is placed on the issue of economic development, whilst other key areas of study include: supply and demand analysis, business economics, unemployment and inflation, balance of payments issues and exchange rates.

Students are taught not only economic theory but, importantly, how to apply that theory to the real world and to interpret actual economic data and events. Much of the syllabus is inherently contentious and students are encouraged to express their own view of the economic environment.

The course is assessed on the basis of the external examination and coursework. The exam comprises extended response, short – answer and data response style questions. Coursework contributes 25 % of the final grade (SL) and 20 % (HL).

Geography

In Geography students will learn about different places, environments, communities and cultures around the world.

The course involves both Physical and Human Geography, and also investigates lots of current issues. We study in detail the underlying facts and processes that provide the vital background knowledge to answer such questions as: “Why were the effects of the Indian Ocean tsunami so devastating?”, “How can immigration into the EU be best managed?”, “Is Food Aid to poor countries a good idea?”, and “How can the risks from global warming be managed?”.

Higher Level is the same level of difficulty as Standard Level, but involves the study of five units instead of three, and normally with two teachers instead of one.

The units are:

1. Population, Resources and Development;
2. Plate Tectonics, Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Landslides
3. Settlement and Urbanisation: Challenges facing the world's cities OR Globalisation
4. Climatic Hazards (Hurricanes, Drought, Global Warming) OR Ecosystems
5. Rivers OR Coasts

Students also have to go on a residential field trip, which in recent years has visited destinations such as Barcelona and Naples. These trips are an exciting and memorable highlight of the course.

Coursework (the project) counts for 25% at Higher Level, 20% at Standard Level. The rest of the marks (75%/80%) come from 2 written papers in Year 13. Exam results in IB Geography are good.

Geography goes well with many subjects, especially Biology and Economics. During the course, students will be involved in lots of discussions, teamwork tasks and decision-making; making presentations, map work, and data and graphical analysis, plus essential independent study as well. The approach to learning in Geography places less emphasis on the teacher lecture and more on students being involved in activities. Geography makes a lot of use of IT, in researching topics on the Internet, word-processing assignments, and using on-line learning resources.

History

The IB History Course looks at Modern World History. Students at both levels take a core course which looks at topics in Twentieth Century History. The topics we will be studying are:

1. Causes and effects of war

Areas for study are WWI, Spanish Civil War, WWII, Chinese Civil War.

2. Single Party States

Areas for study are USSR (Lenin & Stalin), Germany (Hitler), Italy (Mussolini), Spain (Franco), China (Mao), Argentina (Peron) & Cuba (Castro).

3. The Cold War

Areas for study are Background, Origins, Spheres of Influence, Development & Impact,

At Higher level only there is also the study of a region. We will be looking at Europe 1848+. This involves a study of Italy, Germany, Russia/USSR, Spain and others. We start around 1848 and finish around 1989.

Assessment is by a combination of written exams and coursework.

Standard level

Paper 1	Document Based Questions on set topics	25%
Paper 2	Two Essays from core topics	50%
Inter Assess	A piece of coursework	25%

Higher level

Paper 1	Document Based Question on set topics	20%
Paper 2	Two Essays from core topics	20%
Paper 3	Three Essays from regional topics	35%
Inter Assess	A piece of coursework, usually a 3000 word essay	25%

As you can see most of the assessment is by essay. In exam conditions you will be expected to produce essays of about 700 words in 45 minutes.

Art History (Standard Level only)

Here in Rome, we are ideally located for the study of Art History. The course offers students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and understanding of our cultural heritage.

The course focuses on two historical periods: Ancient Rome and the Renaissance. We will examine art and architecture within its historical context and address such issues as: the development of style, iconography, how art can convey a political or cultural message, techniques and materials used and relationships between artists and their patrons.

Lessons are based on discussion of projected images, and during the course students will be expected to lead discussions on areas that they have researched. Students will develop their own image banks to use for presentations.

First-hand experience of art works is fundamental to the course: a three-day trip to Florence is organised, as well as visits to sites and museums in Rome and Naples. Students are encouraged to read widely around the subject in order to develop informed critical responses. Emphasis is placed on an analytical and discursive approach in both written and oral work. It is not necessary for students to have practical artistic skills.

