

Decoding the World's Diplomas: A Candid Look at International Curricula

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Agenda

- French Baccalaureate
- International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP)
- Global Impact Diploma (GID)
- A-levels
- Czech National Curriculum
- Q & A



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French Baccalaureate

Structure of the Bac

- Final exams occur mostly in Terminale year
- Some subjects tested in Première
- Continuous assessment (contrôle continu)



How are the marks calculated?

- 60% of the marks are based on the results of a final exam. 40% is coursework based.
- It is worth noting that there is also a final oral examination which lasts 20 minutes and consists of a presentation and a question and answer session with a panel. The topic is based on a project of the pupil's choice and the process is geared to prepare students for presentations in the world of work in order to present, argue and defend an idea.
- Subjects are coefficient-based



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French Baccalaureate

Curriculum and Grading

- French (Première)
- Philosophy (Terminale)
- History-Geography
- Modern Languages (LV1 & LV2)
- Sciences
- Physical Education
- Three / then two specialty subjects
(e.g., Math, Literature, Economics)

GRADING SCALE & U.S. EQUIVALENT		
Undergraduate Grading Scale		
Scale 1	Scale 2	U.S. Grade Equivalent
14	20	A
12	13.9	B+
11	11.9	B
10.5	10.9	B-
10.1	10.4	C+
10	-	C-
9	9.9	C-
8	8.9	D
1	7.9	D
0	-	F



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French Baccalaureate

Core

- French Literature (10)
- Philosophy (8)
- Ethics and Civics (2)
- Research Presentation (10)
- Scientific Literacy (6)
- Modern Language B (6)
- Physical Education (6)

BFI-Specific Courses

- Advanced English Literature (20)
- History-Geography (20)
- Global Studies Research Seminar (20)

Concentrations*

Students choose three concentrations in 11th grade, and continue two of them in 12th grade. The 11th-grade concentration has a weight of 8, and the two 12th-grade concentrations have weights of 16 each. Courses offered vary by school from the following:

- History, Geography, Geopolitics and Political Science
- Humanities, Literature and Philosophy
- Mathematics
- Computer Science
- Biology and Earth Science
- Physics and Chemistry
- Economics and Social Sciences
- Classics
- Art
- Engineering
- Physical Education

* Concentration subjects can be taught partly in English. In such cases, students may elect to take an additional oral exam (20), bringing the share of exams in English to 48 percent of the total American BFI exam weights.

International French Baccalaureate (BFI)

- Offered in international French schools
- Subjects taught in multiple languages
- Prepares students for global higher education paths
- American section - Advanced Placement Substitutions

BFI Grade Equivalencies

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C
16-20	14-15	13	12	11	10	9	8



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International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP)

IB Diploma Courses

3 HL courses (240 hours each)
3 SL courses (150 hours each)

+

IB Core

Theory of Knowledge (ToK): *100 hrs*
Extended Essay (EE): *40 hrs*
Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS): *150+hrs*

+

Academic Writing and Assessments

Internal Assessments (IAs)
Individual Orals (IOs)
15+ formal pieces of writing

=

Depth, Breadth, and Time Commitment

No “easy” classes or semesters off
1,300 hours beyond standard coursework
+Extra/co-curriculars & life outside school



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International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP)

Multiple Hats, Real Skills

IB Students Are:



Researchers



Philosophers



Writers



Analysts



Performers & Leaders

Skills Developed:

- ★ Time management, self-discipline, resilience
- ★ Academic writing & research
- ★ Public speaking and collaboration
- ★ Cross-cultural understanding and ethical reasoning



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International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP)

What to know:

- ★ No downtime no free rides
- ★ Performance context matters
 - only about 20% score above 35.
 - A 38-45 top 10% globally.
 - some drop to "course" candidates due to the demands.
- ★ University Ready
 - mirror first-year university life.
 - arrive on campus well ahead of peers

AISB does not compute a GPA. As an international school, we recognize that there are multiple grading scales used throughout the world. AISB uses a 1-7 scale based on the descriptors of achievement below. Many traditional grading systems score according to percentages. While these two systems can mean two different things, the chart below provides an *approximate* comparison of the 1-7 score with some of the typical scales used elsewhere.

AISB Score	Approximate Percentage	Approximate Letter Grade
7	97-100%	A+
6	90-96%	A
5	80-89%	B
4	70-79%	C
3	60-69%	D
2	Below 60%	F
1	Below 60%	F



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Global Impact Diploma (GID)



**Global Impact
Diploma**

When students graduate with the **Global Impact Diploma** they will have the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to make a **significant, positive impact** on the world.

