

**CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
2, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PREET VIHAR, DELHI-110 092**

No. CBSE/ACAD/2009

20th September, 2009
Circular No. 39/20-09-2009

All the Heads of the institutions
affiliated to CBSE

**Subject: Examination Reforms and Continuous and Comprehensive
Evaluation (CCE) in the Central Board of Secondary Education
(CBSE)**

Dear Principals,

The larger context of education is to prepare futuristic citizens for a meaningful and productive life in a globalised society. There is a dire need to strengthen the education system even more so in a pluralistic society which addresses itself to a heterogeneous group. Evaluation is a means of realising the extent to which we have been successful in imparting such an education. Evaluation is an indispensable part of the educational process as some form of assessment is necessary to determine the effectiveness of teaching learning processes and their assimilation by learners.

External examinations 'are largely inappropriate for the 'knowledge society' of the 21st century and its' need for innovative problem solvers', Questions if not framed well, "call for rote memorization and fail to test higher-order skills like reasoning and analysis, lateral thinking, creativity and judgement. External exams make no allowance for different types of learners and learning environments and induce an in-ordinate level of anxiety and stress".

(NCF- Position paper on Examination Reforms)

This calls for a functional and reliable system of School-Based Evaluation.

We need to look at the **holistic assessment** of a learner which also includes co-scholastic area of Life Skills, Attitudes and Values, Sports and Games as well as Co-Curricular activities. The CCE scheme aims at addressing this in a holistic manner. A number of National Committees and Commissions in the past have consistently made recommendations regarding reducing emphasis on external

examination and encouraging internal assessment through School-Based Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation.

Therefore, the CCE scheme brings about a paradigm shift from examination to effective pedagogy.

National Curriculum Framework 2005, while proposing Examination Reforms has also stated – *“Indeed, Boards should consider, as a long-term measure, making the Class X Examination Optional, thus permitting students continuing in the same school (and who do not need a Board certificate) to take an internal school exam instead ”.*

Hon’ble Union Minister for Human Resource Development also announced- *“Push the process of examination reform in accordance with NCF 2005. This will include making the Class X examination optional, thus permitting students continuing in the same school (and who do not need a board certificate) to take an internal school assessment instead ”.*

In the light of the above background, surveys and consultations with various stakeholders across the country and the given mandate of CBSE, the Board, on the advice of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India has decided to introduce the following Scheme:-

1. Scheme of the Board

1.1 Senior Secondary Schools

- a) There will be no Class X Board Examination w.e.f. 2011 for students studying in CBSE’s Senior Secondary schools and who do not wish to move out of the CBSE system after Class X.
- b) However, such students of Senior Secondary Schools who wish to move out of the CBSE system after Class X (Pre-University, Vocational course, Change of Board, etc.) will be required to take the Board’s **External (pen and paper written/online) Examination**.
- c) Further, those students who wish to assess themselves vis-à-vis their peers or for self assessment will be allowed to appear in an On Demand (pen and paper/ online) Proficiency test.

1.2 Secondary Schools

The students studying in CBSE's Secondary schools will however be required to appear in **Board's External (pen and paper written/online) Examination** because they will be leaving the secondary school after Class X.

1.3 All Schools

1.3.1 The **Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE)** will be strengthened in **all affiliated schools** with effect from **October, 2009 in Class IX.**

1.3.2 An Optional Aptitude Test developed by the CBSE will also be available to the students. The Aptitude Test along with other school records and CCE would help students, parents and teachers in deciding the choice of subjects in Class XI. All students of **Class X in the current academic year** will be taking the **CBSE Board's Class X 2010 Examination.** The CBSE will be conducting this Examination. The weightage of the school based assessment will remain the same as per past practice, i.e. 20% each in the subjects of Science, Social Science and Mathematics.

1.3.3 **The new Grading system will be introduced at Secondary School level (for Classes IX & X) effective from 2009-10 Academic Session.** The details of grading scheme are being circulated in a separate advisory to schools.

Details of the scheme are annexed at (Annexure-I) all for ready reference.

2. How would the Scheme help?

The above steps would help the learners and parents, who are the primary stakeholders of school education, in the following manner:-

- a) It will reduce stress and anxiety which often builds up during and after the examination which could have an adverse impact on young students especially in the age group of 13-15 years.
- b) It will reduce the dropout rate as there will be less fear and anxiety related to performance.
- c) In the past there was practice to often finish the entire syllabus much before time and follow it up with Pre-Board(s) and study

leave. Now there will be greater focus on learning rather than teaching to the test.

