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# The IB: a historical perspective

# The IB Mission

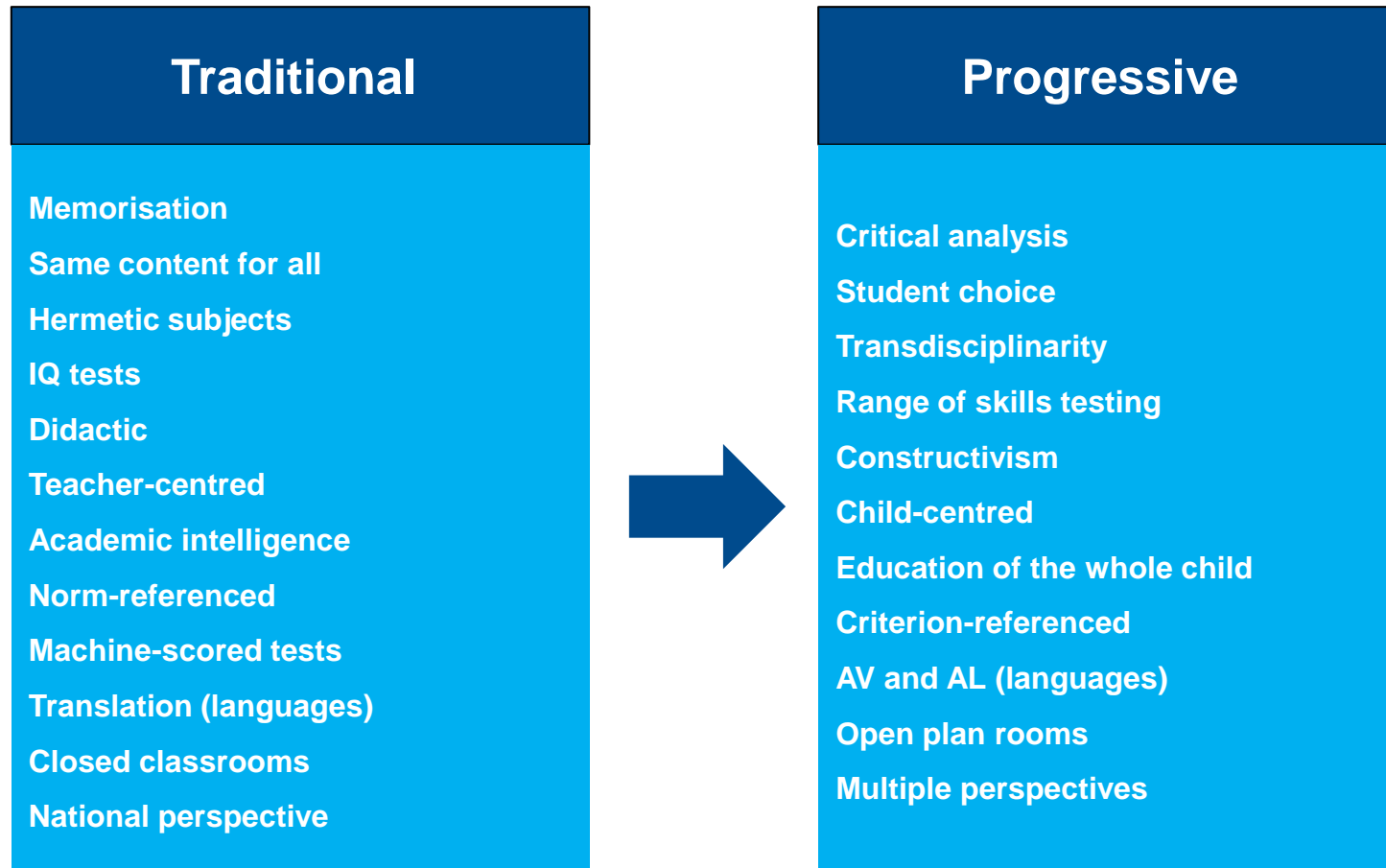
**The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.**

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

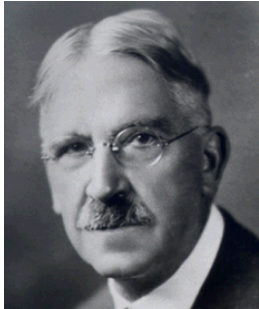
**These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.**



