

## First Semester Report, 2011 - 2012



Student Name: Christos Gallagher  
Grade: 12  
Date of Birth: November 06, 1993  
Academic Year: 2011 - 2012  
Semester: 1  
Report Date: 03 November, 2011



Student: Christos Gallagher

Grade: 12

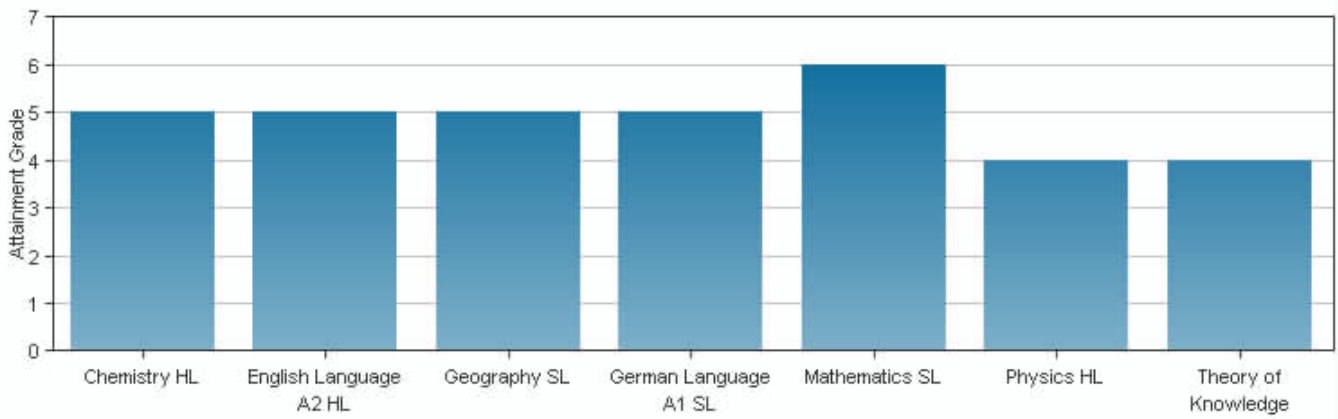
Subject: Homeroom

Teachers: Mr Jasmin BREWINGTON , Dr Michelle Walz

**Teacher's Comment**

Christos has made a satisfactory start to his final year and he is achieving at a good level in all of his IBDP subjects. Christos is a polite, co-operative and reliable member of his homeroom and he is well respected by his peers. Christos tends to be rather quiet in class. However, he actively participates during the homeroom activities and his involvement in the IB Retreat activities was appreciated. Christos has continued with his guitar lessons this semester, and he is a member of the school volleyball and basketball teams.

**IB DP Grades Summary per Subject**



Student: Christos Gallagher

Grade: 12

**Subject: English Language A2 HL**

**Teacher: Mrs Amber Applewhite**

Grade 12 English A2 students read the novels *Things Fall Apart* and *A Farewell to Arms*, as well as the play *A Streetcar Named Desire*. They also study a Media and Culture unit, finish the second of two Written Tasks and complete an Interactive Oral Commentary. They continue to refine their essay writing skills and respond to previously unseen texts in preparation for the January 2012 trial examinations.

Christos has worked well in English thus far this semester. His oral and written work show a good, and sometimes perceptive, understanding of the subject matter. He is able to quickly grasp the main idea of a text, and his analysis of this is often straightforward and concise. His essay *Things Fall Apart* was coherently structured, with well-selected and well-integrated quotations. However, his analysis could have been expanded further. In the future, Christos should ensure that he answers all aspects of the question asked, so that his response is as thorough as possible. I would also encourage him to share his good ideas more often and complete all homework assignments. I am confident that, with increased effort and enthusiasm, Christos can attain the next level of achievement in English.

**First Semester Diploma Grade: 5**

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**Subject: German Language A1 SL**

**Teacher: Ms Emily Straight**

German A1 is a literature course that introduces students to a range of literary works of different periods, genres, styles and contexts. Students develop the ability to engage in close, detailed analysis of written text and develop an understanding of the techniques involved in literary criticism. This semester we study the following books: *Faust* (J.W.Goethe), *Der gute Mensch von Sezuan* (B. Brecht) and *Die Physiker* (F.Dürrenmatt).

Christos is a bright student who could do very well in his IB Diploma examinations. He has a very good feeling for literature and is able to understand the thought and feeling expressed in a text, as well as the subtleties of a text. If he puts an effort into his essays, they have a fluid, individual style. Christos is able to balance between analysis and supporting narrative, applying the statement-proof technique and supporting any comment on a work by reference to the original text. In the few essays he has managed to hand in, there is a clear, varied and precise use of language with only a few lapses in grammar and spelling. However, Christos does not hand in his work on time, and he lacks motivation to show his full potential. He often seems to be very tired and not interested in his academic studies at all. It is very important that Christos understand the benefits of a good academic education, that he participate more in class and that he realise that he has to work hard to get a good grade in his IB Diploma examinations.

**First Semester Diploma Grade: 5**

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**Subject: Geography SL**

**Teacher: Dr Michelle Walz**

This semester students finish looking at the final optional unit for Paper 2, "Extreme Environments". They also complete their studies of the core unit of the IB diploma geography syllabus. This involves examining progress made towards Millennium Development Goal #7, which aims for environmental sustainability, particularly by looking at water, soil and biodiversity. Further, students study the changing patterns in resource consumption, looking in particular at oil and its alternatives as potential sources of energy. SL students also use the time provided for the teaching of the HL extension to begin revising and to complete practise exam questions.

