

MODULE 2

DEEP DIVE INTO DIFFERENT CURRICULA

In this module, we will take a deep dive into different curricula that are offered by Schools in India. We will cover 5 main curricula including the International Baccalaureate Program, Cambridge Assessment International Education, Central Board of Secondary Education, Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations and State Boards.

The Indian School education system is one of the largest education systems in the world but it is also one of the most complex ones in the world. But worry not as we will simplify it for you and provide the much needed direction to guide you and your child better.

Section - A

International Baccalaureate (IB)



First, we will talk about the International Baccalaureate (also known as IB) which we discussed in brief in the previous module as well. IB is one of the major International curricula offered in the country through its network of over 160 schools across India.

As discussed in Module 1, the IB system started out in 1968 and is a well recognized educational board. IB has a set of clearly defined academic programs for students of all age groups namely the PYP (Primary Years Programme), MYP (Middle Years Programme) and the IBDP (IB Diploma Programme).

Currently, the IB curriculum is being imparted to over 1.4 million students across the world with India being one of the high-growth countries. There are more than 6,00,000 IB students at 2,218 schools in 125 countries. [6] Within India, there are over 161 IB schools (Ref: <https://www.ibo.org/country/IN/>) with over a 40% yearly growth in schools looking to transition from other curricula to IB. With just 93 schools across the country in 2013, the IB board has witnessed a massive growth of over 73% by 2018.

So, what is so unique about the IB that sets it apart?

Well, it all lies in its unique pedagogic approach! The IB curriculum enables students to develop strong academic, social and emotional characteristics. The IB curriculum is known for its holistic approach and it not only educates but also enables them to develop

skills which will help intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world.

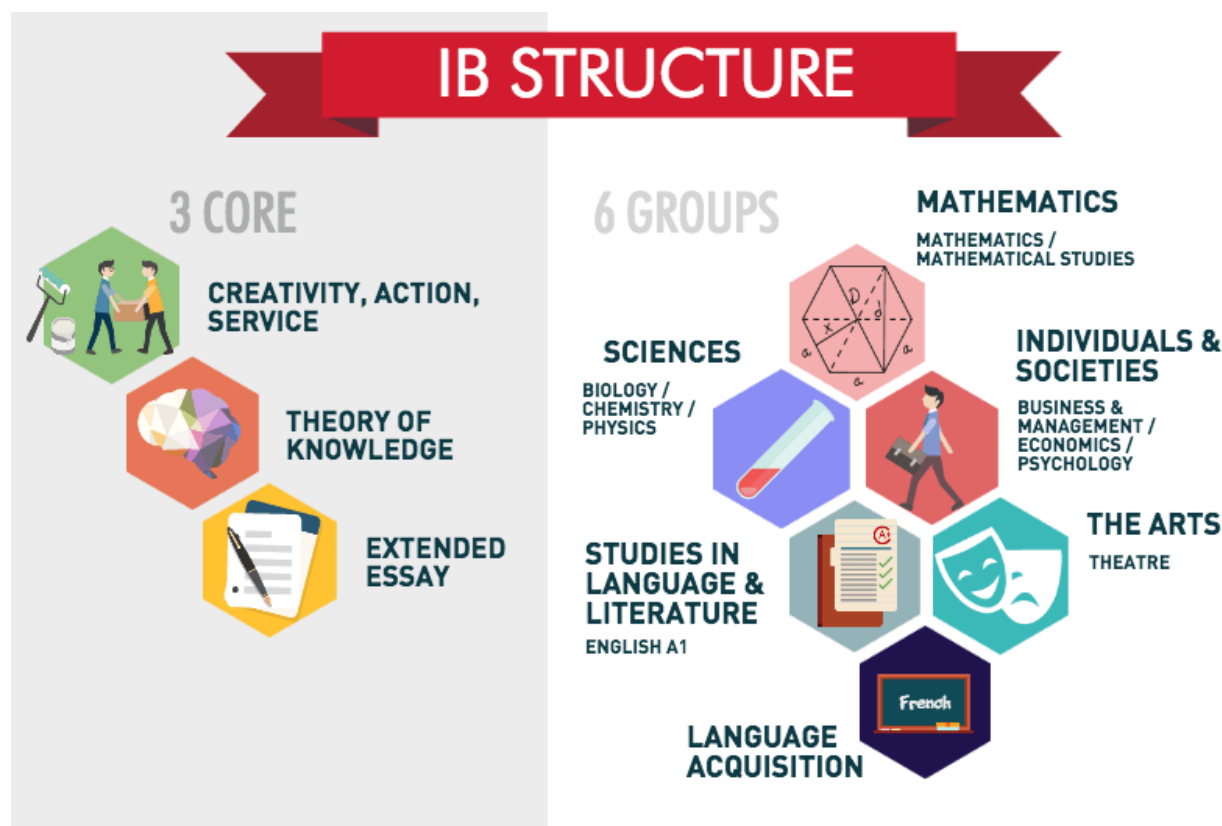
The IB curriculum offers three types of Programs for its students:

