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The IB: a historical perspective

The IB Mission

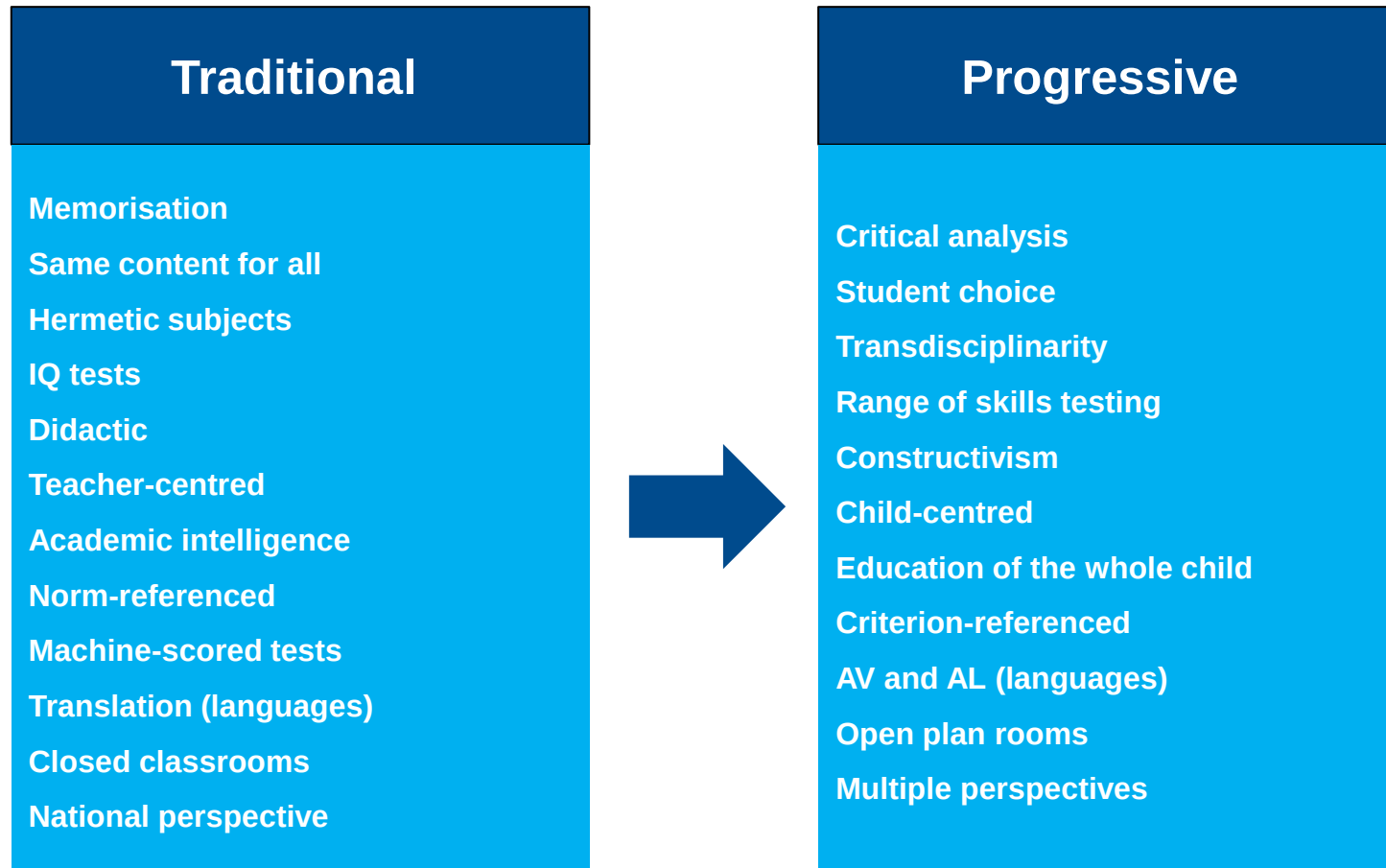
The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

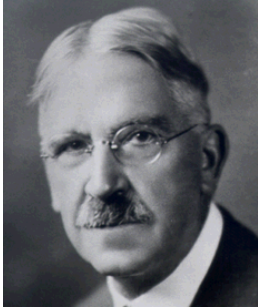
These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.



