

MODULE 3

CURRICULA - ONE-ONE COMPARISON(S)

In this module we will be going full throttle in comparing the major boards across the country and help you in making the right choice.

IB vs. Cambridge International

Let's start off with a comparative analysis of the two most prominent education boards in the country i.e. of IB and Cambridge International. On completion of this sub-section you will have a profound idea of how these two curricula stack up against each other and which one could be a better fit for your child if you desire an International education for your child!



Cambridge Assessment International Education



Let us simplify this comparison for you over an 8-point scale, starting off with the geographical spread for the curricula.

1. Location: The International Baccalaureate started out in 1968 as a non-profit educational initiative in Geneva, Switzerland. Over the years the curricula has grown to a network of over 2200 schools spread over 125 countries with a growth rate of over 39%. In India, the IB school network has 161 schools spreading the length and breadth of the country thus giving your child the opportunity to study in a residential as well as a day boarding schools across metropolitan and upcoming towns.

Now, let us have a look at how the Cambridge International also known as the Cambridge Assessment International Education is an extension of the world renowned Cambridge University, UK. Founded in 1858, it has emerged as one of the strongest educational boards across the world finding takers in over 10,000 schools across 160 countries worldwide. Within India the Cambridge International board has grown by over 23% in a span of just 5 years with an overall presence in over 420 schools.

2. Costs to be incurred: IB schools have a slightly higher fee than their Cambridge International counterparts due to the higher affiliation fee for the school, a certain professional development fee as well as a recurring fee. There are other expenses involved as well which makes the IB charge a higher fee thus having a deeper impact on your pocket. There are high end Private schools operating under both the education boards which are run by Registered companies and societies.

3. Peer Group: The IB diploma is more suited for students who desire to be all-rounders whereas for students who desire to specialize in a chosen domain, the A levels seem to be a safer bet as it provides an opportunity for in-depth education. Let us take an example of a student who is more focused on the Sciences, she might not do well in the less technical subjects and may end up not faring well in her overall performance. However, had she been a student of Cambridge International, the curriculum would have enabled her to focus on certain subjects in more depth thus preparing her for a specialized focus area.

4. School Infrastructure: Schools aspiring to get an IB affiliation, need to pay over INR 30 lakhs as well as a recurring yearly fee, setting each student approx INR 30,000 to pay to the IB board each year. So schools that charge a higher fee and have infrastructural facilities to justify that fee can actually afford IB. Similarly, for Cambridge International, though it is relatively lesser in fee as compared to IB, the common question from the educational board is always to have 'adequate' setup and facilities for students. The infrastructure that both the education boards look for is Physical and Virtual learning environments. These can include studios, laboratories, resources and equipment to promote a better learning environment on campus. In addition, the information technology facilities, library, counselling resources and multimedia are also taken into account.

5. Pedagogy: Under an IB curricula, teachers have the freedom to design their own curriculum and come up with the best methods to deliver those lessons. Teachers are also required to have a cross-functional approach where they can have an interdisciplinary approach towards subjects and provide holistic learning. The goal is essentially to have a skill based approach to education than focus on content learning. Under Cambridge International, teachers are not required to design their curriculum and on resource creation and in collaborating with others over meetings. The curriculum is more syllabus driven and the focus is more on the end result which is the examination.

6. Mode of Learning: Under the IB curriculum, senior students are expected to choose one subject from the following subject groups:

- Language and Literature
- Second Language

- Sciences
- Individuals and societies
- Mathematics
- Arts

Cambridge International gives greater flexibility to students to choose subjects and thus students can opt for any number of subject combinations for better learning. In Grades 11 and 12, students have the option to read subjects at AS or A level for any given class. The level of difficulty at the AS level is almost half of that at the A level. The IB board gives students some flexibility to study at the standard or advanced courses for some courses but this is a number of notches lower than the flexibility given to students under Cambridge International. However, IB lays stress on the need of having extra-curriculars (ECAs) in their education boards which is not the case with Cambridge International. A USP of the IB is the focus on bringing in an interdisciplinary approach towards education. Under its MYP, the focus is to bring in two or more subject groups to foster greater understanding.