THE IB CONTINUUM



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- **PYP:** The Primary Years Program which is offered to students from Kindergarten to Grade 5.
- **MYP:** The Middle Years Program which is offered to students from Grade 6 to Grade 10.
- **DP:** The Diploma Program which is offered for students in Grades 11 and 12.



The IB curriculum is known for some distinct features right from its course structure to its practical approach towards education. We have identified the Top 3 reasons which make it stand out from other curricula:

- **Development of Global Skills:** The IB curriculum will encourage your child to become inquisitive and in the process develops critical thinking and research skills. Your child will gain a perspective on how to take accountability of his or her own learning and develop a sense of experimentation.
- **International Recognition:** The IB curriculum has been recognized globally by leading education institutions lending it a credibility which very few curricula possess. It will help your child to consider both local and global contexts to develop multilingual capabilities.
- **Practical approach towards education:** The IB curriculum ensures that students put their critical thinking skills to the test at every step and challenge assumptions.

Assessment in IB:

MYP

Ideally, students should take one subject each from the 8 subject groups. However, if the school offers a choice, in years 4 and 5 of MYP (which are usually classes 9 and 10), students can choose one subject from each of the following six subject groups in years 4 and 5. The choice must be from:

- Language and literature
- Language Acquisition (or a Second Language and Literature)
- Individuals and Societies
- Mathematics
- Sciences
- And one subject from Arts, Physical and Health Education or Design.

Each year, students in the MYP also engage in at least one collaboratively planned interdisciplinary unit that involves at least two subject groups. This unit helps students in forming connections between the various subjects that they are studying and fuels their learning development.

Another important feature of the MYP curriculum is the long-term project which every student is required to complete. When students start this project they decide what they want to learn about, identify what they already know and what more do they need to know in order to complete the project.

Schools are free to design a flexible curriculum which meets local, national and international requirements.

The IB has introduced several new things in assessment:

- It has made it mandatory for the personal projects to be moderated.

- Changes have also been made in the optional external assessment, with the introduction of the new MYP e-assessment model for the students of MYP year 5 (which is class 10).
- MYP e-assessment model comprises examinations and coursework.
- There are 2-hour examinations in four subject groups (Language and Literature, Sciences, Mathematics, and Individuals and Societies).
- In Interdisciplinary Learning, the exams are individually marked by IB examiners.
- The portfolios made by students in four subject groups (Language and Literature, Sciences, Mathematics, and Individuals and Societies) are moderated by the IB examiners to meet international standards.

These assessments are designed in such a way that they focus on conceptual understanding and the ability to apply knowledge in complex, unfamiliar situations.

The assessment and grading scheme in the MYP is a bit complicated. This complexity has arisen because the MYP curriculum assesses the performance of students in a very meticulous way.

Every subject has several aspects of learning, and if a teacher wants to judge whether a student can perform well in that subject, they need to make sure that the student has understood all of its aspects.

To do this, there are 4 objectives or criteria on which every subject is assessed. These criteria vary from subject to subject but they basically help the teachers in assessing the performance of students in every aspect of the subject.

In simpler words: To judge the performance of every subject, each subject is divided and assessed on 4 aspects which are called 'objectives'.

Example:

John is an MYP student with Physics as one of the subjects that he has opted for. His teachers will have 4 objectives through which they can know whether John has understood all the aspects of Physics. Every objective is assessed on a scale of 1 to 8. If the student does well in all objectives, then it means he has done well in the whole subject. The same is repeated for every subject.

