



International Baccalaureate®  
Baccalauréat International  
Bachillerato Internacional

# 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.**

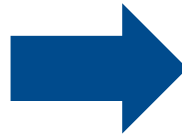
**To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.**

**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)

## Traditional

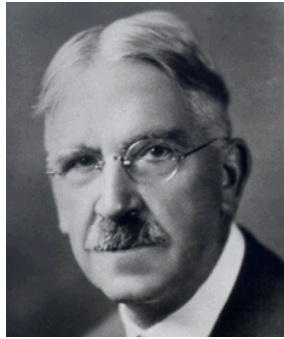
Memorisation  
Same content for all  
Hermetic subjects  
IQ tests  
Didactic  
Teacher-centred  
Academic intelligence  
Norm-referenced  
Machine-scored tests  
Translation (languages)  
Closed classrooms  
National perspective



## Progressive

Critical analysis  
Student choice  
Transdisciplinarity  
Range of skills testing  
Constructivism  
Child-centred  
Education of the whole child  
Criterion-referenced  
AV and AL (languages)  
Open plan rooms  
Multiple perspectives

# 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

# 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

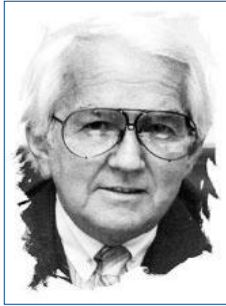
- Recognition of the IB programmes negotiated in many countries

1975

- North American Regional Office opens in New York



# Early IB influencers



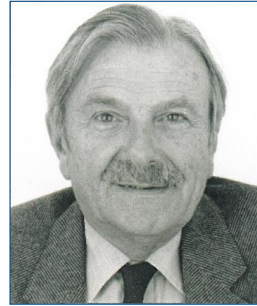
**Robert Leach**

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**

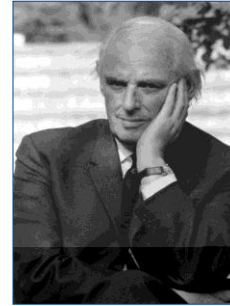
Belgian lawyer

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

1970s

1976: First inter-governmental IB Conference, The Hague; Piet Gathier

1977: Heads Standing Conference, Palais des Nations, Geneva

1980s

1978: Standing Conference of Governments London - 32 countries represented

1982: Regional offices open in Buenos Aires, London and Singapore

1983: IB Diploma Programme becomes available in Spanish

1990s

1994: Middle Years Programme introduced

1997: Primary Years Programme introduced

1997: IB becomes available in Chinese

1998: IB develops mission statement

2000

2006: IB develops Learner Profile

2011: IB Careers Related Certificate (IBCC) introduced

2011: Opening of The Hague and Bethesda Global Centres



# Diploma Programme curriculum development

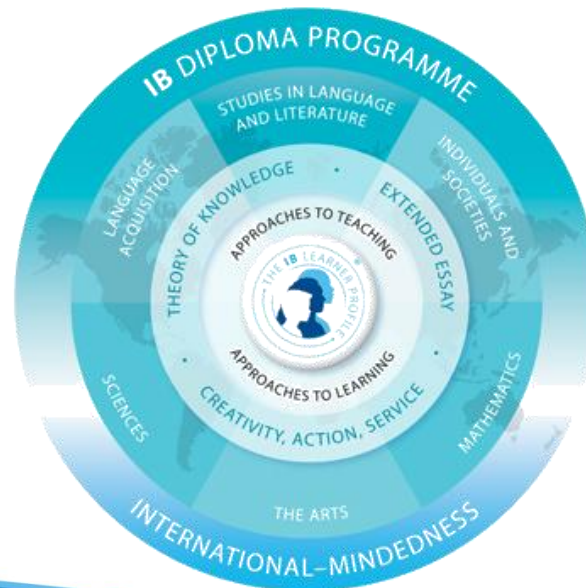
Alec Peterson authors:  
*Arts and Science in the Sixth Form*  
(Oxford Department of Educational Studies, 1960)

