

Traditional Lesson Planning vs. IB MYP Unit Planning

A side-by-side comparison across six planning domains. Companion to Chapter 1 of the Unit Planning Series.

Domain	Traditional Lesson Planning	IB MYP Unit Planning
Starting Point	Content and textbook chapters.	Concepts, real-world contexts, and overarching ideas.
Pacing	Day-to-day or week-to-week chronological planning.	Backward design; starting with the summative assessment.
Assessment	Often norm-referenced; testing memorized facts at the end of a topic.	Criterion-related; continuous formative assessment leading to an authentic summative performance.
Skills	Implicitly taught.	Explicitly mapped and taught via the ATL Skills framework.
Collaboration	Mostly isolated to individual teachers.	Highly collaborative, fostering interdisciplinary links and vertical alignment.
Purpose	Information transmission.	Meaning-making and conceptual transfer.