Grading: As mentioned above:

- Students have to take a minimum of 6 subjects from 8 subject groups.
- Every subject is divided into 4 'Objectives'.
- For every Objective, the attainment value is 1 to 8.
- This means, in every subject a maximum of 32 attainment points can be earned.

These values are then converted into the grade points for that particular subject which starts from 1 and ends at 7 where 1 is the lowest and 7 is the highest. MYP assessment criteria are converted into term grades using the IB 1-7 scale, in line with the DP grading system.

For example, in the Arts, the four assessment objectives are:

- Knowing and understanding marked between 1 and 8.
- Developing skills marked between 1 and 8.
- Thinking creatively marked between 1 and 8.
- Responding marked between 1 and 8.

Based on this value, the grade boundary for the Arts subject would be 0 - 32 (maximum value 8x4 objectives), so the minimum is 0 and the maximum is 32. After this objective —

based grading, the subject will be further graded on the point based scale of 1 to 7 to match the IB Point based grading system. (Have a look at the table on the next page)

Total grading is based on: 5 e-assessments + 2 e-portfolios + 1 personal project = 8 items to be graded. So 8 multiplied by 7 (the maximum grade), gives 56.

If a student seeks a formal qualification at the end of the MYP programme, they would have to take the e-Assessments after which they can get the IB MYP certificate.

To earn the MYP certificate, students must complete 2 hour on-screen examinations in each of the following:

- Language and Literature
- Individuals and Society
- Sciences
- Mathematics
- Interdisciplinary Learning

History, Geography, Humanities, Philosophy, Economics and Business Studies	
Grade	Score
1	0 – 3
2	4 – 7
3	8 – 12

4	13 – 17
5	18 – 22
6	23 – 27
7	28 – 32

The students also need to submit two e-portfolios. One e-portfolio in language acquisition and the other from any one of the following: Design, Arts or Physical and Health Education.

The students should also complete a moderated personal project and complete school-based expectations for service as action (community service).

So, in other words, students seeking the MYP certificate must complete the following. They are:

On-screen examinations in:

- Mathematics
- Language and literature
- Sciences
- Individuals and Societies
- Interdisciplinary Learning

E-Portfolios (coursework) in:

- Language Acquisition
- Physical and Health Education, Arts, or Design

IBDP

The total score that a student can get in an IB Diploma is 45. The maximum points for each subject is 7 and a student has to take 6 subjects in all. That makes the total score to 42.

The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and Extended Essay (EE) components are awarded individual grades and, collectively, contribute up to 3 additional points towards the overall Diploma score making a total of 45.

The remaining element in the DP Core, Creativity, Activity, Service, does not contribute to the points total but authenticated participation is a requirement for the award of the diploma.

The Extended Essay is externally examined. Marks are awarded against a set of published criteria (both general and subject-specific).

The final Extended Essay grade and the final TOK grade are entered into the Diploma Points Matrix (see below) to award a possible maximum of 3 extra points to be added to a student's Diploma score. Candidates who fail to submit satisfactory work in either area will fail the Diploma.

The Diploma Matrix:

TOK/EE	A	B	C	D	E
A	3	3	2	2	

B	3	2	2	1	Failing Conditions
C	2	2	1	0	
D	2	1	0	0	
E	Failing Conditions				

Students need to score a minimum of 24 points to get an IB Diploma. In case the student fails to do so he gets an IB certificate instead of the IB diploma. In case a student fails to submit the TOK, EE or the CAS but meets the minimum score requirement of 24 points he/she will not be awarded the IB Diploma but will receive the IB Certificate.

If the student wishes to take a subject again, he/she can do so and improve the grades.

The global pass rate for IB Diploma is about 80%. Exams are scheduled twice a year, once in November and then in May.

Following are the approximate grade scales used by the IB:

IB Grade	Percentage Range	Description
7	96-100	Excellent
6	83-95	Very Good

5	70-82	Good
4	56-69	Satisfactory
3	41-55	Mediocre
2	21-40	Poor
1	1-20	Very Poor

When it comes to assessments, there are two kinds: External and Internal. Some assessment methods include portfolios/dossiers, written essays, studio-work, experimental work, oral commentaries, as well as written exams and are tailored for different learning styles.