7. College Placements: Under Cambridge International, the exposure to a subject is at a deeper level thus the A levels are seemingly better than IB. A majority of students prefer the UK particularly colleges like Oxford, Cambridge and the 24 Universities falling under the Russell Group, but A levels are globally accepted thus giving students more options to choose from. However, that doesn't mean that IB is in anyway lower than the A levels. A study by the Higher Education Statistics revealed that IB students were more likely to get into a top 20 ranked University than their A level peers and were also more likely to get a first class degree.

8. Additional Support and Guidance for Students: Through its curriculum, IB helps students in the development of logical reasoning, language skills, as well as analytical skills giving them an edge in competitive exams like the SAT and GRE. In addition, by promoting extra-curriculars, it also helps students to build their profile. Thus, through IB students are exposed to global skill development and an innovative method of learning. As far as Cambridge International is concerned, students have an added advantage of being prepared for life at International Universities. The curriculum is more streamlined where the end result is an examination giving students a goal to focus on.

Now let us look at a grade-wise comparison of IB and Cambridge International to help you understand this better!

Let us start off with the Primary level, with the key concepts being imparted to students through the curriculum.

Under IB, the PYP or the Primary Years Programme is for children of ages 3 till 12. The languages on offer for students are English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Indonesian. Teachers conduct continuous evaluation through internal assessments based on a pre-decided criterion. The IB curriculum is usually preferred for the Primary level over Cambridge International. There are 5 major elements covered in the program i.e.:

- Concepts
- Knowledge
- Expertise
- Attitudes, and
- Actions

These are developed through 6 transdisciplinary approaches: who we are, where we live, how we grow, the world and our existence in it.

For students aged 11 to 16, the IB curriculum has a dedicated MYP or the Middle Years Programme. The languages on offer are English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian and Turkish. Just like the PYP, internal assessments are undertaken all throughout the year and teachers evaluate students based on certain pre-decided criteria as set down by the IB. The Cambridge International curriculum is preferred over the IB curriculum at this level. All the 8 subjects of math, science, art, physical sciences, first and second language, humanities and technology are done in 5 ways namely:

- Health and Social education
- Social
- Environmental
- Learning
- Intelligence

For students aged 16 to 19, the IB curriculum has a dedicated IBDP or the IB Diploma Programme. There are over 55 languages on offer for students with the major ones being English, French, Spanish, German and Japanese. At this level, external assessments are conducted at the end of the diploma program which are marked by external examiners. The IB curriculum is preferred over the Cambridge International curriculum at the senior secondary level. Under this there are 6 subjects namely, math and computer science, art, first and second language, science lab, individuals and society which are evaluated on 3 main capabilities of theory, creativity and action.

Now, let us review how Cambridge International is classified across grades. The Cambridge International has 4 classifications namely:

- Primary (For ages 5 till 11)
- Secondary I (For ages 11 till 14)
- Secondary II i.e. IGCSE, O level (For ages 14 till 16)
- Advanced i.e. A/AS levels/Pre-U (For ages 16 till 19)

Primary Level: Under this level, English is the only language provided for primary learners. At this level, the Cambridge Primary Progression Tests which are marked within the school are undertaken. In addition, the Cambridge Primary Checkpoint examinations are conducted which are marked by Cambridge examiners. The key subjects taught at this level comprise of English, Science and Mathematics.

Secondary Level: For Secondary Level I and II, English and Spanish are the two language choices on offer for students. At this level, the Cambridge Secondary I Progression Tests are conducted on campus. In addition, the Cambridge Secondary I Checkpoint examinations are conducted which are marked by Cambridge examiners. The key subjects taught at this level comprise of English, Science and Mathematics. For Secondary II level, over 70 subjects are offered which are classified into 5 major groups. The assessments undertaken at this level comprise of oral, written and practical assessments.

Advanced Level: For Advanced or the Senior Secondary learners, a total of 6 language choices are offered namely: English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and Portuguese. Approximately 55 subjects are offered for AS and A levels with over 26 subjects offered at the Pre-U level. A staged assessment route is followed with the A level examinations at the end of the course.

With the section, we hope that you were able to draw detailed insights on the pedagogy followed at different grades across the IB and Cambridge International curricula.