# 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



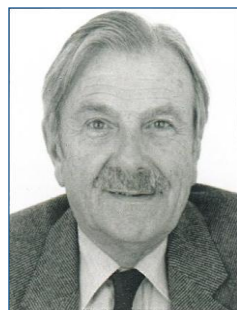
**Robert Leach**

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



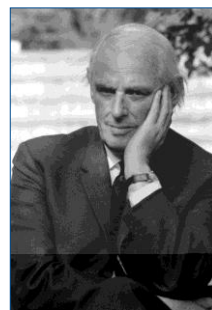
**John Goormaghtigh**

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**

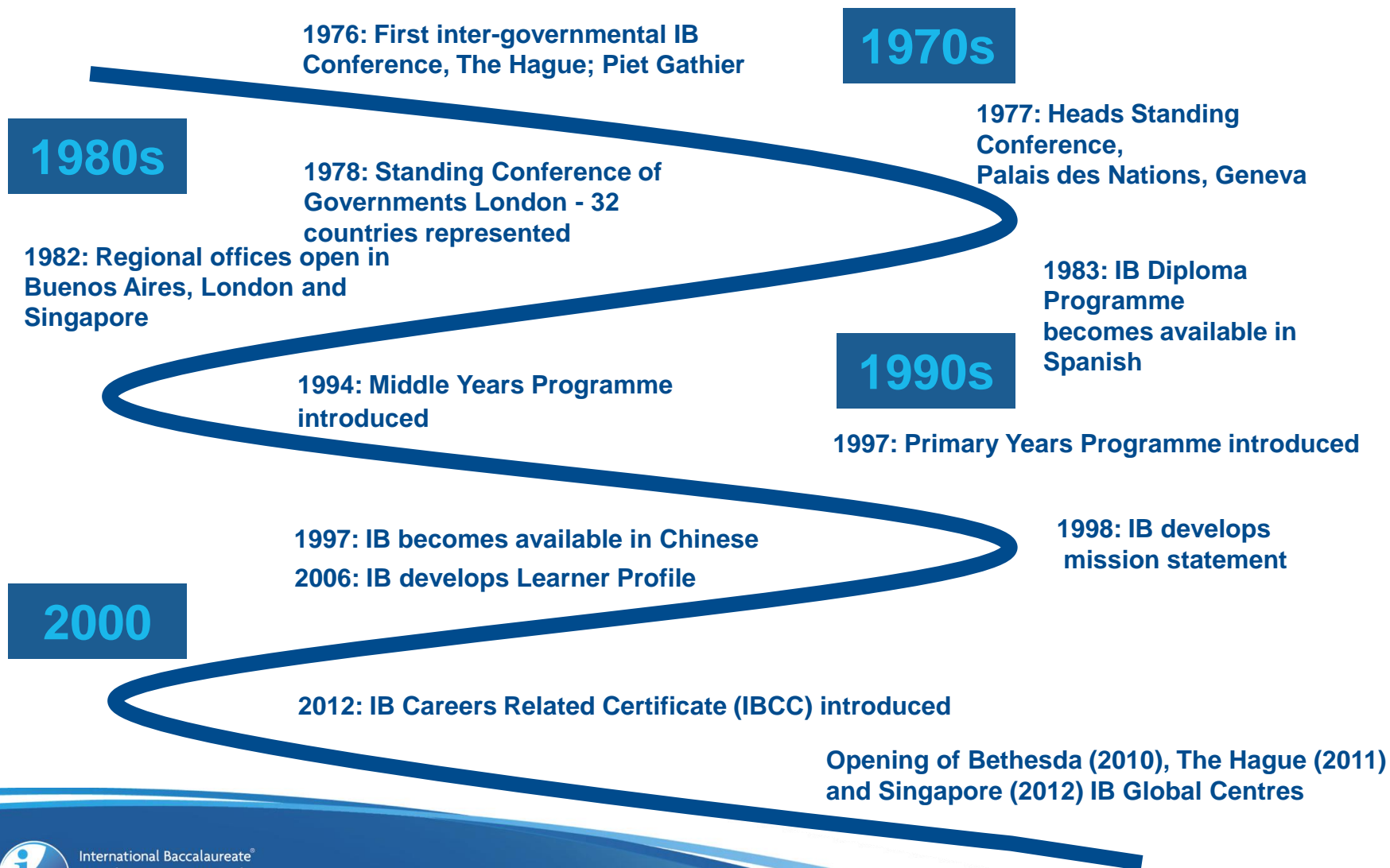
Founder of Atlantic College in 1962 (Wales)

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':