Have you been hearing some “Myths” about IB schools from your peers or relatives?

Well, allow us to demystify some of them and clear the air for you! Here are the most burning questions which parents and students have for an International curriculum based school:

First,

- ***International Schools are only meant for Foreigners and NRIs:***

Not at all! There are students from all walks of life attending IB schools.

Second,

- ***International Schools are for students aspiring to go abroad to pursue higher education:***

Students from IB curricula are equally likely to pursue higher education in India as any other curriculum students. However, IB students are better equipped to handle international studies and the challenges associated with it as they are given a 360

degree perspective on critical thinking, independence and a sense of time management.

And last,

- ***Academics are more tougher in Indian schools than in International schools:*** Both the curricula are equally comprehensive and offer unique perspectives. The International curriculum schools like IB offers a practical approach to learning, thus developing problem-solving skills and independent thinking through the process.

Any school is evaluated on its alumni's performance and getting into a Top College is a direct reflection of this. In order to view the IB curriculum through a University perspective let us review how Universities view IB students.

The IBDP is globally recognized and it has received recognition from the Association of Indian Universities i.e. the AIU. But, there are a few elements that prospective IB students and their parents, like you, need to take into account while considering higher education in India:

First, the need to

- **Balance between Entrance Examinations and IBDP Finals:** Most of the entrance examinations to Indian Universities are conducted in the months of April and May which usually clash with the IB exams. Students need to pay extra attention to both and maintain a balance. This is a critical element which prospective students and their parents need to know when considering to opt for IB curriculum.

Second,

- **Difference in Standardized Results:** Most Indian Universities look at the percentage marks scored by students in the final school leaving examinations whereas in IBDP, points are shared. So an additional step needs to be taken by the students to obtain percentage equivalent marks for securing admissions to Indian Universities.

And Third,

- **Admission Prospects:** A number of Universities grant provisional admissions to IB students as a majority of them close admission process by June and the final

IBDP results are obtained by early July. Thus, the students need to take additional care to apply to specific Universities which offer this provisional feature.

Globally, the IB students are perceived favorably by Universities as IB has made a name when it comes to building college ready skills like critical thinking, independent decision making and problem solving. In addition, the coursework also enables students to be University ready with their projects and subjects adding value to them.

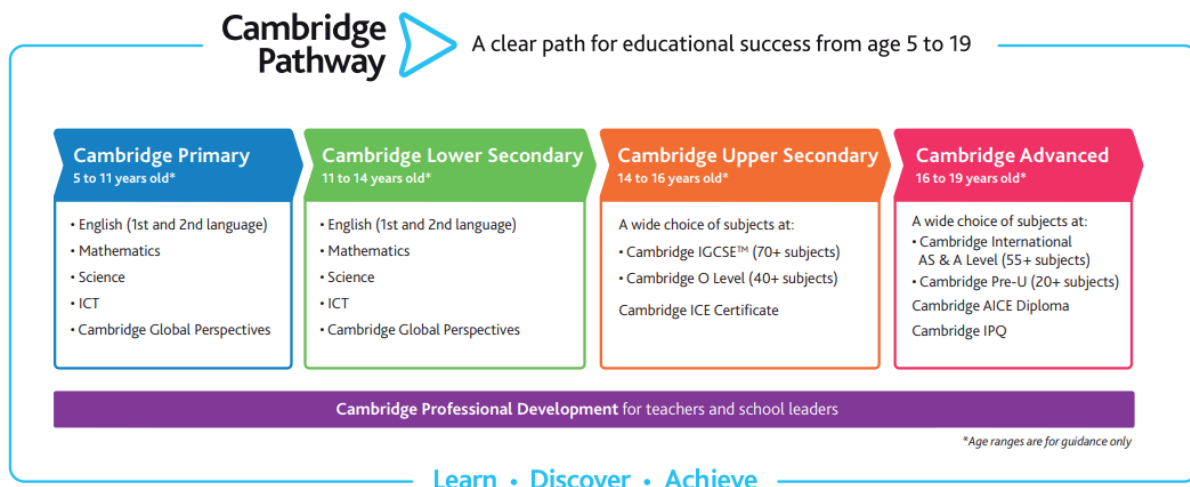
(Section - B) Cambridge Assessment International Education (Cambridge International)



