

# Improving performance through examinations

Chennai Public Group of Schools

India



Examinations from Cambridge Assessment English are now being used by the Chennai Public Group of Schools (CPS) to improve English language learning among its 4,000 students.

Since its launch in 2009, CPS has gone from strength to strength, and now educates over 4,000 students across three campuses. With English skills of particular importance to CPS students, in 2009 it approached Cambridge English in order to implement a benchmarking programme of students' English skills using Pre A1 Starters, A1 Movers and A2 Flyers exams. The programme was supported by targeted teacher training designed to help teachers understand both exam and teaching methodology, together with additional after-school preparation classes for students, held in the run-up to the first examinations. Cambridge English Qualifications were initially optional, but feedback was so positive that they were subsequently incorporated permanently into the CPS curriculum with the result that all students, from Grades 3 through to 11 now take a Cambridge English Qualification. To facilitate this process, Cambridge English mapped its qualifications against the national school curriculum (CBSE) used by CPS; this was then followed by intensive

teacher training designed to support the integration of the exam syllabus into daily teaching. This enabled the successful rollout of the programme, as Mr Balaji Dagupati, CPS Mentor commented: 'Students gain confidence as they work their way up the exam levels – getting experience and qualifications that show their skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking.'

Numbers taking the exams have grown significantly since the programme was first offered in 2009. Thousands of students have successfully gained Cambridge English Qualifications, with 3,000 entries in 2017 alone, compared to the 165 who enrolled for the first Pre A1 Starters, A1 Movers and A2 Flyers exams.



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Mr Balaji Dagupati, CPS Mentor