Education trends (by the 1960s)



Key influential educationalists



John Dewey

1859 – 1952

American philosopher, psychologist and educational reformer

Key insight:

The importance of tapping into students' natural curiosity



A.S. Neill

1883 – 1973

Scottish progressive educator, author and founder of Summerhill School

Key insight:

Personal freedom for children – students developing in an environment free of constraints



Jean Piaget

1896 – 1980

Swiss developmental psychologist and philosopher

Director, International Bureau of Education, 1929 – 1967

Key insight:

Academic intelligence develops in children through a cognitive cycle



Jerome Bruner

1915 – present

American psychologist and author of *The Process of Education*

Key insight:

Learning by doing and self-discovery of information makes students better problem solvers



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Building the foundations of the IB: 1962 - 1975

1962

- Atlantic College founded
- International Schools Association (ISA) conference of teachers of social studies in international recommends that International Passport to Higher Education be called “International Baccalaureate”, following Bob Leach report

1968

- IB Organization registered in Geneva

1970

- First official IB Diploma Programme exams taken by students at 12 schools from 10 countries – including two state schools (Germany and France)

1970 -
1980

- Recognition of the IB programmes negotiated in many countries

1975

- North American Regional Office opens in New York



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Early IB influencers



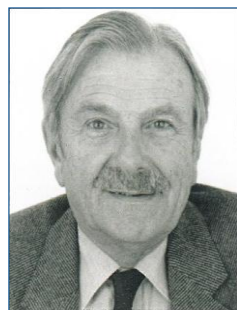
Robert Leach

The original promoter of the IB

Organised the Conference of Internationally-minded Schools (1962) where the term “International Baccalaureate” was first mentioned

Developed a contemporary history syllabus and exam, which promoted critical inquiry

This pedagogy was applied to all IB Diploma Programme subjects and later to the MYP and PYP



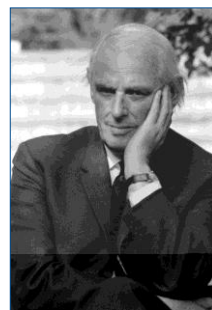
John Goormaghtigh

Belgian lawyer

Treasurer, International Schools Association (1957 – 1962)
Chair, Board of the International School of Geneva (1960 – 1966)

President, International Schools Examination Syndicate (1965 – 1967)

President, IB Council of Foundation (1968 – 1980)



Alex Peterson

Instrumental in the formation of the International Baccalaureate Organization (1968)

Driving force behind IB curriculum design

First Director General (1968 – 1977)

First honorary member of the organisation's Council of Foundation (1983 – 1988)