**Cambridge Assessment
International Education**

Rounding up the International curriculum in India is the Cambridge International also known as the Cambridge Assessment International Education. It is the second most prominent International board after IB that has witnessed success in India. As mentioned in Module 1, the curriculum

is unique in its approach to offer holistic education by arming students through in-depth subject knowledge and problem solving ideology as well as building critical thinking, independent thinking and decision making skills in the process. The Cambridge Pathway comprises of the 4 following steps:



55 subjects are offered under this curriculum which can be altered in any combination by the school at the A level i.e in Grade 12. There are over 70 subjects to choose from in Grade 11 i.e the AS level.

The Cambridge International has been one of the front runners when it is down to imparting quality global education. Some of the key USPs which have made Cambridge International stand out from the crowd are:

First, the provision of

- **Flexibility in Curriculum:** Cambridge International schools can shape their curriculum as per their requirements on what they would want students to learn. The vast range of subjects on offer helps students pick and choose what they would want to excel in.

Second, the pedagogic approach promoting,

- **Proactive Learning:** Subjects under Cambridge International enable students to discover new abilities and develop new skills which they can make use of at home, school, University and life beyond school.

And, a

- **Dynamic range of subjects:** With over 70 subjects at the IGCSE level and over 50 at the A level, students can pick and choose subjects and streams as per their liking and future goals.

The Cambridge International has been making waves in the Indian education space. It registered a 23% growth in India, from a little over 340 schools in 2012 to over 420 schools in 2017 signalling an increase in belief in the system by educators, teachers and parents alike. The education board also witnessed a name change from CIE to Cambridge International in 2017.

YOY GROWTH AT SENIOR SECONDARY LEVEL IN INDIA						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	4-year growth (%)
Cambridge Assessment International Education						
School	341	347	370	402	420	50
Students	44,953	49,762	55,045	63,464	67,381	
Students' Growth	—	10.7%	10.6%	15.3%	6.1%	
IB						
School	92	100	103	110	116	55
Students	2,523	3,050	3,234	3,556	3,906	
Students' Growth	—	20.9	6	9.9	9.8	
ISC						
School			909	954	988	2
Students	72,000	68,723	71,141	72,069	73,633	
Students' Growth	—	-4.5	3.5	1	2.1	

Assessments in AS and A Levels

Each subject is awarded grades separately.

At the A2 level, there are 6 grades overall, starting from A* to E, where A* is the highest.

At the AS level, the grades start from A to E. Each subject is graded separately and no Grade Point Average is calculated. Grades are awarded only for subjects that candidates pass. If students secure less than 40%, their papers are ungraded and they have to retake the paper.

Earlier, the Cambridge International A-Level exams were held twice every year, in June and in November, and the results are announced in August and January respectively.

In a recent development, Cambridge International has started a new exam series in the month of March that helps students to meet the admission deadlines of Indian colleges.

On the flip side, the March exam cycle doesn't offer all the subjects of A level. The subjects may get added year after year. Hence, the students are advised to look at the subjects offered for the March exam cycle and plan accordingly.

Students who take the AS-Level exams in the first year have to take the A2-Level exams within 13 months. Also, the students who retake the exams to improve their scores have to re-attempt within 13 months. If they do not, then they have to start the course afresh.

AICE certificate at the A-Levels which is awarded to students who take subjects from all subject groups to achieve the minimum required 6 credits for the qualification.

Cambridge AICE Diploma is the group award of the Cambridge International AS and A Level. It gives schools the opportunity to benefit from offering a broad and balanced curriculum by recognizing the achievements of candidates who pass examinations in different curriculum.

Myth Vs Reality

Now it is time for some myth busting! The Cambridge International has had its own share of misconceptions some of which are mutually shared with IB, and now we will help you steer clear of such rumours.

Myth - Cambridge International curriculum is only meant for smart children.

Reality - No, this curriculum caters to all children who are ready to take on the academic challenge. Cambridge International curriculum is accessible to learners of all abilities with bright students having a chance to excel by undertaking the extended curriculum whereas others can appear for the regular core curriculum.