Now let us move towards the allied features that make a curriculum better especially the focus on teacher training. One of the key features of the IB education, is its approach towards teacher development with mandatory Professional Development workshops as a part of a network school's authorization process. However, under the Cambridge International, no such mandatory processes are followed.

Under IB, a range of teacher development initiatives are followed:

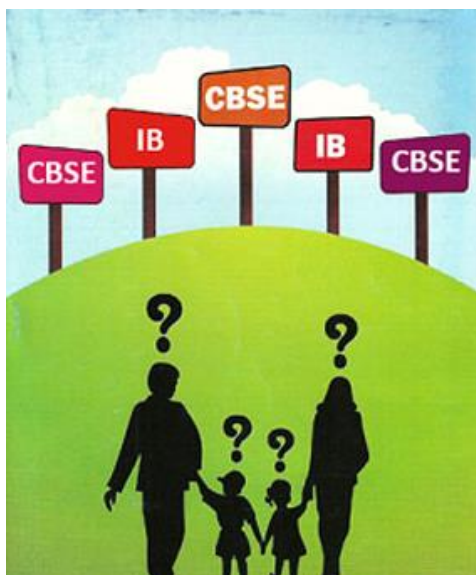
- Face-to-Face and online workshops

- Webinars
- Blended learning
- Regional conferences to name a few

Under the Cambridge International, the following teacher development initiatives are followed:

- Online and Face-to-Face training courses
- Conferences
- Professional Development Qualifications
- Training for Exam officers

We hope with this detailed classification, you were able to identify if it is IB or Cambridge International that you should prefer for your child.



IB vs. CBSE

In this section, we will deep dive into the IB and CBSE curricula and help you make the right pick.

Let us again refer the 8-point list which we used in the last section to do a comparative analysis of these curricula.

First up is a comparison based on geographic location:

1. **Location:** Founded in 1968, The International Baccalaureate started out as a non-profit educational initiative in Switzerland.

Since then, it has grown to a large network of 2,200 schools across 125 countries with a growth rate of over 39%. In India, the IB school network has 161 schools spreading the length and breadth of the country thus giving your child the opportunity to study in a residential as well as a day boarding schools across metropolitan and upcoming towns.

As far as CBSE is concerned, it was founded in 1962 by the Government of India, making it one of the oldest education boards in the country. Schools affiliated to CBSE are present across the country with over 15,000 schools. The board has gone global with the creation of a Foreign Schools Cell (FSC) for providing the right academic and administrative support to schools outside India desiring to implement the CBSE curriculum on campus.

Over the years, the curriculum has expanded to countries like Malaysia, Japan, UAE and Singapore to name a few.

Let us now view the expenses incurred in pursuing an education from IB and from CBSE.

2. Costs involved: As the IB is a not-for-profit organization, it primarily charges fees from schools so as to cover its operational costs. Schools looking for an affiliation from the IB board are supposed to pay on an average up to INR 30 lakhs which ultimately boils down to each student paying approx INR 30,000 to the IB board per year. A CBSE school is more modest when it is down to charging fees. Fee charges by CBSE schools is usually in direct alignment with the facilities that it provides to its students but it usually a couple of magnitudes less than that of an IB school.

3. Peer Group: The IB coursework has been designed to promote the development of all-rounders and here students take accountability of their learning. The curriculum is made in a manner which promotes the development of curiosity in students. On the other hand, the CBSE curriculum is more focused on the annual examinations and preparing students to excel in those examinations. Both the curricula are comprehensive in nature but the IB curriculum is more hands-on in approach and imparting education thus preferred by learners who have a more practical and experiential bent of mind. CBSE is comparatively more theory based.

4. School Infrastructure: As IB belongs to the International curricula, schools aspiring to get an IB affiliation, need to pay over INR 30 lakhs as well as a recurring yearly fee, setting each student approx INR 30,000 to pay to the IB board each year. So schools that charge a higher fee and have infrastructural facilities to justify that fee can actually afford an IB affiliation. Under CBSE, no such additional costs are present and schools charge as per the facilities provided by them for their students.

5. Pedagogy: IB teachers have that flexibility to design and create their own curriculum and incorporate the best methods to deliver instruction. The goal is essentially to have a skill based approach to education than focus on content learning. Under CBSE, the focus is comparatively more on imparting theoretical knowledge and less hands-on experience as compared to an IB education. Thus, the focus of teachers is to prepare students for the year end final examinations and make them excel at just that.