Students have the opportunity to research an aspect of Art History of their choice for the Coursework Project component. This 3000 word illustrated essay is undertaken under the supervision of the teacher.

The course is assessed by the Coursework Project (40%), and the final examination (60%). The examination comprises a picture question paper (15%) and a long essay paper (45%).

Group 4 - Experimental Sciences

St. George's offers Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Group 4 at both Higher and Standard Level. Experimental work is fundamental to all the Group 4 subjects, and at least 40 hours at SL and 60 hours at HL is devoted to it. It is continually assessed and contributes 24% to the final grade. The work includes a mixture of short- and long-term investigations (such as practicals and subject-specific projects) and the Group 4 Project, an extended collaborative practical investigation that occupies at least 10 hours of time. Recent projects have included investigations into the scientific significance of colour, light and energy. The Group 4 project can be interdisciplinary for students who choose to study more than one science subject.

Biology

Biology has a very full, interesting and up to date syllabus: the topics covered in the main core include Cells, Physiology, Disease, Biochemistry, Ecology and Genetics. Much of the recent research into Cloning and Genetic Engineering is covered within the Genetics topic. The Standard level course comprises the main core topics plus two option topics. These include Nutrition, Exercise Physiology and Neurobiology amongst others. Higher level Biology also covers the core content in greater detail as well as including two option topics. A highlight of the course is the Field Studies section in the first year, currently run in Barcelona.

Chemistry

Chemistry is a subject that is interesting, relevant and challenging. It affects nearly everything in our lives - simply consider some of the Optional Topics available in the second year of the Chemistry IB syllabus: Medicines and Drugs, Human Biochemistry, Environmental Chemistry, Chemical Industries, Fuels and Energy. At the IB level, Chemistry is also an ideal foundation for many careers: medicine, physiotherapy, dentistry, pharmacy, engineering, or indeed research for a chemical company or for the government.

During the first year of study, topics studied include Atomic Theory, the Periodic Table, Chemical Bonding, Energy, Rates of Reaction, and Chemical Equilibrium. During the second year, the main focus is on Organic Chemistry and the study of two Options as well as work on Acids/Bases, and Oxidation/Reduction. The theory is well supported by practical work.

Physics

Physics is the most fundamental of the experimental sciences as it seeks to explain the universe itself, from the very smallest particles (quarks – perhaps 10⁻¹⁷m in size) to the vast distances between galaxies (10²⁴m). IB Physics is a wide-ranging and interesting course covering all aspects of the subject. The core themes focus on many principles which will be familiar to students from Key Stage 4, but in more depth and with greater mathematical rigour. Topics range from the traditional, such as the concept of energy and the study of kinematics, to the modern theories of quantum and nuclear processes. At both Higher and Standard level two option topics are also studied, and in the past “Astrophysics” and “Relativity” have proved popular.

In addition to the practical assessment, there are three written examinations, where the emphasis is on understanding of Physics principles and their application rather than factual recall.

It is recommended that students who choose to study Physics at Higher level also choose to study Mathematics at Standard (not Studies) or Higher level in order to support the mathematical demands of the course.

The Group 4 Project

All science students must, in addition to the subject specific syllabus, take part in a project that occupies at least 10 hours of their time. Recent projects have included investigations into the scientific significance of colour and light.

Group 5 - Mathematics

Three courses in Mathematics are offered at SGBIS at IB level, Mathematics at higher or standard level and Mathematical Studies, which is also a standard level course. As Mathematics is compulsory for the IB diploma, these courses vary greatly in mathematical content thus allowing students to find a course best suited to their mathematical interests and talents.

Mathematics Higher

Mathematics Higher caters for students with a good background in Mathematics who are already competent in a range of analytical and technical skills. The majority of these students will be expecting to study mathematics at university, either as a subject in its own right or within courses such as Physics and Engineering. Other may take this subject because they have a strong interest in it and enjoy meeting its challenges. The core topics include Algebra, Trigonometry, Vector Geometry, Matrices, Statistics, Probability and Calculus. An option allows students to explore one area in more detail. The assessment consists of three written examination papers and a portfolio of assignments completed during the course, which contributes 20% to the final mark. Although clearly very demanding, the course is likely to be highly rewarding for those students with a special passion for Mathematics.

