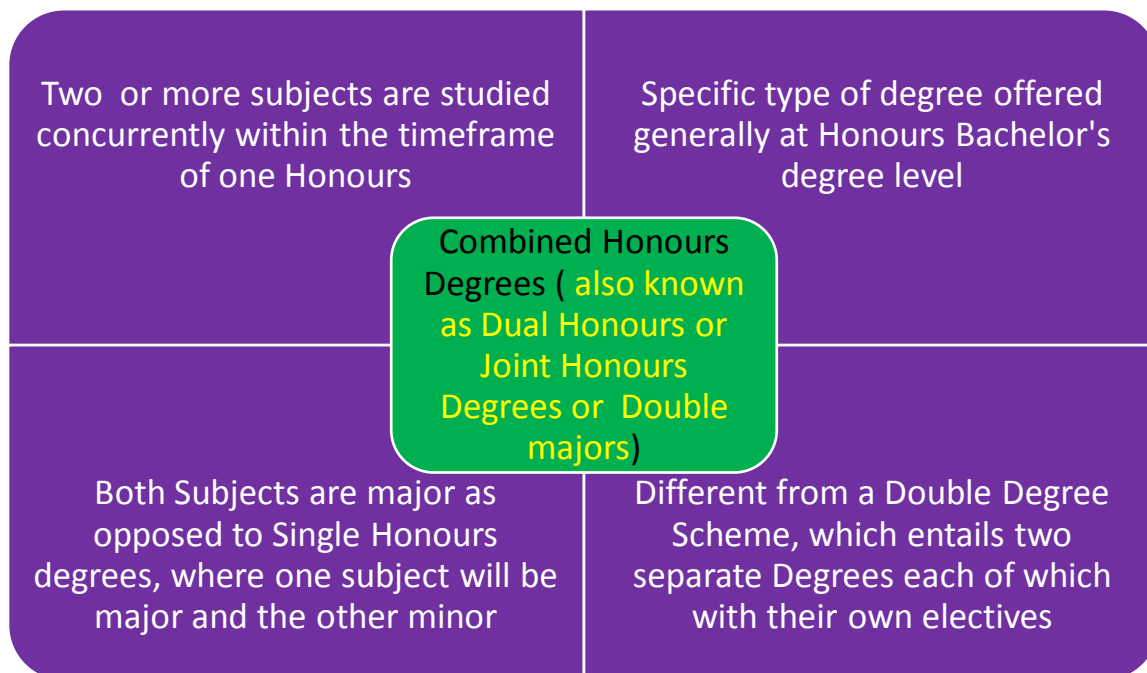


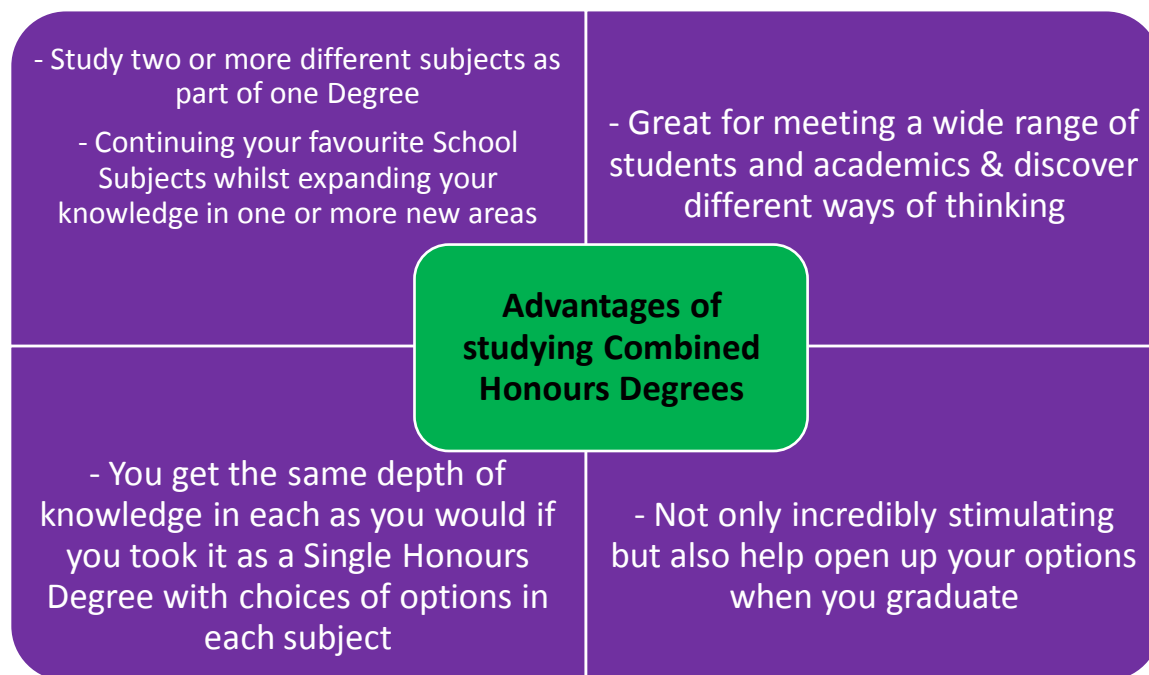
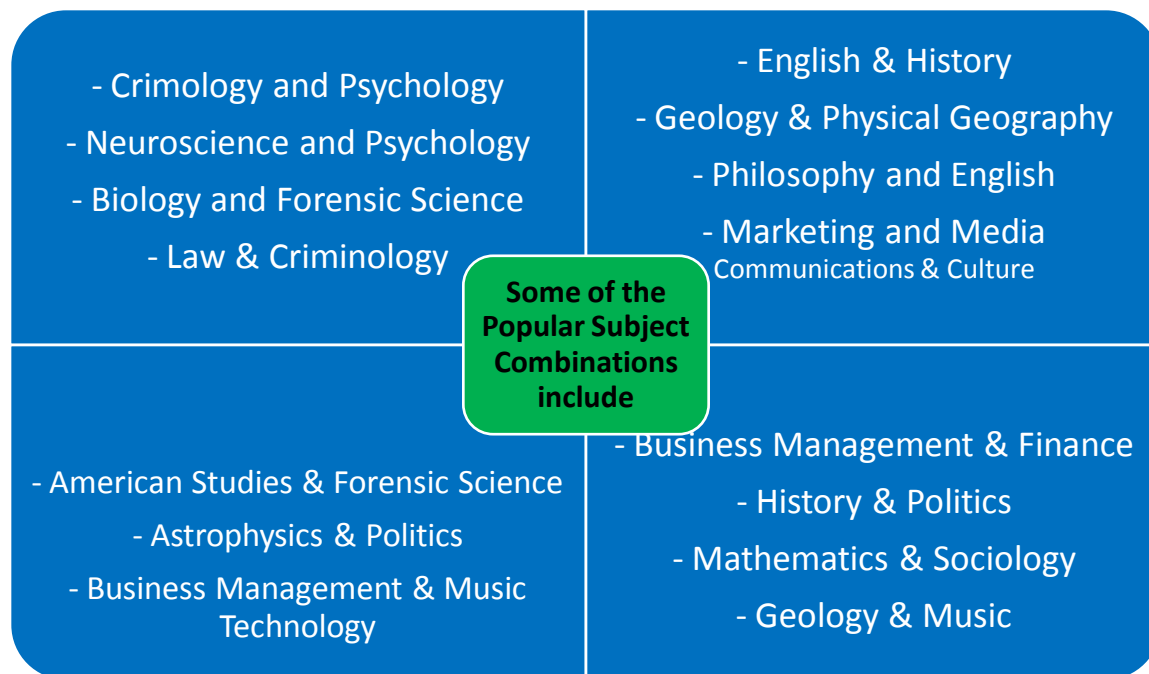
I believe this Post would be of interest to students as it is topical and appropriate at this point in time when the results for various Board Examinations (12th Standard) got published. Currently, students (together with help from Parents) are busy looking at various study options for their Post-School education. As far as India is concerned, there are study options like, Polytechnic Diplomas; Degree courses in Arts & Science Colleges, a wide ranging Professional Degree courses, Integrated Masters programme, etc. (refer my earlier post on innovative Integrated Master's programme).

