

Improving testing quality in state education

Sistema de Medición de la Calidad de la Educación

Chile



Cambridge Assessment English delivered bespoke English language exams across the Chilean state education sector, testing up to 240,000 students over three years.

SIMCE (Quality of Education Evaluation System) is a Department of the Chilean Ministry of Education (MINEDUC). They required English language testing as part of their biennial evaluation of student performance, undertaken in a number of key subjects. The Instituto Chileno–Británico (a major training provider in Chile) used Cambridge English expertise to successfully bid for the contract in June 2012.

As a result of the bid, a bespoke test was created – SIMCE Ingles – which was used extensively to test reading and listening comprehension in the Chilean education sector, with up to 240,000 students aged 15 assessed over three years (2012–14). As part of the contract, we were also responsible for the processing of all test results.

SIMCE Ingles was closely based on Cambridge English Qualifications and was selected by SIMCE as its testing system as it met all SIMCE's testing objectives, including alignment with the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

In addition, SIMCE also valued our experience of working with clients in the state sector, and the quality of the management processes underpinning Cambridge English Qualifications. This uncompromising approach to quality, accuracy and reliability was a major reason why SIMCE opted to work with the Cambridge team, as it ensured the successful, nationwide delivery of a major testing programme.

Cambridge English Qualifications are in-depth exams that make learning English enjoyable, effective and rewarding. Each qualification focuses on a level of the CEFR, enabling learners to develop and build speaking, writing, reading and listening skills. They are offered around the world and taken by hundreds of thousands of candidates. By using a test based on Cambridge English Qualifications, SIMCE gained access to an unrivalled resource of international performance data, allowing it to assess Chilean test results in a global context. When combined with in-country performance data, this gave SIMCE the detailed information it needed to plan future language teaching and assessment strategies.

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