

Standardization Overview



This overview will be reviewed periodically to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. Any necessary revisions will be made in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

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Introduction

The Falcon School is committed to upholding the standards set by the International Baccalaureate (IB) to ensure that assessment in the Middle Years Programme (MYP) is valid, reliable, and consistent. Standardization of assessments is essential in establishing a shared understanding of academic expectations among teachers and ensuring that students are assessed fairly. This document describes the procedures and practices in place for standardizing assessment across MYP subjects and the Personal Project.

IB Learner Profile

The IB learner profile is a set of attributes that the IB aspires to develop in students. These attributes are to be: inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective.

Objectives of Standardization

The goals of standardizing assessment practices at Falcon School include:

- Ensuring consistent application of assessment criteria across all MYP subject groups
- Aligning assessment practices with IB MYP requirements
- Maintaining equitable grading and feedback for all students
- Supporting teachers with standardization activities and professional development

Standardization Process for MYP Subjects

At the Falcon School, each MYP subject group adheres to the IB criteria-based assessment framework. The standardization process for subject assessments includes:

a. Collaborative Planning and Common Understanding

Teachers within each subject group meet at the start of the academic year to:

- Review the IB assessment criteria specific to their subject
- Discuss and agree on the expectations and interpretation of criteria descriptors at each level
- Develop a shared understanding of what constitutes achievement at various performance levels

b. Development of Assessment Tasks

Teachers collaborate to create assessment tasks aligned with MYP objectives. These tasks:

- Are mapped to specific criteria within the subject area
- Include clear task-specific clarifications and rubrics to ensure transparency
- Undergo a review by a curriculum coordinator to ensure alignment with MYP standards

c. Moderation of Student Work

To promote consistency, teachers engage in moderation sessions each term. Moderation involves:

- Reviewing and scoring a selection of student work samples against the established criteria
- Comparing scores to identify variances and discuss any discrepancies in interpretation
- Adjusting grades as necessary to reflect an agreed-upon standard of achievement

d. Continuous Professional Development

Teachers participate in regular professional development, which may include:

- IB workshops on assessment best practices
- In-house training on applying MYP criteria consistently
- Sharing feedback and strategies with colleagues for continuous improvement

Standardization of the MYP Personal Project

The MYP Personal Project represents a significant component of the final year of the MYP and requires standardized assessment practices due to its individualized and self-directed nature.

a. Establishing Clear Guidelines

In collaboration with the Personal Project Co-ordinator, each MYP Personal Project supervisor must provide students with clear, written guidelines outlining:

- Assessment criteria based on IB standards
- Expectations for the Personal Project's process, product, and reflection components

b. Supervisor Training

Personal Project supervisors will receive training to ensure consistency in guiding students through:

- Formulating objectives and action plans for their projects
- Developing and applying relevant skills
- Reflecting effectively on their learning journey

c. Internal Standardization of Assessment

Standardization for the Personal Project includes:

- Regular check-ins where supervisors discuss student progress and challenges
- Group moderation sessions where project supervisors review a selection of completed Personal Projects and apply assessment criteria
- Adjustments made based on consensus reached through moderation discussions to ensure fairness in final scoring

Tools and Resources for Standardization

To support the standardization process, the Falcon School utilizes a range of tools and resources, including:

Assessment rubrics with detailed criterion-specific clarifications

Archived (in the future) student work exemplars to serve as reference points for consistent grading

Review and Reflection on Assessment Practices

At the end of each academic year under supervision of the MYP Co-ordinator and the Head of IB Development, Falcon School teachers will conduct a review of assessment practices, including:

- Analyzing student outcomes and feedback to identify areas for improvement
- Revisiting and refining internal assessment policies to ensure alignment with IB standards

- Conducting reflective sessions with teachers to discuss best practices and implement improvements for the following academic year

Bibliography

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