6. Mode of Learning: IB schools are more focused on learning and understanding the concepts being taught in and outside of the classroom. The board lays focus on the need of extra-curricular activities to expand their learning beyond the classroom. Within CBSE, the focus is more on marks and less focus on other non-academic activities. In

comparison to IB, the focus is comparatively high on scoring marks and learning theoretical concepts. Over the years, the board has realized the need of extra-curriculars and has taken progressive steps in this regard.

7. College Placements: An IB curriculum is more in alignment with the development of independent learners, the likes of which are preferred in Global University admissions. With CBSE conducting the competitive examinations in the country for engineering, medicine and the likes, students are better prepared for these.

8. Additional Support and Guidance for Students: The IB curriculum helps students in the development of logical reasoning, analytical and language skills. In the process, it gives them an edge in exams like the SAT and GRE. In addition, by promoting extra-curriculars, it also helps students to build their profile. Thus, through IB students are exposed to global skill development and an innovative method of learning. Under CBSE, there has been a growing awakening on going beyond academics and reforms like Yoga, Sports and other extra-curriculars have been brought on board to ensure holistic development of a student.

Now let us look at a grade-wise comparison of IB and CBSE to help you understand this better!

Let us start off with the Primary level, with the key concepts being imparted to students through the curriculum.

Under IB, the PYP or the Primary Years Programme is for children of ages 3 till 12. The languages on offer for students are English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Indonesian. Teachers conduct continuous evaluation through Internal assessments based on a pre-decided criterion. There are 5 major elements covered in the program i.e.:

- Concepts
- Knowledge
- Expertise
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- Actions

These are developed through 6 transdisciplinary approaches: who we are, where we live, how we grow, the world and our existence in it.

For students aged 11 to 16, the IB curriculum has a dedicated MYP or the Middle Years Programme. The languages on offer are English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian and Turkish. Just like the PYP, internal assessments are

undertaken all throughout the year and teachers evaluate students based on certain pre-decided criteria as set down by the IB.

For students aged 16 to 19, the IB curriculum has a dedicated IBDP or the IB Diploma Programme. There are over 55 languages on offer for students with the major ones being English, French, Spanish, German and Japanese. At this level, external assessments are conducted at the end of the diploma program which are marked by external examiners.

Now, let us consider the CBSE curriculum in grade-wise detail. The board has classified grades in the following manner for easier understanding:

- Grades 1 to 8 (For ages 6-14)
- Grades 9 and 10 (For ages 14-16), and
- Grades 11 and 12 (For ages 16-18)

For Grades 1 till 8, students have the option to pursue languages like English, Hindi, Foreign or a Regional language. Additional subjects like EVS, Computer Science, General Knowledge and Physical Education are provided. As far as examinations are concerned, only internal assessments are conducted by teachers for review.

For the Secondary level comprising of Grades 9 and 10, like in earlier grades, students have the option to pursue languages like English, Hindi, Foreign or a Regional language. At this level, students have to mandatorily choose 5 subjects. For Grade 9, internal assessment is conducted in accordance with the CCE framework. For Grade 10, students have to appear for the AISSE examination also known as the Class 10 Board exam.

For the Senior Secondary level comprising of Grades 11 and 12, students have the provision to pursue English, Foreign and an Indian language. Students have a rather restrictive set at this level with 4 pre-decided combinations to choose from namely, Medical, Non-Medical, Arts and Commerce. In Grade 11, students undertake internal assessments conducted by school teachers whereas in Grade 12 have to appear for the AISSCE examination also known as the Class 12 Board examinations.

Now let us explore how these respective boards approach development of their teachers.

One of the key features of the IB education, is its approach towards teacher development with mandatory Professional Development workshops as a part of a network school's authorization process. Under IB, a range of teacher development initiatives are followed, namely:

- Face-to-Face and online workshops,
- Webinars,
- Blended learning and
- Regional conferences

Under CBSE, in recent years the focus has shifted towards building teacher skills, and a range of programs like:

- Capacity Building,
- Training programs,
- Summits, and
- Conferences are being undertaken.