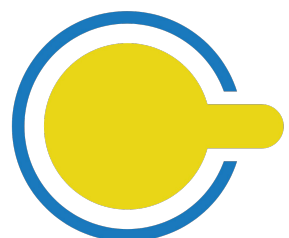
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**Meaningful
Learning**



Well-being



Core Needs to Thrive

Global Impact Diploma (GID)

Competency-based Design



SIX CORE COMPETENCIES

Drive

I can take ownership of my learning and well-being, persevering through uncertainty to create meaningful contributions.

Impact Design

I can define and design tasks that are purposeful, and manage a project to create measurable impact.

Collaborative Impact

I can generate ideas, products and solutions with people from diverse backgrounds, building inclusive, supportive communities that foster shared purpose, shared impact, and psychological safety.

Empathetic Impact

I can understand and value others' perspectives, recognize their needs, and act with genuine care to make a meaningful impact.

Reflection

I can maintain a learning mindset, engaging in authentic reflection to understand patterns in my thinking; identify strengths and areas for growth; and improve my learning, well-being, and impact on others.

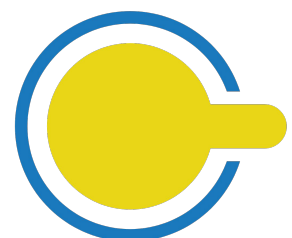
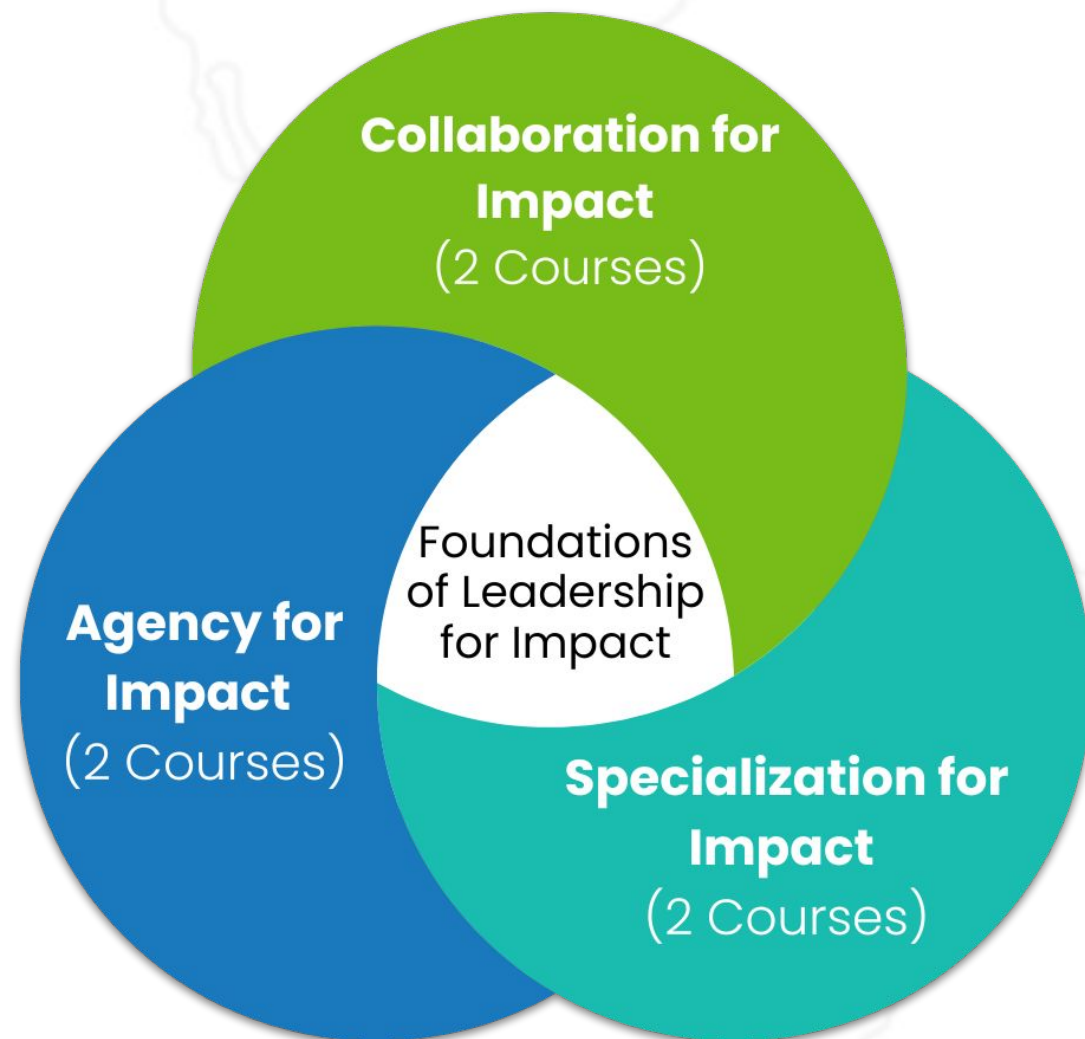
Communication