Myth - The international school examination schedule interferes with the competitive exam schedule.

Reality - The Cambridge curriculum exam can be undertaken in March, giving students ample time to prepare for and face their entrance examinations. The results are declared in May, similar to the CBSE and ICSE schedule, when colleges start their admission process.

Myth - Students who pass out of an International examination may face difficulties during job interviews.

Reality - An international school hones its student's personality, skills and character and prepares them to conquer any real world challenge. As opposed to mere extrinsic achievements like grades and certifications, an international school steadily inculcates confidence, an innate knowing of one's strengths and a clear purpose. They possess utmost clarity about what they can offer at their job, which is a huge determinant of career success.

The Cambridge International A level is accepted by Indian Universities to meet entry requirements, however there are a few factors which Cambridge International students in India should take into account while applying for Universities across the country.

- 1) **Admission process:** The undergraduate admission process begins in May when National curricula release their results. Students appearing for their A levels have results out in January and August and thus need to take into account the admission window.
- 2) **Grading:** Most Indian Universities require marks or percentage scores for undergraduate admissions. The Cambridge International provides for the Percentage Uniform Marks to be used as an equivalent for all subjects thus conversion of grades as not required.
- 3) **Deadlines for Admissions:** Undergraduate college admissions complete by June end at a majority of Indian Universities. For students to ensure timely submission of scores, they can opt for the November or the March examination window for AS and A-level subjects.

So by proper preparation and careful planning, your child can be college ready by opting for the most preferred exam window according to his or her application deadlines.

Cambridge International by default is based on the British education system thus making students more inclined to pursue a higher education in the UK. The Cambridge International has been known to impart global education to its students and have thus found a large rate of acceptance among Universities in the UK. From 2014-2017, 95% who applied to UK higher education institutions were offered places amounting to over 67,000 offers. 62% were accepted into the 'high tariff' 24 constituent Russell Group Universities. The remaining 25% and 13% were accepted at medium and lower tariff Universities. Thus with Cambridge International, be rest assured that your child would get into a top college!

Section - C

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)

Now let us know more about one of the most popular National Curricula on offer for your child, the CBSE!



CBSE also known as the Central Board of Secondary Education, was established in 1962, making it one of the oldest education boards in the country. It conducts the annual examinations for Grade 10 which is The All India Secondary School Examination (AISSE) and for Grade 12 i.e. The All India Senior School Certificate Examination (AISSCE). CBSE has been known for its major focus on Mathematics and Sciences and is considered one of the most suitable programmes for students who wish to pursue engineering or medicine for their higher education.

Despite being the oldest curriculum, CBSE has maintained a certain set of USPs which makes it a force to be reckoned with.

- **Competitive examination preparation:** CBSE is responsible for conducting the AIPMT and the IIT JEE entrance examinations which are the most popular medical and engineering entrance examinations in the country at the undergraduate level. In addition, the UPSC examinations for Civil services are also based on NCERT text books which are the mainstay of CBSE curriculum. Thus, the CBSE curriculum ensures that students are well prepared for the competitive examinations.
- **Popular choice:** Since the CBSE board is common across India, moving states is not an issue as far as school transfer is concerned, unlike in International curricula where only selective schools have the requisite recognition.

- **Academic flexibility:** CBSE offers course choices which enable students to broaden their base. For example, a Science student can opt for Economics without actually taking up additional subjects in Commerce. In addition, the exam pattern is also relatively relaxed giving students two years to prepare for the school leaving examination for Grade 12.

Over the years, the CBSE curriculum has brought in progressive steps like the introduction of Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) for grades 6 to 10. This is aimed to test students throughout the year rather than a single exam at the end of the year. In addition, 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.

Assessments

The Grading System for Class 10th

The grading system in Class 10th is based on a 9-point grading system. The grades are: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2, D1, D2 and E. This can be better understood through the following table.

A-1	Top 1/8th of the passed candidates
A-2	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
B-1	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
B-2	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
C-1	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
C-2	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
D-1	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
D-2	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
E	Failed candidates

The Grading System for Class 12th

The grading system in Class 12th is based on 5-subject marking. Students are evaluated for a total of 500 with 100 marks for each subject. The practical subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography etc. have 70 marks for theory and 30 marks for practical.