We hope this section has helped you in taking the right call if you were considering a CBSE or an IB education for your child.

Cambridge International vs. CBSE

Let us look at the 8-point scale to evaluate a curriculum.

1. **Location:** The Cambridge International also known as the Cambridge Assessment International Education is an extension of the world renowned Cambridge University, UK.

Founded in 1858, it has emerged as one of the strongest educational boards across the world finding takers in over 10,000 schools across 160 countries worldwide. Within India the Cambridge International board has grown by over 23% in a span of just 5 years with an overall presence in over 420 schools. Whereas CBSE was founded in 1962 by the Government of India, making it the oldest education boards in the country. Schools affiliated to CBSE are present across the country with over 15,000 schools.

The board has gone global with the creation of a Foreign Schools Cell (FSC) for providing the right academic and administrative support to schools outside India desiring to implement the CBSE curriculum on campus. Over the years, the curriculum has expanded to countries like Malaysia, Japan, UAE and Singapore to name a few.

2. **Costs to be incurred:** Cambridge International schools have higher fee than their CBSE counterparts. Schools under Cambridge International are primarily high end Private schools operating under both the education boards which are run by Registered companies and societies. Under CBSE, there are a range of government aided, government department run, private and high end schools, thus the costs incurred would directly depend on the type of school.

3. Peer Group: Under Cambridge International, students are expected to focus in-depth on certain subjects only thus making them more of a specialist in a certain domain. Similar approach is followed under CBSE, where students have to opt for Medical, Non-Medical, Arts or Commerce in their Senior Secondary examinations thus narrowing down focus to a given area.

4. School Infrastructure: The Cambridge International board looks for 'adequate' setup and facilities for students. The infrastructure that both the education boards look for is Physical and Virtual learning environments. These can include studios, laboratories, resources and equipment to promote a better learning environment on campus.

In addition, the information technology facilities, library, counselling resources and multimedia are also taken into account. For CBSE, the main area of concern for the board is the location, the facilities and other requirements in 'how much' than just being 'adequate'.

5. Pedagogy: Under Cambridge International curriculum, the focus is more syllabus driven and on the end result which is the examination. Under CBSE, the focus is comparatively more on imparting theoretical knowledge and less hands-on experience as compared to an International Board's education. Thus, the focus of teachers is to prepare students for the year end final examinations and make them excel at just that, something very similar between the two boards.

6. Mode of Learning: Cambridge International gives greater flexibility to students to choose subjects and thus students can opt many number of subject combinations for better learning. In Grades 11 and 12, students have the option to read subjects at AS or A level for any given class. Less focus is on additional beyond the classroom activities. Within CBSE, the focus is more on marks and less focus on other non-academic activities.

But over the years, the board has realized the need of extra-curriculars and has taken progressive steps in this regard.

7. College Placements: Under Cambridge International, the exposure to a subject is at a deeper level than that in CBSE.

A majority of students prefer the UK particularly colleges like Oxford, Cambridge and the 24 Universities falling under the Russell Group, but A levels are globally accepted thus giving students more options to choose from. With CBSE conducting the competitive

examinations in the country for engineering, medicine and the likes, students are better prepared for them.

8. Additional Support and Guidance for Students: As far as Cambridge International is concerned, students have an added advantage of being prepared for life at International Universities. The curriculum is more streamlined where the end result is an examination giving students a goal to focus on.

Under CBSE, there has been a growing awakening on going beyond academics, and reforms like Yoga, Sports, and other extracurriculars have been brought on board to ensure holistic development of a student.

Now let us look at a grade-wise comparison of Cambridge International and CBSE to help you understand this better!

Let us start off with the Primary level, with the key concepts being imparted to students through the curriculum.

As a start, the Cambridge International has 4 classifications namely:

- Primary (For ages 5 till 11)
- Secondary I (For ages 11 till 14)
- Secondary II i.e. IGCSE, O level (For ages 14 till 16)
- Advanced i.e. A/AS levels/Pre-U (For ages 16 till 19)

Let us view the Primary level now. Under this level, English is the only language provided for primary learners. At this level, the Cambridge Primary Progression Tests which are marked within the school are undertaken. In addition, the Cambridge Primary Checkpoint examinations are conducted which are marked by Cambridge examiners. The key subjects taught at this level comprise of English, Science and Mathematics.