I can communicate with clarity, empathy, and impact, ensuring that I both understand and am understood, even when perspectives differ.

Global Impact Diploma (GID)



**Global Impact
Diploma**



Core Courses

Foundations of Leadership for Impact

Agency for Impact

- 1 Internship Course
- 1 Impact Project Course

Collaboration for Impact

- 2 Collaborative Impact Courses

Specialization for Impact

- At least 2 Courses (AP, IBDP, GOA, etc.)

Impact Portfolio & Exhibition

Global Impact Diploma (GID)

AMERICAS - 8 Schools

- American School of Lima, Peru*
- American School of Asuncion
- Atlanta International School
- Colegio Nueva Granada, Bogota
- International School of Curitiba
- International School of Havana
- International School Nido de Aguilas
- Marymount, Barranquilla

EMEA - 13 Schools

- American International School Bucharest*
- American International School of Budapest*
- American School of Milan
- Bavarian International School in Munich
- Frankfurt International School
- International School of Azerbaijan
- International School of Luxembourg
- Istanbul International Community School*
- Khartoum American School
- Learnlife, Barcelona*
- Munich International School
- Rafa Nadal School, Mallorca*
- Schutz American School, Alexandria

APAC - 6 Schools

- Avenues Shenzhen
- Beijing City International School
- International School of Kuala Lumpur
- Shanghai American School
- Singapore American School
- UNIS Hanoi



**Global Impact
Diploma**

27 Founding Schools

*Schools offering the full GID Diploma for 2025-2026.

Global Impact Diploma (GID)

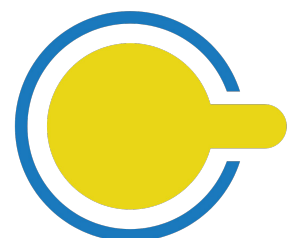


**Global Impact
Diploma**

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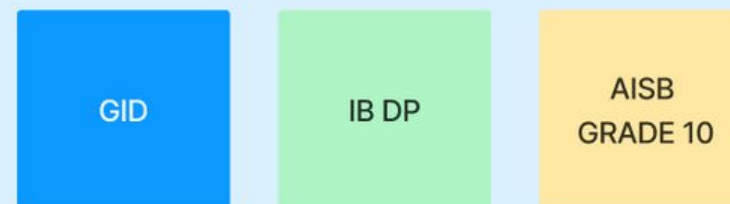


**Diploma
Programme**



Dual Diploma

**GID + IBDP
Dual Diploma**



	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
English	GID	DP	DP
Math	AISB 10	DP	DP
Science	DP	DP	GID
Humanities	DP	DP	GID
World Lang.	AISB 10	DP	DP
Art/Elective	AISB 10	DP	DP
PE/DP Core	AISB 10	DP CORE	DP CORE
Elective	GID Sem. 1	GID Sem. 2	HL Exten.

Global Impact Diploma (GID)



**Global Impact
Diploma**

Collaborate with us to help our students have a meaningful impact beyond high school.

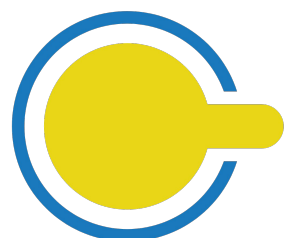
Agency



**Meaningful
Learning**



Well-being



Collaborations

A-Levels



A-Level Info

- A levels are subject-based 2-year qualifications assessed by final exams.
- A-Levels allow students to dive deeply into a few chosen subjects.
- In the UK, most students choose to study 3 or 4 subjects.
- Final exams take place in spring of Year 13.
- Results available in mid-August.
- Standardised curriculum.
- Examination boards responsible for setting and awarding secondary education level qualifications.