Mathematics Standard (SL)

Mathematics Standard caters for students who expect to go on to study subjects with a significant mathematics content, for example, Economics, Computer Science and Chemistry. Students will be introduced to important concepts in a comprehensible and coherent way,

rather than insisting on mathematical rigour. Knowledge of basic concepts and ability to apply simple techniques correctly are required.

The course is a fairly demanding one, as it deals with all the topics, which form the core of Maths Higher, although at a simpler level. The assessment consists of two written examination papers and a portfolio of assignments completed during the course, which contributes 20% to the final mark.

Mathematical Studies (SL)

Mathematical Studies caters for students with varied backgrounds and abilities. It is designed to offer realistic mathematics course for students who are not considering a mathematics related course in higher education. The main topics are Algebra, Financial mathematics, Functions, Geometry, Trigonometry, Statistics and Basic Calculus. Assessment is by way of two final examination papers (80%) and an internally marked, externally moderated project.

Calculators

All courses require the use of a graphical calculator (we recommend a TI84plus) throughout the two years and it is essential that all students have their own from the beginning of the course.

Group 6 - Arts and Electives

Visual Arts

The International Baccalaureate Art and Design course at St George's both requires and enables students to develop advanced practical and critical skills. With such skills they are able to pursue individual projects in a huge range of advanced media and techniques. These typically range from computer image manipulation to large-scale paintings in oil on canvas. All students are given the opportunity to use a personal workspace in the Sixth Form studio area. They are also able to make use of the department's other facilities, which includes a dedicated I.C.T. studio, kiln and batik equipment. Previous experience of Art and Design to examination level is highly desirable. A grade B or above at GCSE or equivalent should be seen as the foundation for this course. Students without a formal qualification in Art should be able to present a portfolio of recent practical work.

Students may choose to study at either Higher or Standard Level. In each case they are assessed on their practical studio work and also on their Research Workbooks. These written and illustrated journals record their guided, personal critical and historical research. In addition, they document the evolution of their own projects and the influences and ideas, which underpin them. At Higher and Standard Level Option A, 30% of each student's grade is derived from assessment of their Research Workbooks. The remaining 70% of each student's grade is derived from the external moderation of his or her final exhibition of Studio Work. To arrive at a fuller understanding of the work displayed, the visiting moderator interviews each student personally.

Music

Music in the IB is examined under three disciplines – Musicology in a Listening Paper and course work, and Composition and Performance both as course work.

The Musicology component intends to prepare the student to be able to

- Listen analytically to all kinds of music from anywhere in the world
- Analyse in depth a major composition through the study of its score
- Compare and contrast different genres of music through producing a Media Script or Web Site.

Composition work is the product of work done over the total course and is recorded as well as written as a score.

Performance is examined as a recorded recital with programme notes, again to be completed at any time during the course.

Particularly attractive to pupils already competent in performance is the Standard Level option of Musicology with Performance in which the recital is 50% of the final result.

It is possible for students to take this course without any previous formal musical education but they must be prepared to take an intensive theory of music course at the start of the programme.

Theatre Arts

Theatre is a composite art, which incorporates several skills. The actor, the playwright, the director, designer, carpenter, scene painter, costumier, electrician, the accountant and the publicity agent must all collaborate to produce a piece of theatre. Students at St George's have the opportunity to experience all of these skills and discover the extent to which the theatre must be a synthesis of these skills and talents.

Concurrently, students will become acquainted with the forms and varieties that theatre has taken throughout history in a diversity of cultures.

The theatre arts course is taught holistically, but divided into four assessed sections:

Performance Skills: Students are assessed on their competence as creative artists in the theatre. This includes work on several staged productions

Portfolio: Students have to demonstrate the depth of their learning at the end of the course, by selecting entries from a reflective journal that is kept throughout the course and including them in a portfolio.

Practical Play Analysis: Students have to talk about their interpretation of a given play, assuming that they were the director of it.