Now, for Secondary Level I and II, English and Spanish are the two language choices on offer for students. At this level, the Cambridge Secondary I Progression Tests are conducted on campus. In addition, the Cambridge Secondary I Checkpoint examinations are conducted which are marked by Cambridge examiners. The key subjects taught at this level comprise of English, Science and Mathematics.

For Secondary II level, over 70 subjects are offered which are classified into 5 major groups. The assessments undertaken at this level comprise of oral, written and practical assessments.

For Advanced or the Senior Secondary learners, a total of 6 language choices are offered namely: English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and Portuguese.

Approximately 55 subjects are offered for AS and A levels with over 26 subjects offered at the Pre-U level. A staged assessment route is followed with the A level examinations at the end of the course.

Now, let us consider the CBSE curriculum in grade-wise detail. The board has classified grades in the following manner for easier understanding:

- Grades 1 to 8 (For ages 6-14)
- Grades 9 and 10 (For ages 14-16), and
- Grades 11 and 12 (For ages 16-18)

For Grades 1 till 8, students have the option to pursue languages like English, Hindi, Foreign or a Regional language. Additional subjects like EVS, Computer Science, General Knowledge and Physical Education are provided. As far as examinations are concerned, only internal assessments are conducted by teachers for review.

For the Secondary level comprising of Grades 9 and 10, like in earlier grades, students have the option to pursue languages like English, Hindi, Foreign or a Regional language. At this level, students have to mandatorily choose 5 subjects. For Grade 9, internal assessment is conducted in accordance with the CCE framework. For Grade 10, students have to appear for the AISSE examination also known as the Class 10 Board exam.

For the Senior Secondary level comprising of Grades 11 and 12, students have the provision to pursue English, Foreign and an Indian language. Students have a rather restrictive set at this level with 4 pre-decided combinations to choose from namely, Medical, Non-Medical, Arts and Commerce. In Grade 11, students undertake internal assessments conducted by school teachers whereas in Grade 12 they have to appear for the AISSCE examination also known as the Class 12 Board examinations.

Now let us explore how these respective boards approach development of their teachers.

Under the Cambridge International, the following teacher development initiatives are followed:

- Online and Face-to-Face training courses
- Conferences
- Professional Development Qualifications
- Training for Exam officers

Under CBSE, in recent years the focus has shifted towards building teacher skills the board has undertaken a range of programs like:

- Capacity Building
- Training programs
- Summits
- Conferences are being undertaken.

We hope this section has helped you in taking the right call if you were considering a CBSE or a Cambridge International education for your child.

CBSE vs. CISCE

Let's get into the in-depth comparison of two National curricula i.e. the CBSE and CISCE.

In order to evaluate them better let us again make use of our 8-point list.



CBSE

Vs



ICSE

Which Board is Better and Why?

1. Location: CBSE was founded in 1962 by the Government of India, making it one of the oldest education boards in the country. Schools affiliated to CBSE are present across the country with over 15,000 schools. The board has gone global with the creation of a Foreign Schools Cell (FSC) for providing the

right academic and administrative support to schools outside India desiring to implement the CBSE curriculum on campus. Over the years, the curriculum has expanded to countries like Malaysia, Japan, UAE and Singapore to name a few.

Now onto the CISCE also known as The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, was established in 1958. It's a national level private education board. The CISCE conducts examinations for Grade 10, called the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) and also for Grade 12, called the Indian School Certificate (ISC). In addition, the C.V.E., also known as the Certificate of Vocational Education Examination has been incorporated as an examination for candidates who seek preparation for a specific vocation.

The CISCE curriculum is also followed globally in countries such as UAE, Singapore, Indonesia, to name a few.

2. Costs to be incurred: Under CBSE, there are a range of government aided, government department run, private and high end schools, thus the costs incurred would directly depend on the type of school and the facilities being provided by them. For CISCE, the fees involved is slightly higher or equal as there are no government schools operating under the CISCE curriculum.

3. Peer Group: Under CBSE, where students have to opt for Medical, Non-Medical, Arts or Commerce in their Senior Secondary examinations thus narrowing down focus to a given area. Under CISCE, students can excel under any given field and not just some specific domain as in CBSE.