- d) The emphasis on conceptual clarification through experiential learning in the classroom will increase since there will be more time available for transaction of curriculum.
- e) It will help the learners to develop holistically in terms of personality by also focussing on the co-scholastic aspects which will be assessed as part of the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation scheme.
- f) It is expected to prepare the students for life by making students physically fit, mentally alert and emotionally balanced.
- g) The students will have more time on their hands to develop their interests, hobbies and personalities.
- h) It will enable the students, parents and teachers to make an informed choice about subjects in Class XI.
- i) It will motivate learning in a friendly environment rather than in a fearful situation.
- j) It will equip students with Life Skills especially Creative and Critical thinking skills, **social skills** and coping skills which will keep them in a good stead when they enter into a highly competitive environment **later on**.

3. Addressing the Concerns

The CBSE has been discussing the matter with its stakeholders all over the country. A number of issues are likely to be raised by students/parents regarding this initiative, as it is being done for the first time by any Board in India. A compilation of such issues, and solutions offered by the Board in the form of FAQs (*Frequently Asked Questions*) will be soon available on the CBSE website. In case of any clarification you may write through the CBSE's website (detailed below) or mail your queries to the Chairman CBSE by superscribing "CBSE Examination Reform" on the top of the envelop.

4. CCE Guidelines

Many of the Schools are already aware about the CCE and are implementing the same. However, in order to improve the quality of CCE, the detailed guidelines are being issued and will reach the schools shortly. These will also be available on CBSE website (www.cbse.nic.in).

5. Training Workshops

Teacher training workshops will be conducted simultaneously from October 2009 onwards. These training workshops will be compulsory for the **Heads of Schools and two teacher representatives**. Details of these will be available on the CBSE's website. Principals and trained teachers will be thereafter interacting with parents during Parent Teacher Meetings to create awareness regarding the Board's Scheme and address their concerns.

6. Request to School Principals

The CBSE is committed to the enhancement of quality in school education and it plans to empower schools to assess the students without compromising on any quality parameter. It has full faith in the Principals and teachers of its affiliated schools and hopes that the following action will be taken in the shortest possible time:-

- a) Explain the above scheme in detail to the parents, teachers and students specially those in Classes IX and X and interact with parents of these students **to create awareness and sensitise them**.
- b) Collect and forward the information about number of students **in Class IX in the current academic session**.
- c) Forward this data to the Regional Office concerned in the enclosed Proforma **definitely by 15th October 2009.**(Annexure 2)

7. Further Clarification

Comprehensive guidelines on various aspects of CCE will be available in the *Teachers' Manual on School Based Assessment* shortly. This will also be hosted on the CBSE website (www.cbse.nic.in)

In case you need any further clarification, please log on to www.cbse.nic.in and click on the 'Interact with Chairman on Class X Board Examination' button. Your queries on this issue will be replied expeditiously.

All Heads of Schools are directed to make necessary preparations so as to implement the above scheme in letter and spirit. The Board is also sure that all Principals would help in implementing the above mentioned reforms.

Waiting for an early response.

Yours faithfully,



(VINEET JOSHI)

CHAIRMAN & SECRETARY

Copy with a request to respective Heads of Directorates/KVS/NVS/CTSA as indicated below to also disseminate the information to all concerned schools under their jurisdiction:

1. The Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, 18-Institutional Area, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi-110 016.
2. The Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, A-28, Kailash Colony, New Delhi.
3. The Director of Education, Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Old Secretariat, Delhi-110 054.
4. The Director of Public Instructions (Schools), Union Territory Secretariat, Sector 9, Chandigarh-160 017.
5. The Director of Education, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok, Sikkim – 737 101.
6. The Director of School Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar- 791 111
7. The Director of Education, Govt. of A&N Islands, Port Blair-744 101.
8. The Director, Central Tibetan School Administration, ESS ESS Plaza, Community Centre, Sector 3, Rohini, Delhi-110 085.
9. All the Regional Officers of CBSE with the direction to send this circular to all the Heads of the affiliated schools of the Board in their respective regions.
10. The Education Officers/AEOs of the Academic Branch, CBSE.
11. The Joint Secretary (IT) with the request to host this circular on the CBSE website.
12. The Library and Information Officer, CBSE
13. EO to Chairman, CBSE
14. PA to All HODs, CBSE



CHAIRMAN & SECRETARY

Scheme of Examination Reforms and Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE)

A. Class IX - 2009 –10 Academic Session

Strengthening Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) in Class IX

(Second Term October 2009 – March 2010)

1. The Central Board of Secondary Education introduced Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation in Primary classes in 2004 (*Circular No. 5/18/25/04*). The achievement records and its format was also circulated for Classes I to V with the objective of facilitating holistic learning in the school. The focus was on identifying the talents of the learner and empowering with positive inputs. The Board recommended a five Point rating scale, it also recommended the elimination of the pass /fail system at the primary classes (*Circular No. 31/04/21/05*). The Board has also followed it up by extending this scheme upto Classes VI to VIII and developed a CCE card on School Based Assessment for the same (*Circular No. 2/06*).
2. The scheme of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) will be now further strengthened in all affiliated schools from October 2009. The Class IX students will be assessed through the CCE by the school itself. The strengthened CCE scheme will be applicable for the second term **(October 2009 – March 2010) of the current academic year in Class IX.**
3. **In general, for the purpose of the CCE,** an academic year has been divided into two terms. The first term will be from **April – September** and the second term from **October – March.**
4. The CCE in classes IX & X is intended to provide holistic profile of the learner through evaluation of both Scholastic and Co-Scholastic areas spread over two terms each during two academic years.