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A-Levels

Cambridge International AS & A Level develops learners' knowledge, understanding and skills in:

- in-depth subject content
- independent thinking
- applying knowledge and understanding to new as well as familiar situations
- handling and evaluating different types of information source
- thinking logically and presenting ordered and coherent arguments
- making judgements, recommendations and decisions
- presenting reasoned explanations, understanding implications and communicating them logically and clearly
- working and communicating in English.



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A-Levels

A-Level Structure and Grading

- A-levels involve 360 guided learning hours.
- Cambridge International offers 55 A-Level subjects.
- Not continuous assessment - mocks and final exams **only**.
- Less flexible, more focused.
- Mocks and practice papers are internally assessed, but final exams are externally assessed.
- Teachers and heads of subject areas calculate predicted grades using historical evidence and data from summative assessments, coursework. Leaders and administrators check and standardise predicted grades.



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A-Levels

Aspect	Maths	A Level Further Maths
Level of Difficulty	Advanced but follows naturally from GCSE Maths	Much more challenging, requires advanced skills
Content	Core areas (Pure Maths, Statistics, Mechanics)	Deeper exploration of math concepts, including optional modules
Time Commitment	Standard A Level time commitment	Additional workload, often taken as a 4th subject
University Requirement	Essential for many STEM and social science degrees	Strongly recommended or required for math-heavy degrees like Engineering or Physics
Skills Developed	Problem-solving, logical reasoning, basic data analysis	Advanced problem-solving, abstract reasoning, critical thinking

A-Level Maths and A-Level Further Maths are two different subjects, but sixth-formers cannot take FM without taking Maths.

Further Maths counts as a full A-Level.

One of the common differences is that mathematics at A Level includes pure mathematics, which encompasses both mechanics and statistics. A level further mathematics includes pure mathematics, further mechanics, and further statistics.



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A-Levels

The Extended Project Qualification

- An independent research and writing project on an academic topic of a student's choosing. Worth half an A Level, the EPQ offers evidence of a student's ability to carry out in-depth research and presentation skills, and proof of strong independent study skills.
- EPQ grade is reported on the transcript.
- The grade is for research process as well, not just final paper.



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A-Levels

A-Level grading scale from Cambridge Assessment International Education

PUM: Percentage Uniform Mark

A Level grade	PUM range
A*	90–100
A	80–89
B	70–79
C	60–69
D	50–59
E	40–49

A-Level comparison scale from Cambridge Assessment International Education

USA	AS Level	A Level
A+	a	A*
A	a	A
B+	b	B
B	c	C
C+	d	D
C	e	E
D+	U (ungraded)	U (ungraded)
D	U (ungraded)	U (ungraded)
F	U (ungraded)	U (ungraded)

To take an A-Level subject, a student must have obtained a grade of at least 6 in the GCSE.

How numerical grades compare with old ones

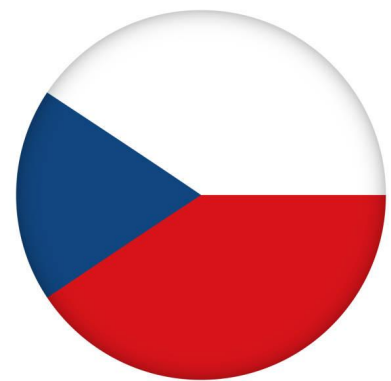
Old grades	Numerical grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6 5 Strong Pass 4 Standard Pass
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

Source: Ofqual

BBC



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Czech National Curriculum

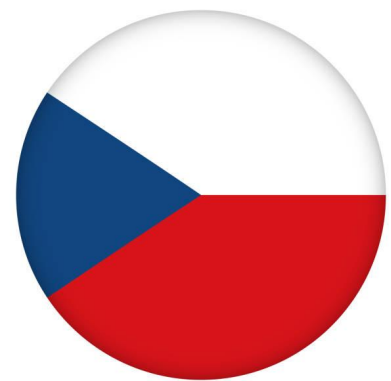


The Czech national curriculum, known as the **Framework Educational Programme (FEP)** (*Rámcový vzdělávací program*, or **RVP**)”

- **Sets the standards for education** in Czech schools.
- It defines the **core objectives, content, and expected outcomes** for different levels of education.
- It allows schools **flexibility in implementation** (School Educational Programmes (ŠVP)).