4. School Infrastructure: This one is similar for both CBSE and CISCE, the main area of concern for the boards is the location, the facilities and other requirements in 'how much' than just being 'adequate'.

5. Pedagogy: Under CBSE, the focus is comparatively more on imparting theoretical knowledge and less hands-on experience as compared to an International Board's education.

Thus, the focus of teachers is to prepare students for the year end final examinations and make them excel at just that. CISCE is based more on concepts and their application while having an equal focus on all subjects than just Maths and Sciences.

6. Mode of Learning: Within CBSE, the focus is more on marks and less focus on other non-academic activities. In comparison to CISCE, the focus is comparatively high on scoring marks and learning theoretical concepts.

Over the years, the board has realized the need of extracurriculars and has taken progressive steps in this regard. In addition, under CISCE, the internal assessments are important and more emphasis is laid on lab work.

7. College Placements: With CBSE conducting the competitive examinations in the country for engineering, medicine and the likes, students are better prepared for them. However, students from the CISCE board have an edge in exams like IELTS and GRE as their training on English language is better as compared to a CBSE student.

8. Additional Support and Guidance for Students: Both the boards have been progressing towards implementing practical and experiential learning techniques over the years, thus, making this common for both.

Now let us look at a grade-wise comparison of Cambridge International and CBSE to help you understand this better!

Let us start off with the Primary level, with the key concepts being imparted to students through the curriculum. CBSE has classified grades in the following manner for easier understanding:

- Grades 1 to 8 (For ages 6-14)
- Grades 9 and 10 (For ages 14-16), and
- Grades 11 and 12 (For ages 16-18)

For Grades 1 till 8, students have the option to pursue languages like English, Hindi, Foreign or a Regional language. Additional subjects like EVS, Computer Science, General Knowledge and Physical Education are provided. As far as examinations are concerned, only internal assessments are conducted by teachers for review.

For the Secondary level comprising of Grades 9 and 10, like in earlier grades, students have the option to pursue languages like English, Hindi, Foreign or a Regional language. At this level, students have to mandatorily choose 5 subjects. For Grade 9, internal assessment is conducted in accordance with the CCE framework. For Grade 10, students have to appear for the AISSE examination also known as the Class 10 Board exam.

For the Senior Secondary level comprising of Grades 11 and 12, students have the provision to pursue English, Foreign and an Indian language.

Students have a rather restrictive set at this level with 4 pre-decided combinations to choose from namely, Medical, Non-Medical, Arts and Commerce. In Grade 11, students undertake internal assessments conducted by school teachers whereas in Grade 12 they have to appear for the AISSCE examination also known as the Class 12 Board examinations.

Under CISCE, there is a similar classification for students across grades as followed by CBSE namely:

- Grades 1 to 8 (For ages 6-14)
- Grades 9 and 10 (For ages 14-16), and
- Grades 11 and 12 (For ages 16-18)

For Grades 1 till 8, 3 language choices are provided namely, English, Hindi and French. Additional subject choices are similar to that provided in CBSE namely EVS, computer Science, General Knowledge, Art and Craft, etc.

Internal assessments are conducted with annual examinations at the end of the year.

For students of Grades 9 and 10, as in the earlier grade, option to read English, Hindi and a foreign language is provided. At this level 5 compulsory subjects are to be selected by the student. For Grade 9, internal assessments are conducted by teachers whereas for Grade 10, there are internal and external ICSE examinations for students.

For students in Grades 11 and 12, similar language choices of pursuing English, Hindi or one foreign language is provided. At this level there are 3 compulsory subjects and additional subjects comprise of Computer Science, Fashion, Psychology, etc. For Grade 9, internal assessments are conducted by teachers whereas for Grade 10, there are internal and external ISC examinations for students.

Now let us explore how these respective boards approach development of their teachers.

Under CBSE, in recent years the focus has shifted towards building teacher skills, and a range of programs like:

- Capacity Building
- Training programs
- Summits
- Conferences are being undertaken

Under CISCE, a basic provision of teacher training is provided for, unlike the comprehensive training options present under CBSE.

Additional References & Reading Material

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