

COUNCIL FOR THE INDIAN SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS (CISCE)



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PRESS & MEDIA COVERAGE

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MEDIA LINKS

1. **Times of India** - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/talk-to-parents-to-stem-post-icse-exodus-council/articleshow/102095616.cms>
2. **The Telegraph** - <https://www.telegraphindia.com/edugraph/call-to-halt-shift-to-cbse-after-class-x/cid/1954284>

— 'NEP 2020 IS BEING IMPLEMENTED FROM FOUNDATION STAGE TO CLASS XII' —

'Qns of 10 marks in critical thinking to be included in classes X, XII in 2024'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Questions of 10 marks would be included in the question papers set for the ICSE (class X) and ISC (class XII) 2024 examination, Gerry Arathoon, the Chief Executive and Secretary of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) said.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is being implemented from foundation stage to class XII. According to Arathoon, one major change that will be brought under NEP is assessment.

"At least 10 marks will be there for critical thinking from the 2024 examination because we do not want to shock the system and trouble our students. Critical thinking and application-based questions will be gradually introduced. Each year we will increase the percentage. Now it is 10 marks, maybe in 2025, it will be 15 or 20 marks. This will be for both ICSE and ISC," he said.

Arathoon along with



Gerry Arathoon along with CISCE Chairman G Immanuel and members of executive committee of the CISCE were present at the programme

the CISCE Chairman Dr G Immanuel and members of the executive committee of the CISCE were present in Kolkata for the 'School Leadership Training Programme' conducted by them in conjunction with the National Institute of Education International (NIEI), Singapore.

The objective of the programme was to enlarge the educational capacities and enhance the competencies of the school leader for effective implementation of NEP in

schools.

They had at least 60 participants which included principals, vice-principals, headmasters, headmistresses and academic in-charges from different parts of the country.

The Chairman said that to maintain the quality education, this 5-day training programme is being conducted. "We are looking at the best practices across the country and the world. For instance, we have tied up with Singapore, our next move is to also look

at Finland for best practices there," he said.

With regards to the class X board examination, Arathoon said: "The Ministry has not announced anything. As of today, till 2024 we will have all examinations, both class X and XII. But in 2025, as soon as the ministry we will take it forward from there."

On questions as to why many students of the Council are migrating to CBSE after class X, the officials said that it is just a mindset that they want

“Each year we will increase the percentage. Now it is 10 marks, maybe in 2025, it will be 15 or 20 marks. This will be for both ICSE and ISC

to shift to CBSE after class X.

"They feel that classes XI and XII will do better in CBSE. But that's not true, it's just a mindset. Our children are doing very well in class X, why should they want to leave this particular board," Arathoon said.

However, to ensure that this migration does not take place, he said that they have asked schools to conduct parent-teacher meetings, especially the science and maths teacher to explain that the syllabus is the same. There are more than 400 CISCE affiliated schools in the state out of which at least 250 are in Kolkata.

CISCE

It depends on education ministry whether Class X boards will be held after 2024: Council chief

Call to halt shift to CBSE after Class X

JHINUK MAZUMDAR

Calcutta: A section of the better students from ICSE schools leave for CBSE institutions after Class X, the ICSE council chief conceded in Calcutta Monday.

"I won't say it is much (in numbers)... What I hear from schools (across the country) is that some of the good students are leaving... It is sad because CBSE is getting ready-made students," said Gerry Arathoon, chief executive and secretary of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE).

The council conducts ICSE (Class X) and ISC (Class XII) exams.

Arathoon said the children's "mindset" is that they would do better if they study under the CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) in plus-II.

"They feel in XI and XII they would do better in CBSE. That is not true. It's just a mindset," said Arathoon.

When Metro asked how the council intended to arrest this migration from ICSE to CBSE after Class X, Arathoon said schools ought to conduct parent-teacher meetings and organise orientation sessions for parents.

"I always tell them (schools and principals) to have parent-teacher meetings and let the subject teacher explain, especially science and math teachers, that the syllabus is the same," said Arathoon.

"You are providing very good education. Till Class X you prepared the students. So what is the problem? Why are they leaving? You need to have orientation programmes for parents," Arathoon said while speaking to this newspaper on the sidelines of a council programme for school heads from across the country.

Arathoon said ICSE schools' insistence on strict attendance also makes some students feel other boards are easier to handle. "CISCE schools are



Gerry Arathoon, chief executive and secretary of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), and (right) Jimmy Tan, a resource person from the National Institute of Education (NIE) International, Singapore, at the training programme in the council's Elgin Road office on Monday. Picture by Bishwanup Dutta

very strict about attendance. Most of them are missionary schools, so discipline is there. They want students to attend school. Whereas other schools (affiliated to other boards) may be lenient."

What he did not say in as many words was that some of the other boards allow students more time to attend coaching classes.

G. Immanuel, chairman, CISCE, said: "The people's perception is that CBSE is the one conducting entrance ex-

aminations based on the CBSE syllabus. It is not true. In fact, the NTA (National Testing Agency) takes the common syllabus from all boards for its question papers. It is not based on any particular board. It is a combination of all the boards together. Therefore, there is no need for children to move from any particular board to another board. Every board has its value."

Many schools following the ICSE-ISC curricula said a certain percentage of their stu-

dents leave for CBSE schools after Class X every year.

