



Areas of Interaction In Action



How do the Areas of Interaction (A.O.I.) function? Building on the basic description of the A.O.I. in a prior MYP Minute, this issue will explore each A.O.I. in detail, including ways in which it is used to enhance learning in the MYP classroom.

Approaches to Learning:

The most prominent A.O.I., Approaches to Learning (A.T.L.) is present in every unit across all the subject areas of the MYP. ATL focuses on students becoming aware of how they learn. This includes student understanding of the role organization, collaboration, research and reflection play in their learning. The goal is for students to be aware of how they learn, so they become self-directed, effective learners.

*How do I learn best?
How do I know?
How do I communicate my understanding?*

Community & Service:

Learning doesn't take place in isolation, nor should merely intellectual growth be the goal of education. In the MYP Programme, students are encouraged and required to apply their learning to serve the community of which they are a part. The Community & Service AOI provides this link to the subject content.

*How do we live in relation to each other?
How can I contribute to the community?*

Health & Social Education:

The goal for student development is not merely academic, but growth as a whole person. Health & Social Education focuses on the ways we define and educate ourselves as to what is a healthy, balanced life. Students also examine how this perception has changed over time and in various cultures.

*How do I think and act?
How am I changing?
How can I look after myself and others?*

Environments:

Formerly called Environment, this AOI focuses on the natural, built and virtual environments that impact our lives and have impacted history. Issues such as preservation of our planet as well as environmental impacts on culture and history are a few of the topics examined through this AOI.

*What are our environments?
What are my responsibilities?*

Human Ingenuity:

Recently renamed (formerly called *Homo Faber*), this AOI focuses on human activity (inventions, creations, discoveries) and their impacts on the world around us. Students examine positive, negative and unintended consequences of human actions in our world.

*Why and how do we create?
What are the consequences?*

What's Puzzling You?

Do you have a question about the MYP you'd like featured in these pages?! Ask the MYP Coordinator: send your question to Jeff Holcomb on the Moshi Campus (jeffh@ismoshi.net) or Steve Brown on the Arusha Campus (steveb@ismac.ac.tz).

Coming up in The MYP Minute:

- *Field Study and the MYP at ISM*
- *What is the Personal Project?*
- *What is MYP Technology?*

Sources Cited:

International Baccalaureate. (2008) *MYP: From Principles to Practice*. Cardiff: Peterson House.