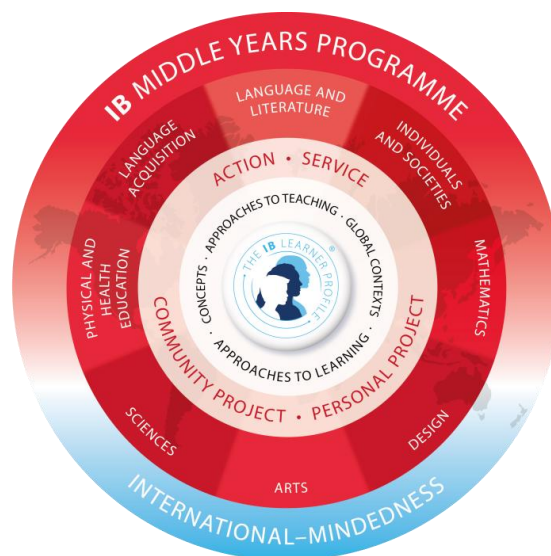
1. **GLOBAL**
2. **INTELLECTUAL**
3. **PERSONAL**
4. **PHYSICAL**
5. **CREATIVE**
6. **SOCIAL**

**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**

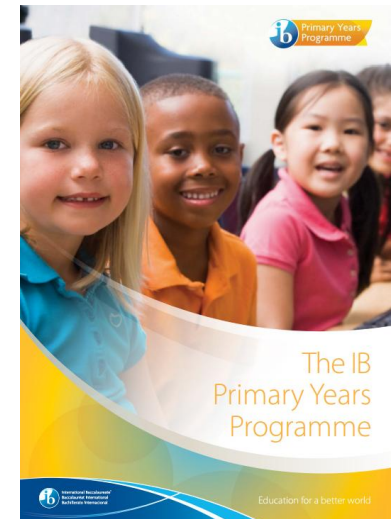
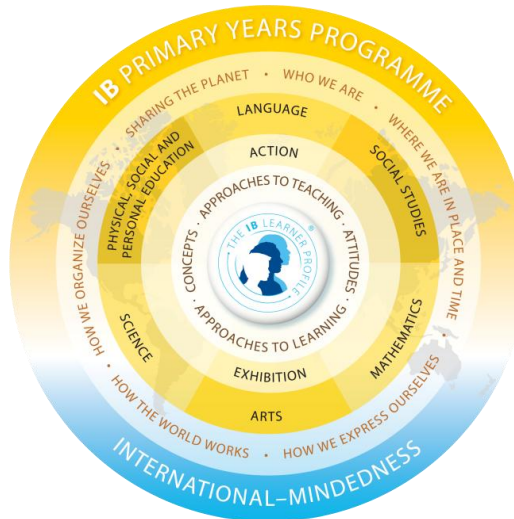
Frankfurt IS steering committee, led by Kevin Bartlett (Vienna IS), started the International Schools' Curriculum Project (ISCP) ages 3-12

**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

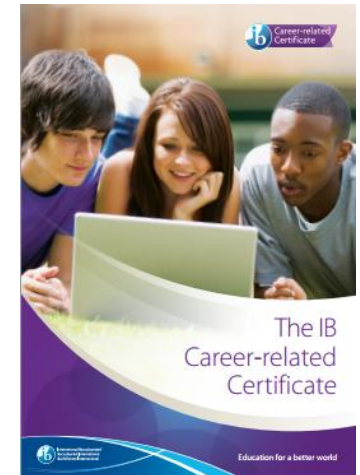
The IBCC incorporates the vision and educational principles of the IB into a unique programme specifically developed for students who wish to engage in career-related learning

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**

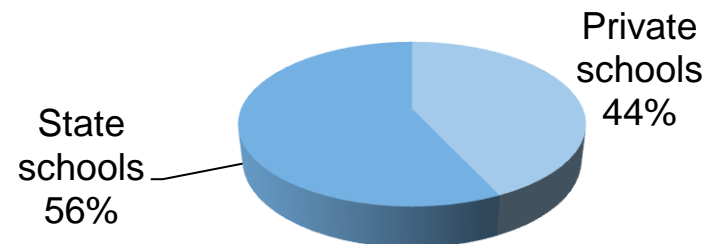
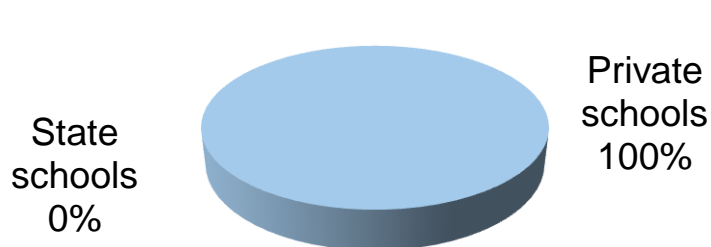
**7 schools**

**2014**

**135,849 DP  
exam candidates**

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

**3,789 schools**







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# IB History timeline