4.1 Evaluation of Scholastic areas:

Each term will have **two Formative assessments** and **one Summative assessment** for evaluation of Scholastic areas.

4.1.1 Formative Assessment:

Formative assessment is a tool used by the teacher to continuously monitor student progress in a non-threatening and supportive environment. If used effectively it can improve student performance tremendously while raising the self esteem of the child and reducing the work load of the teacher. Some of the main features of Formative assessment are that it is diagnostic and remedial, provides effective feedback to students, allows for the active involvement of students in their own learning, enables teachers to adjust teaching to take account of the results of assessment and recognizes the profound influence that assessment has on the motivation and self-esteem of students, both of which are crucial influences in learning.

It is highly recommended that the school should not restrict the Formative assessment to only a paper-pencil test. There are other means of testing such as through quizzes, conversations, interviews, oral testing, visual testing, projects, practicals and assignments.

For this year there will be only two Formative assessments for Class IX for the (remaining) second term.

It is advised that the Schools may conduct more than two such assessments and take the best two out of those.

Assessments done periodically will be shown to the students/ parents so as to encourage continuous participatory improvement.

4.1.2 Summative Assessment:

The Summative assessment is the terminal assessment of performance at the end of instruction. Under the **end term Summative assessment**, the students will be tested internally based on the following criteria:-

- a) Curriculum and Syllabus for Classes IX will be the same as circulated by the Board earlier.
- b) The Summative assessment will be in the form of a pen-paper test conducted by the schools themselves. It will be conducted at the end of each term.

- c) In order to ensure standardisation, and to ensure uniformity, the Question Banks in different subjects to generate question papers will be forwarded by the Board to schools in March 2010.
- d) In order to cater to difference in the pace of responding, the Schools will give flexible timing to the students during end term Summative assessment.
- e) **For this year, there will be only one term end Summative assessment for the (remaining) second term to be conducted in March 2010 for Class IX students.**
- f) Evaluation of answer scripts will be done by the school Teachers themselves on the basis of the Marking Scheme provided by the Board.
- g) There will be random verification of the assessments procedures carried on by schools by the Board officials/nominees appointed by the Board.

The Weightage of **Formative Assessment (FA)** and **Summative Assessment (SA)** shall be as follows:

Term	Type of Assessment	Percentage of weightage in academic session	Term wise weightage	Total
FIRST TERM (April-Sept)	Formative Assessment-1	10%	Formative Assessment-1+2=20%	Formative =40%, Summative =60% Total 100%
	Formative Assessment-2	10%		
	Summative Assessment-1	20%	Summative Assessment-1=20%	
SECOND TERM (Oct-March)	Formative Assessment-3	10%	Formative Assessment-3+4=20%	
	Formative Assessment-4	10%		
	Summative Assessment-2	40%	Summative Assessment-2=40%	

Note: For this year as the scheme is being introduced from the Second Term only, the weightage of each Formative Assessment shall be 20% and that of Summative Assessment shall be 60%.

4.2 Evaluation of Co-Scholastic areas:

4.2.1 In addition to the Scholastic areas, co-scholastic areas like Life Skills; Attitudes & Values; Participation & Achievement in activities involving Literary & Creative Skills, Scientific Skills, Aesthetic Skills and Performing

Arts & Clubs; and Health & Physical Education will also be evaluated. Most of the schools are already implementing activities involving these areas. The schools have been trained under Adolescence Education Programme (AEP), emphasising upon Life Skills; the schools are also aware about Comprehensive School Health Programme introduced in 2006 (*Circular No. 9/06/29/07, 27&48/08*). However, for ready reference and convenience of the schools, the activities under Co-Scholastic areas and evaluation thereof are also included in the comprehensive guidelines on various aspects of CCE (Refer Para 5 below).

5. This year, the students in Class IX will follow the CCE for the second term only as already stated above. For this, the schools will give the **Report Card on the model format** to be supplied by the Board in its guidelines. This Report Card will reflect both Formative and Summative assessment of second term of Class IX in scholastic as well as co-scholastic areas.
6. Comprehensive guidelines on various aspects of CCE will be available in the *Teachers' Manual on School Based Assessment* shortly. This will also be hosted on the CBSE website (www.cbse.nic.in)
7. This scheme **will continue for further academic sessions also.**

B. Class IX - 2010 – 11 Academic Session onwards

These students will undergo the CCE as described above spread over two terms, one from April 2010 to September 2010 and the second from October 2010 to March 2011. As already detailed in Para 4.1.1 and 4.1.2, the Formative Assessment will be part of School Based Assessment and Summative Assessment at the end of each term will be based on the Question Banks being sent by the Board.