Kurt Hahn

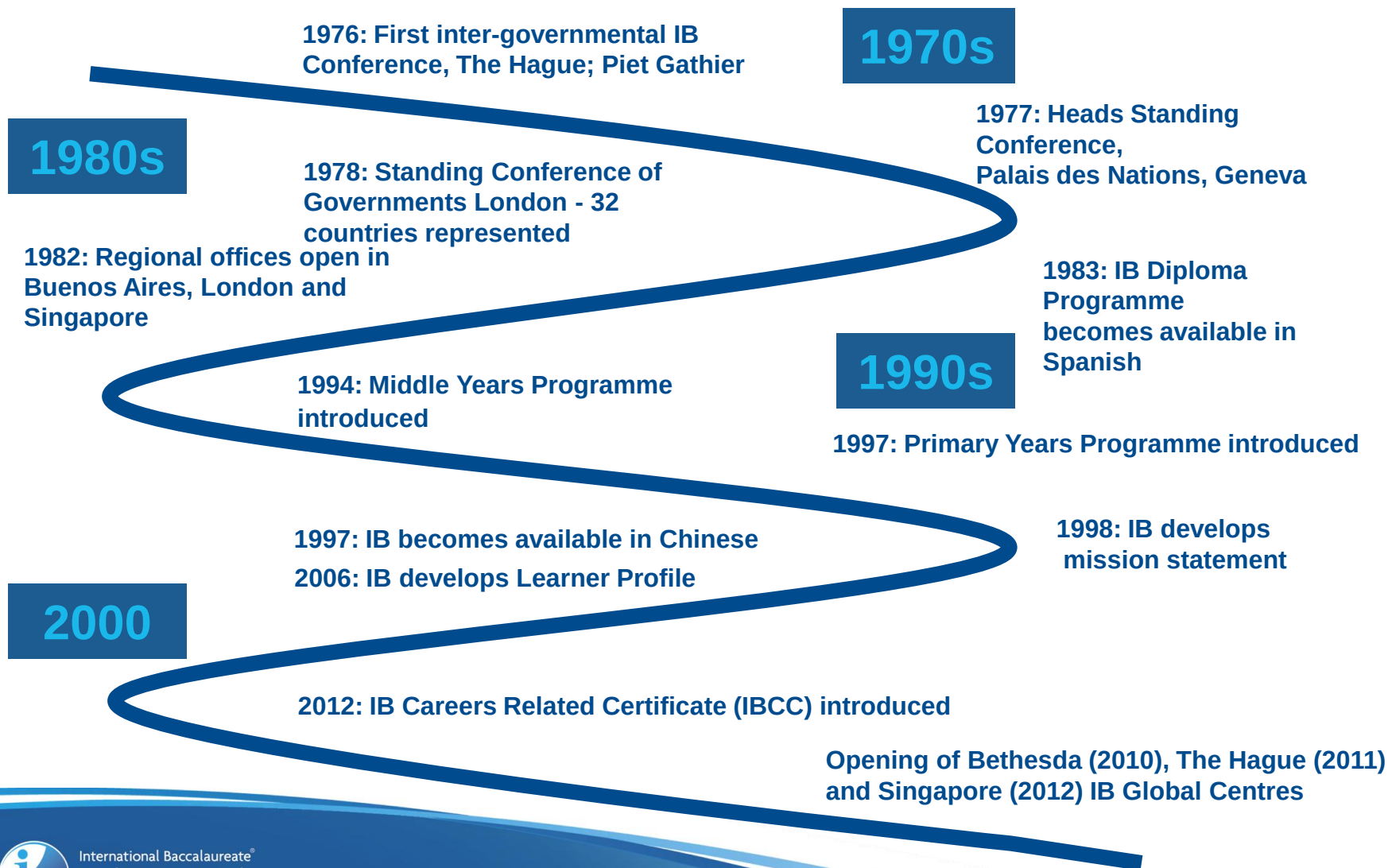
Founder of Atlantic College in 1962 (Wales)

His theory of “Outward Bound”
Four Pillars inspired the CAS element of the IB DP:

1. physical fitness
2. expedition of challenge and adventure
3. project to develop self-reliance and self-discipline
4. sense of compassion through service



The IB journey continued: 1975 onwards



Diploma Programme curriculum development

Alec Peterson authors:
Arts and Science in the Sixth Form
(Oxford Department of Educational Studies, 1960)

Ideas incorporated into the IB curriculum:

- Broader education with some degree of specialisation
- Ethics in science
- Humanities specialists ought to know about “the beauty of mathematics”
- Critical analysis and learning to learn rather than to accumulate encyclopaedic knowledge and learning through memorisation
- Moving from three specialised subjects to four, spread over humanities and sciences

Philosophy, structure, content and Pedagogy
of the IB Diploma Programme developed

1962

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) introduced

1967



Creative, Action, Service (CAS) introduced

1968

Extended Essay introduced

1974

Middle Years Programme

1980

International Schools Association Conference (ISAC) at Moshi IS, Tanzania recommends the development of a pre-IB course to meet the needs of students aged 11-16 years with a focus on six 'needs':

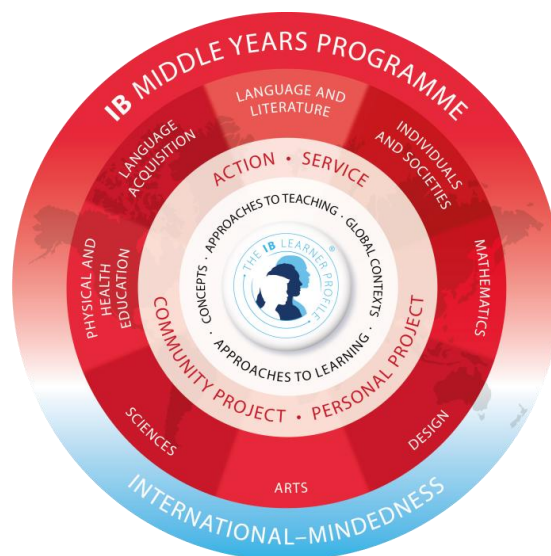
1. GLOBAL
2. INTELLECTUAL
3. PERSONAL
4. PHYSICAL
5. CREATIVE
6. SOCIAL

1992

IB formally takes over responsibility for ISAC

1994

IB introduces the Middle Years Programme (MYP)