In the Board examination, Marks and grades are awarded on the basis of a 9-point grading system. The Board will put all the passed students in a rank order and will award the grades as follows:

A-1	Top 1/8th of the passed candidates
A-2	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
B-1	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
B-2	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
C-1	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
C-2	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
D-1	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
D-2	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
E	Failed Candidates

Now, we are back again with the Mythbusters! This time we will uncover some of the common misconceptions surrounding CBSE especially around its new initiative namely the CCE or the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation and also guide you in the right direction.

The Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation undertaken by the CBSE has been at the centre of speculation with many finding it as intensive on tests, projects, homework

and review tests with no real learning taking place. In order to address, CBSE has clarified what CCE effectively means:

- Balance of projects and assignments across subjects with focus on collaboration for projects and research work.
- Incorporates a perfect balance between scholastic with co-scholastic areas to encourage student participation.
- Encourages an objective judgment on the part of the teacher with continuous interaction with parents to report student progress.

Let us now know a bit about University admissions for CBSE students. University admissions are one of the most critical elements which students across curricula look forward to. CBSE students usually have an edge when it comes to admissions to Indian Universities, here's why:

- **Competitive exam preparation:** The course syllabus is widely based on NCERT which is used as a backbone while setting entrance exams like IIT JEE, VITEEE, BITSAT and other engineering examinations. Not only engineering but even for Commerce and Humanities, CBSE students have an advantage for being trained on a curriculum which prepares them simultaneously for college entrances.
- **Focus on Education:** CBSE is more logical reasoning and analytical skills based and thus in a way prepares students for college entrance examinations.
- **Better Marking Scheme:** CBSE awards marks in a less restrictive manner making it easier for students to get into top colleges like those in Delhi University, IITs (for better screening chances), BITS Pilani and other top private colleges like Ashoka, SRM, etc.

Section - D

Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE)

Now, it is time for us to know more about CISCE, which is one of the most popular National Curricula in the country.



So what is CISCE? Established in 1958, the CISCE also known as The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations is a national level private education board. What is interesting to note is that the CISCE initially began as an alternative to the American and the British systems but evolved into a comprehensive education system on its own. 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.

Considering CISCE curriculum for your child? Then have a look at what makes this curriculum unique!

- **Global Recognition:** The CISCE curricula has been nationally and internationally recognized by several foreign institutions as it is equivalent to high school examinations in other foreign countries.
- **Balanced Syllabus:** The CISCE curriculum is known to have a broader focus on Maths, Science as well as offering an equal preference to Arts, Languages and Humanities. This allows for a more balanced, wholesome and inclusive education and making students university ready with a rigorous focus on English.
- **Comprehensive foundation:** The CISCE curriculum enables a child to pose questions by offering an experiential approach to learning thus broadening their understanding. The transfer is no longer a one-way lecture type approach but a more proactive discussion based one.
- **Growth opportunities:** Exposure to the best teaching methodologies across the world. In addition, prepares students for a corporate career in high school itself. The immense focus on English, in turn trains CISCE students for competitive examinations like TOEFL and IELTS.
- **Practical approach:** The focus of CISCE has always been to go beyond the textbooks and actually implement things on one's own in labs and gain a practical

perspective. In addition, a heavy weightage is given to project work, research, group assignments and internal assessments thus improving a student's practical learning.

The board has been evolving over the years and the latest change has been the introduction of additional subjects and compartmental exams for the students. The exam pattern has brought in a second chance for students to re-appear for a subject in case he or she doesn't do well in the first attempt. In addition, all the ICSE and ISC candidates are to compulsorily study the prescribed plays, poetry and prose by Shakespeare.

With all the positives, there is one major misconception plaguing CISCE of being more difficult than other curricula. In fact the content prepared under CISCE has enough depth allowing students to be better prepared for entrance examinations.

Assessments

ICSE

The marking scheme of ICSE is very simple. There are a total of 3 groups that students have to select subjects from. The following table shows the percentage of internal and external marks allotted to each subject. Please note that in Group 3, the subjects have equal marks allotted for both internal and external exams.