C. Class X - 2009 – 10 Academic Session

1. All students of **Class X in the current academic year will be taking the CBSE Board's Class X 2010 Examination.** The CBSE will be conducting this Examination.
2. The weightage of the School Based Assessment will remain the same as per past practice, i.e. 20% each in the subjects of Science, Social Science and Mathematics.

3. **The new Grading system will be introduced at Secondary School level (for Classes IX & X) effective from 2009-10 Academic Session.** The details of grading scheme will be circulated in a separate advisory to schools.
4. The syllabus and examination specifications in all subjects remain as reflected in Secondary School Curriculum Document 2010 (printed by the Board) with minor modifications as notified to schools through circulars during the current session. The Curriculum Document and the circulars are available on the CBSE website (www.cbse.nic.in).

D. Class X- Academic Session 2010-11 onwards

1. Senior Secondary Schools

In Senior Secondary Schools, there will be no Board examination at Class X since the students will be entering Class XI in the same school.

These students will be assessed through the CCE internally by the school as per the strengthened CCE Scheme as described above for Class IX (*for the second term from October 2009 to March 2010*) and Class X (*for two terms, the first term from April 2010 to September 2010 and the second from October March 2011*).

At the end of the academic year 2010-11, students will be issued the CCE certificate on the pre-printed stationery to be supplied by the Board. **These CCE certificates, once they are complete in all respects, (for both Class IX and X) will be required to be sent to the Regional Offices for the signatures of the Board official.**

However the Board will provide **flexibility to the following students in Senior Secondary schools** also to appear in Board's external (pen and paper written/online) examination (described separately below):-

- The students wanting to terminate their studies in the school for admission in Pre-University, vocational course, etc.
- The students wanting to shift to the other schools of other State Boards due to local reasons.

Moreover, those students who wish to assess themselves vis-à-vis their peers or for self motivation will be allowed to appear in an On Demand (pen and paper/online) Proficiency test.

2. Secondary Schools:

In all schools upto secondary level there will be Board's external (*pen and paper written/on-line*) Examination at the end of Class X as detailed in *para 3 below* since the students will be moving out of these schools.

Note: The students in Classes IX and X in Secondary Schools also will follow the CCE as described above. At the end of the Class X, students will be issued the CCE certificates on the pre-printed stationery supplied by the Board.

3. External (pen and paper written/online) Examination

- These mainly application oriented external (*pen and paper written/ online*) Examinations will be based on the same syllabi as detailed in the Curriculum Document 2011.
- These will be certified by the CBSE.

E. Concessions being given to the Differently Abled

All the relaxations such as use of scribe for visually challenged, choice of optional subjects, use of computers for visually challenged being provided the present Board Examinations of Class X to the differently-abled children need to be continued in the School Based Assessment also, at the formative as well as Summative level. Due consideration will also be given to these students in co-scholastic evaluation too.

F. Aptitude Test

1. The Board will offer an Aptitude Test (*optional*) which along with other school records and CCE would help the students, parents and teachers in deciding the choice of the subjects at Class XI.
2. The Board proposes to provide an opportunity to students to undertake the Aptitude Test **twice**, once at the end of Class IX and then at the end of Class X.

G. Admission in Class XI (Academic Session 2011 – 12)

1. For the purpose of admission in Class XI the CCE certificate will be relied upon.
2. It is also recommended that some amount of weightage be assigned to the co-scholastic aspects especially Life Skills and excellence in sports for allotting subjects in class XI. A multi-pronged approach for assigning subjects needs to be adopted. **Aptitude test, Scholastic Performance and Co-Scholastic Achievements, all need to be given weightage.**
3. Students of the same school may be given preference over the students coming from any other school for admission in Class XI.

CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
Proforma for Data Collection in Class IX
For academic session (2009-10)

Name of the School _____

Complete Address _____

School Code (Examination Code) _____

Affiliation Number _____

Affiliation Status (Secondary/Senior Secondary) _____

Contact Number Tel (O) _____ (R) _____ Mob _____

Email id: School _____

Email id: Principal _____

Total number of:-

a. Sections in Class IX _____

b. Students in Class IX _____

c. Teachers teaching Class IX _____

Differently abled students if any with specific details (Please attach a separate sheet)

Certified that the above information is correct.

SIGNATURE WITH DATE _____

NAME OF THE PRINCIPAL _____

STAMP OF THE SCHOOL _____