Though there are Honours degrees & Dual Degree programmes available in India I wonder if there are combined Honours degree programmes available at Indian Institutions.

According to Wikipedia, "these types of degree programmes are offered generally at certain universities in United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Malta and Australia".

This Post illustrates (i) what is a Combined Honours Degree Programme; (ii) some of the popular subject combinations in this type of courses ; (iii) what are the advantages of studying Combined Honours Degree programme and (iv) first-hand experience from some of the students who are studying or have studied Combined Honours degree programmes.





It is also a fact that studying for a Combined Honours degree course is a big challenge and the following first-hand experiences from some of the students would confirm this. Source: The Guardian <http://www.theguardian.com/education/series/blogging-students>

English and Journalism:

“ My diary is packed with deadlines, presentations and books to read for my courses in English and journalism – more so, it seems, than my fellow second-years studying single subjects. I actually have one more hour of journalism a week than I do of English, which means more reading before lectures for that subject and more work after, leaving me little time to prepare for English lessons. One thing I underestimated about university is the amount of reading – if you haven’t done it, it’s hard to keep up in seminars and contribute to discussions”.

Psychology with Media & Culture:

According to Beth Melvin, a first-year student at Kingston University studying psychology with media and culture, says: “It’s hard to prioritize which assignments to complete first, and I often get stressed about dividing my time equally.”

Maths and Geography:

“I’m lucky that my two subjects complement each other. But if you’re doing, say, maths and geography – a course available at the University of Leeds – you might feel stuck between two faculties that see things differently and assume that their subject is the more important when setting deadlines”.

Psychology and Criminology:

According to Chloe Stublely, who studies psychology and criminology with criminal justice at De Montfort University, says “one of the hardest things in her first year was that the amount of reading expected before each lecture was tailored to single Honours students. She sometimes felt looked down on by staff and students for not being dedicated enough to the subject”.

Film and French:

But Bonnie Cliffe, who studies film and French at St Mary’s University, disagrees. “She says the best thing about a joint Honours course is “being lucky enough to have the freedom to explore two subjects in detail rather than one. While there are many drawbacks to joint Honours courses, I still believe it was the right choice for me. Like any degree, it’ll take three years of hard work, I’m hoping the pay-off will come after university”.

Eastwood says “joint Honours students’ ability to flit between different subjects will serve them well in an employment market that increasingly values flexibility”.

Therefore the advice to students considering Combined Honours degree courses would be to make sure they are extremely passionate about both subjects – and to work on their time management skills. While there may be clashing deadlines and twice the work, they could find a joint Honours course twice as enriching.

If I am correct in my assumption that there are no Combined Honours programmes currently being offered in India, it is time that Indian education institutions considered introducing them so that students in India, as well, take advantage of them.

Alternatively, if Indian education institutions delay in offering these courses, then they will miss out the opportunities to Foreign Universities, as the Foreign Universities are likely to provide the Combined Honours programmes in India, as and when the Foreign Universities bill gets approved by Government of India.

Until such time the Combined Honours programmes are offered at Indian institutions, Indian students who are keen to study these courses could consider applying to the Universities in United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Malta and Australia.