



COUNCIL FOR THE INDIAN SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

PRAGATI HOUSE, 3rd FLOOR, 47-48, NEHRU PLACE, NEW DELHI - 110 505.

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Chief Executive & Secretary

GERRY ARATHOON

M.A., B.Ed.

CISCE/RDCD/2017

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To : All Heads of Affiliated Schools

Dear Principal,

**SUB: Clarity regarding the CISCE Curriculum and the proposed assessment for
Classes V & VIII based on it**

This is further to my letters to you dated 30th November/9th December, 2016, regarding the Curriculum prepared by the Council for Preschool to Class VIII and its implementation. A copy of the curriculum has already been sent to all Council affiliated schools and is also available on the Council's website.

As you are aware, the Council has designed and developed a broad-based Curriculum for Preschool to Class VIII, to facilitate an upward mobility in the teaching and learning process and to lead children in a graded and progressive manner to derive full benefit of the ICSE and ISC syllabi.

The curriculum is child centered and encourages an integrated approach, where children see linkages across various curricular areas and are able to relate classroom learning to real life situations. Taking into account different learning styles, the curriculum suggests a range of pedagogical processes which can be adapted by the teacher, based on their needs and contexts and the requirements of the children. The curriculum focuses on learning by doing and learning through interaction with others, giving children opportunities to construct their own knowledge. Emphasis has also been placed in the curriculum on development of life skills. The curriculum encourages an inclusive approach and aims at bringing out the potential of each child.

To facilitate proper implementation of the curriculum, the Council has already started the process of conducting workshops for Master Trainers, who will in turn train teachers at the regional level, thereby ensuring that affiliated schools are given an opportunity to benefit from this training and to effectively transact the curriculum in the classroom.

With the introduction of the CISCE curriculum, it becomes imperative to ensure that progression of students against the defined learning outcomes is carefully monitored. The Council plans to do this through an assessment which will be conducted at the levels of Class V and Class VIII in four subjects – English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.



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This assessment is envisaged to be a non-threatening diagnostic assessment unrelated to classroom academic scores, hence, no prior preparation on the part of the students is required. It is NOT a Board Examination. The assessment would be **student-oriented** and will be designed to **assess the student's understanding of concepts** based on the newly introduced curriculum. It will put in place strong learning foundations so that both the ICSE and the ISC Examinations become **less demanding and more stress-free** for students.

The assessment will determine the extent to which student learning is in accordance with the new curriculum and will **identify their strengths, skills and areas of improvement and thus help devise subsequent measures to bring about improved levels of learning and understanding.**

The Council is currently discussing the modalities of implementation of the process of assessment. Schools will be intimated of the details in due course of time.

The Council has received certain queries regarding the Curriculum and its assessment from some of the affiliated schools. To address their queries, a summarisation of their questions and our response to the same is tabulated below:

S. No.	Question	Answer
1.	Is the assessment a "Board" examination?	No, it is not a "Board" examination.
2.	Is the study of Sanskrit (Classes V-VIII), Performing Arts (Classes I-VIII) and Yoga (Classes I-VIII) compulsory?	No, these are optional subjects.
3.	Is Physical Education compulsory for Classes I-VIII?	Yes, as per the ICSE Syllabuses and Regulations.
4.	Is adoption of the CISCE curriculum for Preschool to Class VIII compulsory?	Yes, the curriculum is compulsory as it provides a uniform base for all CISCE schools to follow. However, it may be complemented by additional content/methodologies currently being transacted and practiced by the schools.
5.	Do children need to be separately prepared for this assessment?	Other than regular classroom learning, no separate preparation is required for this assessment.
6.	Will this lead to dependence or need for private tuitions and guide books?	Since no specific preparation is required for the assessment, there is no reason for dependence or need for private tuitions or guide books.



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7.	Will this assessment lead to higher levels of stress and anxiety among students?	No, this will not lead to any stress or anxiety as the outcome of this assessment does not determine pass/fail/promotion, etc. It will in fact identify their strengths, skills and areas of improvement and thus help devise subsequent measures to bring about improved levels of learning and understanding.
8.	Will the assessment test the teachers?	No, the assessment will not test the teachers but will help teachers in identifying areas where their students may require further clarity of concepts

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

Gerry Arathoon -
Chief Executive and Secretary