Primary Years Programme

1990

Idea for a programme for students aged 3-12 is first discussed at the ECIS (European Council of International Schools) Conference in Rome

1992

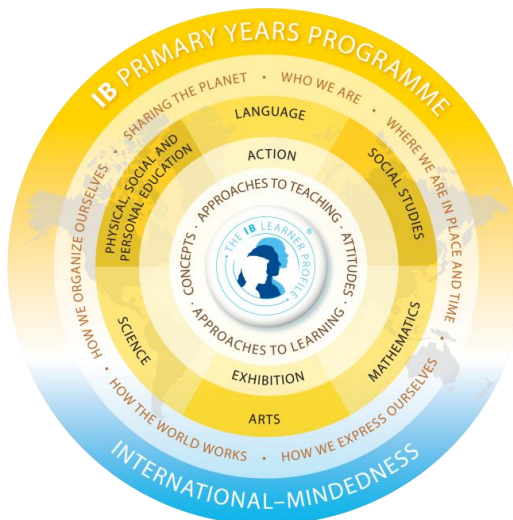
Frankfurt IS steering committee, led by Kevin Bartlett (Vienna IS), started the International Schools' Curriculum Project (ISCP) ages 3-12

1997

IB introduces the Primary Years Programme (PYP)

Curriculum based around six transdisciplinary themes:

1. **WHO WE ARE**
2. **WHERE WE ARE IN PLACE AND TIME**
3. **HOW WE EXPRESS OURSELVES**
4. **HOW THE WORLD WORKS**
5. **HOW WE ORGANIZE OURSELVES**
6. **SHARING THE PLANET**



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Career-related Certificate



2000s

IB identifies a need to develop a career-related approach to learning

Result of global trends and attempts to bring academic and career-related study closer together

Recognition that the development of an IB career related certificate to support local vocational/career-related studies would broaden access to an IB education

2010

IB pilots IBCC in schools around the world

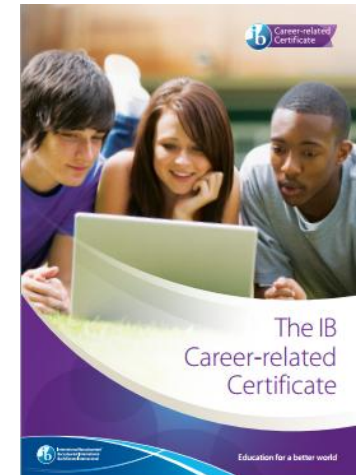
The IBCC incorporates the vision and educational principles of the IB into a unique programme specifically developed for students who wish to engage in career-related learning

Flexible educational framework allows schools to meet the needs, backgrounds and contexts of students

Each school creates its own distinctive version of the IBCC

2012

IB introduces the IBCC



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Some IB statistics: then and now

1971

**681 DP exam
candidates**

**Estimate of
749 students**

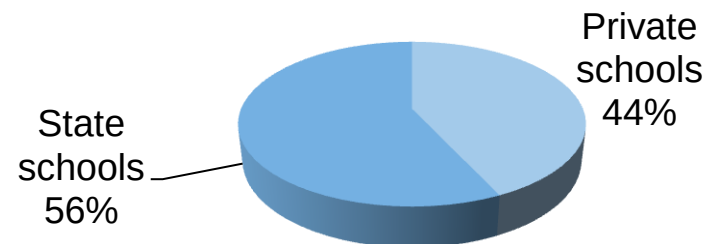
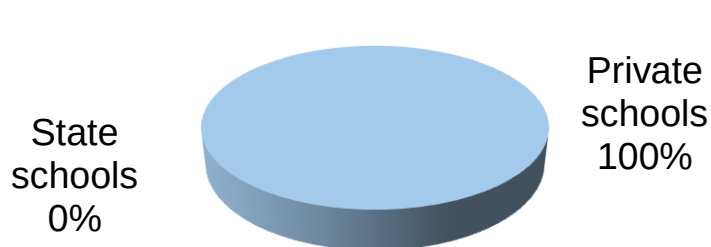
7 schools

2014

**135,849 DP
exam candidates**

**Estimated # of
1,100,000 students**

3,789 schools





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IB History timeline