Group 1:

S. No.	Subject Name	Marks Percentage – External Exam	Marks Percentage – Internal Exam
1	English	80 %	20 %
2	A Second Language	80 %	20 %

3	History, Civics, and Geography	80 %	20 %
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Group 2:

S. No.	Subject Name	Marks Percentage – External Exam	Marks Percentage – Internal Exam
1	Mathematics	80 %	20 %
2	Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)	80 %	20 %
3	Economics	80 %	20 %
4	Commercial Studies	80 %	20 %
5	A Modern Foreign Language	80 %	20 %
6	A Classical Language	80 %	20 %
7	Environmental Science	80 %	20 %

Group 3:

S. No.	Subject Name	Marks Percentage – External Exam	Marks Percentage – Internal Exam
1	Computer Applications	50 %	50 %
2	Economic Applications	50 %	50 %
3	Commercial Applications	50 %	50 %
4	Art	50 %	50 %
5	Performing Arts	50 %	50 %
6	Home Science	50 %	50 %
7	Cookery	50 %	50 %
8	Fashion Designing	50 %	50 %
9	Physical Education	50 %	50 %

10	Yoga	50 %	50 %
11	Technical Drawing Applications	50 %	50 %
12	Environmental Applications	50 %	50 %
13	A Modern Foreign Language	50 %	50 %

As per the regulations published by the board, from 2020, any student writing the ICSE exam the minimum pass percentage will be 33% for each subject. This is as per the notification.

ISC

Marking or grading scheme in any board is one of the most important aspects that every counsellor needs to understand for effective guidance. You will constantly get students who would have either changed boards or might be looking to change boards. In this regard, it is important to understand the marking scheme of each board. In subsequent sections, we will also learn about conversion of grades from one board to another.

The board has recently notified some changes vis-a-vis the marking scheme of class 12 Board exams. As per the new scheme, the ratio of marks between theory exam and practical exam will be 70:30 respectively. Initially, the theory exams and the practical exams were both held for 50 marks each. The changes will be visible in the following subjects:

- Computer Science

- Fashion Designing
- Physical Education
- Indian Classical Music (Hindustani)
- Indian Classical Music (Carnatic Style)
- Western Music.

Also, both the papers (theory and practical) will be held for a duration of three hours. As per the regulations published by the board, from 2020, for any student writing the ISC exam, the minimum pass percentage will be 35% for each subject. This is as per the notification.

Let us now look at how CISCE prepares its students for University admissions both in India as well as abroad. As per a 2016 statistic shared by the CISCE board, out of the 25,700 candidates that appeared for IIT JEE Mains exam, a staggering 21.6% of them qualified for the Advanced level. In the 2018 annual ICSE examinations, within Mumbai itself, 13 students scored above 99%, a drastic improvement from 2017, where only 1 student from ICSE featured in the board's merit list, making entry into local colleges easier. In addition, as CISCE prepares students rigorously in English, they have a definitive edge when it comes to college applications.

Section - E

State Boards

Unlike the other education boards that we have discussed so far, the largest number of students in India are enrolled in State board affiliated schools. This figure amounts to over 1.3 crore students as of 2017! That in itself is a huge number to begin with. Each state in India has its own Board of Education which is based on the State's educational approach and directive. Currently there are over 52 such sanctioned State Boards in the country with a state having more than one sanctioned state board. Usually the boards differ in their approach towards education but subjects are more or less similar across boards with the medium of communication in the specific vernacular language.

Among all the state boards, the boards of Maharashtra (in pic), Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh possess a higher reputation. Most of the state boards hold exams at Grade 10 and 12 whereas a few conduct exams at the primary and mid-level as well.



Some of the unique qualities that set the State Boards education stand apart are:

- High relevance to the State
- Cost of education being lesser as compared to other curricula on offer making it affordable for a large section of the society

However, state boards offer a restrictive view of education and thus it may seem outdated to many. In order to address this issue, education boards across the country, are bringing in progressive measures to stay relevant and ahead of the pack. The recently launched Maharashtra International Education Board (MIEB) by the government of Maharashtra is all set to cater to non-English medium schools and will include 13 Marathi schools working under it bringing in a bold step to provide global education to local students. The Haryana government has also been initiating newer reforms like the Saksham Ghoshna initiative which is aimed at achieving 80% grade level competence among government school students by the end of 2019.

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