## 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



Creative, Action, Service (CAS) introduced

1968

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) introduced

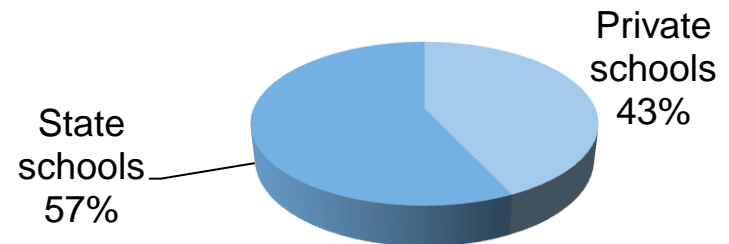
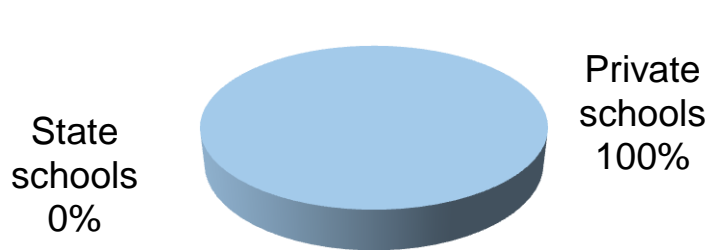
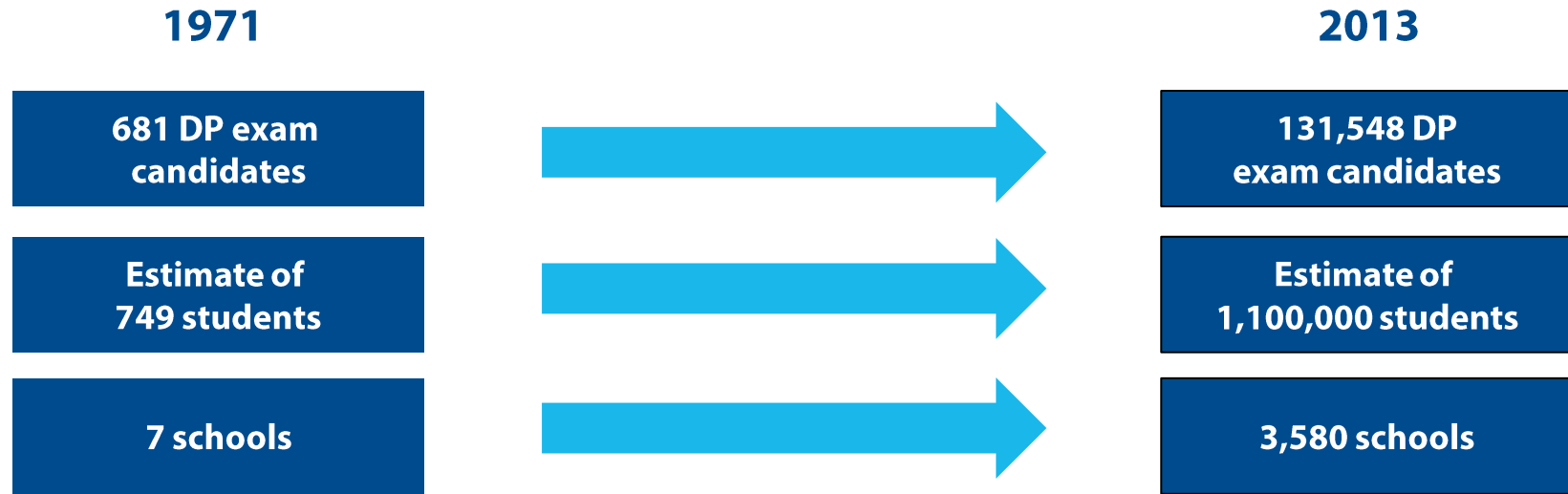
1967

Extended Essay introduced

1974



# Some IB statistics: then and now





International Baccalaureate®  
Baccalauréat International  
Bachillerato Internacional

**Visionaries**



John Goormaghtigh, Desmond Cole-Baker, Alec Peterson, Gérard Renaud

**Brand evolution**



International Baccalaureate®  
Baccalauréat International  
Bachillerato Internacional

1968 **Founding of the IB**  
Geneva - 25 October

1970 **First official exams**  
11 IB World Schools

1968 **English and French**  
IB official languages

1968 **Diploma Programme**

1977 **Heads Standing Conference**

1978 **Standing Conference of Governments**  
contributed to the IB

58  
IB World Schools  
27  
countries

1983 **Spanish**  
IB official language

1996 **Mission Statement**

283  
IB World Schools  
53  
countries

1994 **Middle Years Programme**

1997 **Primary Years Programme**

946  
IB World Schools  
100  
countries

2004 **DP Online courses**

2009 **100,000 DP exam candidates**

2011 **Career-related Certificate**

3,000  
IB World Schools

2,872  
IB World Schools  
138  
countries

1968 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 2000 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 2010 11

**Directors General**

Alec Peterson

Gérard Renaud

Roger Peel

Thomas Hagoort

Bengt Thelin

Greg Crafter

Derek Blackman

George Walker

Monique Seefried

Jeffrey Beard

Carol Bellamy

**Chairs of the Board of Governors**

John Goormaghtigh

Seydou Madani Sy

Piet Gathier

IBNA Regional Office 1975 - 2010

New York

Examination Centres

University of London

University of Bath

Cardiff IB Curriculum and Assessment Centre 1989 - 2011, IB Assessment Centre 2011 -

Buenos Aires

IBLA Regional Office 1982 - 2008 IB Office 2008 -

Singapore

IBAP Regional Office 1982-2012 IB Global Centre 2012 -

Geneva IB Foundation Office 1968 - present, IBAEM Regional Office 1986 - 2010

**Global Centres and Regional Offices**

■ active □ closed

1968-2013 | 45 years of education for a better world