Christos' motivation and will to succeed in geography have improved this semester. His achievements still fluctuate, however. On the recent test on glacial and periglacial environments, he wrote an excellent essay on the environmental impacts of tourism in the Swiss Alps, but rushed through the structured questions, occasionally misreading the question. To improve, Christos should go over past tests and mark-schemes carefully to get a better understanding of the level of detail required for structured questions that carry different weights. During HL lessons, when SL students have been asked to revise, Christos has worked well, concentrating on past exam papers and asking relevant questions. The exams are approaching, however, and Christos would be well-advised to spend time going over the material we covered last year and filling in any gaps in his notes, in particular in terms of detailed case studies, since much of this was not completed satisfactorily by him at the time. Christos has shown that he can do very well when he has covered the material previously and therefore it is essential that he has prepared and revised all the relevant content prior to the trial and final exams.

**First Semester Diploma Grade: 5**

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Student: Christos Gallagher

Grade: 12

**Subject: Chemistry HL**

**Teacher: Mr Jasmin Brewington**

This is a two-year course preparing students for the IB examinations in the chemistry section of the Group 4 Experimental Sciences. The course combines academic study with the acquisition of practical and investigational skills. Specific topics studied by students in the first semester include acid-base chemistry, introductory organic chemistry and an option topic, as well as a substantial revision of the various topics introduced in Grade 11.

Christos has made a good start to his final IB year. He has maintained his motivated and enthusiastic attitude and he should be encouraged by his good level of achievement in the recent unit assessment. I would advise Christos to take the time during the second half of this semester to revise the topics introduced in Grade 11, as he appeared to experience some difficulty with the final examination last year. I would encourage him to maintain his good attitude and to seek assistance and ask questions when he is experiencing difficulties.

**First Semester Diploma Grade: 5**

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**Subject: Physics HL**

**Teacher: Mr Hannah Fears**

This is a two-year course preparing students for the IB examinations in physics. The course combines academic study with the acquisition of practical and investigative skills. This semester students study topics including electromagnetic fields, useful energy technologies, and nuclear physics. Higher Level candidates study additional material on topics including electromagnetic induction and diffraction. Students also complete practical reports for their internal assessment portfolio.

Christos would like to do well at physics without really having to work at it, but this is unlikely to be a successful strategy for the coming exams. Sometimes, he does grasp a concept studied in class and is able to apply it to a problem. At other times, Christos' lack of preparation means that he does not fully understand the idea, or does not have the necessary depth of knowledge. He might achieve a bare pass with the level of work he is doing at the moment, but for the higher grades he would like, he will need to spend time studying by reading about the subject and working through practice problems.

**First Semester Diploma Grade: 4**

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**Subject: Mathematics SL**

**Teacher: Mr Ann Caputo**

The majority of students taking Standard Level Mathematics anticipate a need for a sound mathematical background for future studies in subjects with a significant mathematical content, such as economics or business. Students must be tenacious, clear in the communication of their needs, and able to grasp new ideas quickly, make connections across topics, and present complete and coherent solutions. This semester's work includes the completion of internal assessment as well as the final topics, calculus and statistics.

Christos has worked reasonably well so far this year, but I still do not think I am seeing his best work. In class he is generally focused, though sometimes I have had to encourage him to concentrate on his work. Results from tests and homework are encouraging, but there is certainly room for improvement. Christos is capable of achieving a top grade in mathematics, though he will achieve this only through extra work and not by relying on his own natural ability. I suspect that Christos is not doing a great deal of practice, apart from classwork and homework. Unless he starts to increase his efforts, he could find himself disappointed with his final grades.

I suggest that Christos start now to review the work done last year and that he allocate regular time for extra practice. He could also return to attending the lunchtime practice sessions; these are an ideal time to clear up a few difficulties. Overwhelmingly important, though, is that Christos not allow himself to be distracted from his work in this very important year.

**First Semester Diploma Grade: 6**

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Student: Christos Gallagher

Grade: 12

**Subject: Theory of Knowledge**

**Teacher: Mr Amanda Palm**

This semester we are focusing on three different areas of knowledge, history, the arts and ethics. We are addressing questions such as: Can one talk meaningfully of a historical fact? Can anything count as art? How far is morality determined by culture? Students are also giving their oral presentation (worth one-third of their final assessment grade) and working on their prescribed essay (worth the remaining two-thirds).

Christos is usually content to be quiet in class. However, I have been pleased to see him become quite animated while discussing some moral dilemmas recently. He has chosen a prescribed essay question on theories in the natural and human sciences. His first draft was well short of the minimum word limit of 1200 words, so he has plenty of opportunity to expand on key points and include examples that demonstrate his personal engagement with the question. He is also working on his oral presentation.

**First Semester Diploma Grade: 4**

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**Subject: CAS: Creativity Action Service**

**Teacher: Dr Michelle Walz**

The Creativity Action Service (CAS) programme is a required component of the IB diploma. The programme obliges students to balance their academic programme with activities beyond the purely academic, including creative pursuits, regular commitment to their physical well-being and involvement in community service on different scales, ranging from the local to international. Over the course of eighteen months (from the beginning of 11th grade until February of 12th grade) students are encouraged to experience at least two different activities in each of the three areas (C, A and S). Furthermore, they are expected to keep regular records of their activities either in the form of a journal or a blog.

**Christos is meeting the basic requirements of the CAS Programme; progress is satisfactory.**

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