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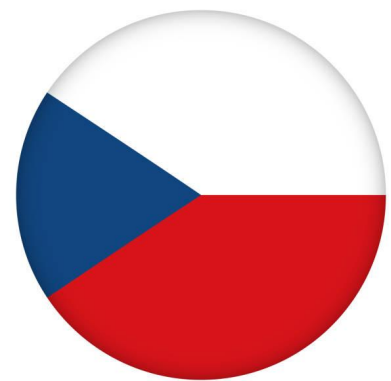
Czech National Curriculum

Levels of Education Covered:

- **Pre-primary education** (kindergartens, ages 3–6)
- **Primary education** (basic schools, ages 6–15, divided into two stages)
- **Secondary education** (gymnasiums, vocational schools, ages 15–19)
- **Higher secondary and vocational education** (lyceums, apprenticeships)



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Czech National Curriculum

Structure of the Curriculum:

- **Educational Areas (Subjects):**

- **Primary & Lower Secondary (Years 1–9):**

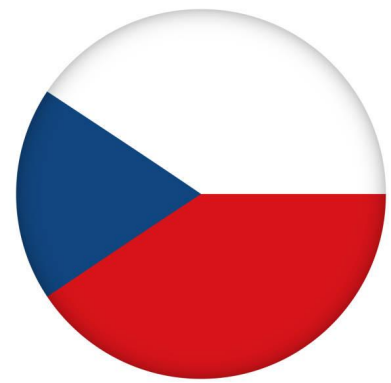
- Czech language, Mathematics, Foreign Languages, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), History, Geography, Civics, Arts, Music, PE, IT.

- **Upper Secondary (Gymnasiums & Vocational Schools):**

- More specialized (e.g., humanities, sciences, technical fields).



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Recent Reforms

- **Recent Reforms & Trends:**

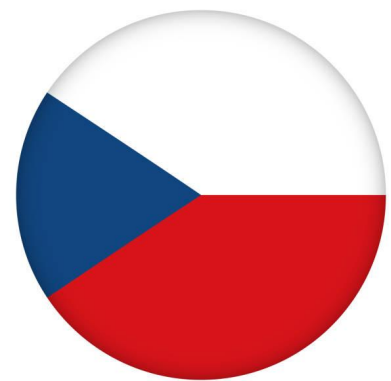
1. Greater emphasis on **digital skills** and **critical thinking**.
2. More **project-based** and **interdisciplinary learning**.

- **Next 1-5 years:**

1. The new RVP for elementary schools does not allow grading in first two grades.



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Czech National Curriculum

Overview for Admissions Officers

The Czech National Curriculum culminates in the **Maturita** exam, which **serves as the secondary school leaving certificate and university entrance qualification**.

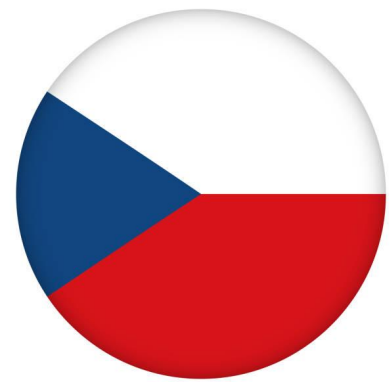
The exam has **two parts**:

1. **State (Common/Uniform) Part** (*Společná část*) – Set by the government (CERMAT).
2. **School-Specific Part** (*Profilová část*) – Designed by the student's school.

All students must pass **both parts** to graduate.



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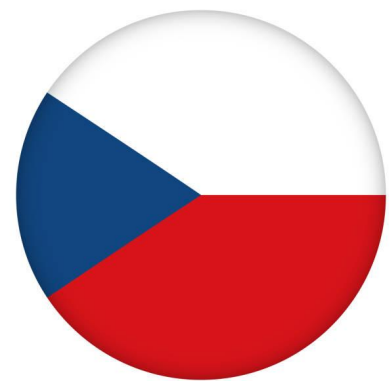
Czech National Curriculum

Maturita Exam Components:

- **Compulsory Subjects:** Czech Language & Literature
- **Optional Subjects** (2-3): Math, Sciences, Humanities,, 1 foreign language (English, German, French, etc.) or vocational subjects (varies by school type)
- **Grading:** 1 (best) to 5 (fail)