Research Commission: Students have to research a world theatre style. They then assume the role of dramaturge and write a letter of advice to a director, designer or actor.

Students with or without previous experience of formal theatrical studies can follow the course.

Additional Requirements

Theory of Knowledge

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is a part-time course required of all Diploma candidates. The course is an attempt to examine critically the types, nature and limitations of different ways of knowing. By considering the roles of language and logic in the process of knowing, various systems of knowledge and value judgements in relation to knowledge, students confront fundamental questions such as “What do we know?” and “How do we know what we know?”. While philosophical in flavour and rigour, TOK is not a course in the history of philosophy. It develops critical thinking skills central to life within and beyond the curriculum.

In both years of the programme students must produce, in addition to regular preparation, formal essays in relation to the course, internally marked and externally moderated by the IB. Students must also prepare an oral presentation on a theme developed during the course. Thus, while there is no final exam, successful completion of TOK is required for the Diploma. Bonus points, which go towards the final Diploma score, are available for good work in the subject.

Creativity, Action and Service

CAS is an integral part of the IB programme. The IBO views it as an acknowledgement that important educational experiences also take place outside the classroom. The will to act in the service of the community is seen as an important complement to the intellectual and moral development of the student.

The CAS programme at St George's continues throughout both years of the Diploma. An element of all three components is required each year. Each student develops a programme in consultation with the CAS Supervisor. Students usually fulfil the requirements of the programme by combining participation in extra-curricular activities offered at the school with service to the school or larger community. Suitable activities engaged in privately outside the school can also be part of the CAS programme, if they are undertaken regularly and can be evaluated by a teacher or other responsible adult.

Each student must complete a minimum of 150 hours of evaluated CAS activities for the award of the Diploma.

Extended Essay

The Extended Essay is defined by the IBO as “an in-depth study of a limited topic within a subject”. This 4000-word essay is meant to provide students with the opportunity to conduct independent research at an introductory level. In general, the skills required to produce a successful essay in any given subject are those the student has been using in the relevant course. It also affords the opportunity to investigate subjects not studied in school and develop research and presentation skills.

At St George's, the Extended Essay is completed during year 13 and is developed via a series of set stages. Students choose or are allocated an Extended Essay Supervisor from staff qualified in the chosen area to guide and assist in the completion of the essay. The completed essay is externally marked; bonus points are available for good work done in this area.

Conditions for the award of the Diploma

The diploma will be awarded to candidates whose total score, including bonus points, reach 24 points and does not contain any of a number of failing conditions.

Excluding Conditions

The Diploma cannot be awarded, whatever the total score, to candidates who have

1. received a grade 1 in any HL subject
2. not submitted an Extended Essay
3. not met the requirements of the TOK course.
4. not completed satisfactory CAS.

Maturità Italiana

Quanto segue è una lista dei corsi la cui frequenza è ritenuta obbligatoria dal Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione per ottenere un titolo equipollente dalla Maturità Italiana.

Maturità Linguistica

- Prima Lingua – Italiano A1 – livello superiore
- Seconda Lingua - livello superiore
- Qualsiasi materia del Gruppo 3 – livello medio o superiore
- Chimica, Fisica o Biologia – livello medio o superiore
- Matematica – livello medio o superiore
- Terza Lingua – livello medio o superiore

Maturità Scientifica

- Prima Lingua – Italiano A1 – livello superiore
- Seconda Lingua - livello medio o superiore
- Qualsiasi materia del Gruppo 3 – livello medio o superiore
- Fisica – livello superiore
- Matematica – livello superiore
- Chimica, Biologia o Arte – medio o superiore

IB/Maturità – Tabella di Conversione

24 = 60/100	35 = 84/100
25 = 62/100	36 = 87/100
26 = 64/100	37 = 89/100
27 = 67/100	38 = 91/100
28 = 69/100	39 = 93/100
29 = 71/100	40 = 96/100
30 = 73/100	41 = 98/100
31 = 76/100	42 = 100/100
32 = 78/100	43 = 100/100
33 = 80/100	44 = 100/100
34 = 82/100	45 = 100/100