"Some students who concentrate only on joint entrance examination and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Neet) believe a myth that the CBSE will train them better. But the syllabus is same and ISC students crack these exams, too," said Terence John, principal, Julien Day School Kalyani.

Rupkatha Sarkar, principal, La Martiniere for Girls, said: "All our seats (in Class

XI) are filled with our own students. In a batch of 188, probably four or five would want to leave thinking they would be better trained for engineering or medicine. But even there they find it difficult to adjust and want to come back to us."

Damayanti Mukherjee, principal of Modern High School for Girls, said some students feel the "CBSE approach in Classes XI and XII is aligned towards competitive exams".

ICSE fate 'hinges' on Centre

JHINUK MAZUMDAR

Calcutta: The head of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), which conducts the ICSE (Class X) and ISC (Class XII) exams, has said the fate of the Class X board exams from 2025 will depend on the Centre's decision.

"As of today, till '24 we will have normal examinations, Class X and Class XII. But in '25, as soon as the ministry decides we will change," Gerry Arathoon, chief executive and secretary of the CISCE, said on Monday.

He was responding to a question on whether the Class X exams will be abolished in 2025. "The NEP (National Education Policy) says there will be one board exam, after Class XII. They also talk about the semester system, but nothing has been decided yet," Arathoon said.

"Right now, Class X and Class XII (board exams) are existing. As soon as the ministry (Union ministry of education) decides that there will be one board examination, we will take it from there... Remember we are a private national board, so we will wait for instructions from the ministry," Arathoon said. The ministry, he said, has not yet announced anything on the abolition of the Class X board exams.

"But only when the ministry decides... there is no written instruction (so far). From '25, if the ministry gives us instructions not to follow the old pattern, and the new pattern will only be the Class XII examinations, we will follow that," Arathoon said.

The CISCE on Monday inaugurated a five-day workshop on "school leadership training programme" at the council's office on Elgin Road.

In 2024, both Class X (ICSE) and Class XII (ISC) exams

will have 10 marks of "critical-thinking questions" in major subjects.

Arathoon said many children now reproduce what they have learnt by rote and forget what they have studied once the exams are over. "We don't want that to happen," he said.

He also said the council will "set questions that even average or below-average students will be able to attempt. We prepare in such a manner that below-average (students) can answer."

Arathoon clarified that even if the Class X board exams were to be abolished, there would still be school-based exams. The council will send guidelines to schools on the Class X exams.

"If Class X (board exams) is abolished, we will give them guidelines. We will prepare them (the students), but it (the exam) will be conducted by the schools," Arathoon said on the sidelines of the workshop.

From 2025, the council will send question papers to schools for the annual examinations in Classes IX and XI.

"Some schools set easy question papers and some very difficult. So there will be parity in the question paper (once the council sends the questions)," Arathoon said.

Sixty school principals, vice-principals and academic coordinators from across the country are attending the workshop, which is being conducted by two resource persons from the National Institute of Education (NIE) International, Singapore, Jimmy Tan and Chan Vee Bun.

"The training programme is based on the NEP 2020," said Arathoon.

"We have started this training programme to impart best practices that are going around different parts of the world," said CISCE chairman G. Immanuel.

Talk to parents to stem post-ICSE exodus: Council


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Kolkata: An increasing tendency in the past few years of students migrating from CISCE schools to CBSE schools after class X has prompted a rethink by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE). Its chief executive & secretary Gerry Arathoon on Monday expressed his concern about the issue. It has asked schools to conduct parent-teacher meetings to sensitize them not to change boards as they have parity with the CBSE class XI and XII course curriculum.


In the last academic session, number of students appearing for class X and class XII boards bore evidence to this switch. This year, 2.3 lakh students appeared for class X boards (ICSE), while in class XII boards (ISC), only 98,505 appeared.

CISCE organised a school leadership training programme for 5 days starting from July 24 in collaboration with National Institute of Education International (NIEI), Singapore. At the inauguration, Arathoon said, "There are many students


WHAT SCHOOLS SAY

 We guide kids before they choose subject combinations for class XI. They get a clear idea for each subject from external counselling experts

Damayanti Mukherjee | PRINCIPAL, MODERN HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

 We start sensitizing students, parents from class IX and try to change their misconceptions that studying in CBSE would be beneficial – **Rodney Borneo**

PRINCIPAL, ST AUGUSTINE'S DAY SCHOOL, SHYAMNAGAR

 Every year, we get many students from CISCE as they feel NCERT course curriculum gives them an edge in competitive exams – **Koeli Dey**

PRINCIPAL, SUSHILA BIRLA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

who want to dedicate more time to coaching classes for competitive exams by opting for those schools where they get attendance without attending regular classes. Our schools are strict about attendance. There is another group who felt it would be advantageous to get a good score in competitive exams if they shift to CBSE but this is a misconception. We have parity with CBSE in terms of course curriculum or evaluation system."

Council has started implementing NEP 2020 even though they have introduced cri-

tical and analytical questions in school level.

Future Foundation School principal Ranjan Mitter said, "After class X, some shift to other schools while we get fresh applicants in an equal number." DPS Newtown vice principal Ambica Mehera said, "There is a misconception among parents who feel kids will get extra advantage in taking NTA exams if they shift to CBSE. But many return after attending classes for a month at other schools."

Several schools have already started sensitizing students and parents on this.

CISCE