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Czech National Curriculum

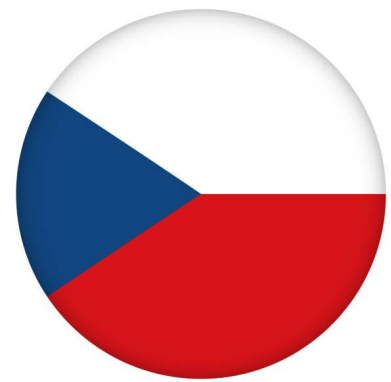
Czech Maturita Grading Scale

The Maturita uses a **1–5 scale**, where:

- **1 (Výborně)** = Excellent (A-equivalent)
- **2 (Chvalitebně)** = Very good (B-equivalent)
- **3 (Dobře)** = Good (C-equivalent)
- **4 (Dostatečně)** = Satisfactory (D-equivalent)
- **5 (Nedostatečně)** = Not Satisfactory/Fail (not passing)



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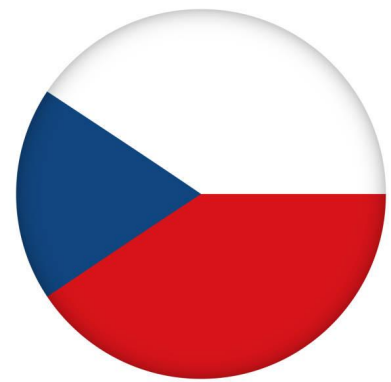
Overview of content comparisons

Comparison with Other Curricula

- **A-Levels/IB:** The Maturita is less flexible but comparable in rigor for Gymnázia students.
- **US Diploma/APs:** Unlike the US system, Czech students follow a fixed curriculum with fewer electives. APs are rare.
- **IB:** The Maturita lacks the interdisciplinary approach of IB but is more specialized than the US Diploma.



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Dual and Combined Programs

Key Features of Czech Schools Offering Maturita and IB Curricula

1. Dual-Track Schools

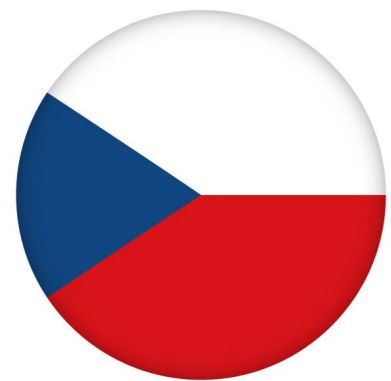
- Students choose between:
 - **Czech Maturita** (traditional route, required for some Czech universities).
 - **IB Diploma** (often taught in English, recognized globally).
- Some schools (e.g., **Prague British School, Open Gate, Gymnázium Nad Štolou**) offer both.

2. Combined Programs

- A few schools allow students to take **partial IB courses** while completing the Maturita.
- Example: A student might take **IB Math HL** but do Czech Literature for the Maturita.
-



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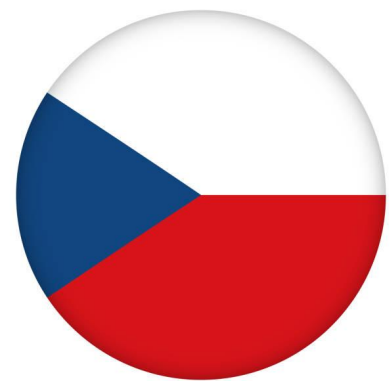
Application Assessments

Recommendations for Admissions Officers

- Check if the student attended a **Gymnázia** (stronger prep) or vocational school.
- Look for **Maturita scores of 1-2** in relevant subjects.
- Consider **school type** when comparing applicants (Gymnázia vs. vocational).
- Be aware that some vocational students may need bridging courses for university.



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Comparisons: But Contextual Understanding of the country/school is important



Czech Maturita	UK A-Levels	French Bac	US GPA (4.0 scale)	IB (45-point scale)	Description
Výborně 1	A* - A	16-20 (Très Bien)	4.0	7 (Higher Level to Standard Level)	Excellent
Chvalitebně 2	B	14-15.9 (Bien)	3.0 - 3.9	6	Very Good
Dobře 3	C - D	12-13.9 (Assez Bien)	2.0 - 2.9	5	Good / Satisfactory
Dostatečně 4	E	10-11.9 (Passable)	1.0 - 1.9	3-4	Sufficient (Pass)
Nedostatečně 5	U-Ungraded	Below 10 (Fail)	0.0	1-2(Fail)	Fail/Not Passed





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