

The Tribune – Uniform evaluation

THE Union Ministry of Education has **initiated** the process to **establish** a common **assessment framework** for all state board examinations by November. The move has been **necessitated** by the wide **disparity** in the exam results declared by various school boards; major **deviations** have also been **witnessed** in the performance of students of schools **affiliated** to different boards even within the same state or UT. **Consequently**, students are facing problems not only when they switch over from one board to another but also when they take national-level tests such as the CUET, JEE and NEET.

The **importance** of having standardised **syllabi** and exam format for **consistency** across various boards **cannot** be **emphasised** enough. The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) **envisages** the **setting up** of a National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic development), under the **aegis** of the ministry. PARAKH's main functions are to **encourage** and **assist** school boards to **shift** their assessment patterns towards meeting **contemporarily** relevant skill requirements.



The **obsessive focus** on producing exceptional results, with an **astonishingly** high proportion of students getting more than 90 per cent marks in exams conducted by the CBSE as well as state boards, **has called into question** the **credibility** of the **existing** evaluation systems. Doubts have also been raised about the quality of education **imparted** and whether all the top-performing students are future-ready. It will undoubtedly be a challenging task for the Central assessment body to **bring various state boards on the same page**, especially in states where Opposition parties are in power. Rising above political **considerations**, the Centre and the states/UTs should work in close **coordination** for the success of this key reform in school education. The **skewed** science-arts **ratio** for students' preferences in Class XI-XII **is** another issue that requires urgent attention. **[Practice Exercise]**

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'

Vocabulary

1. **Evaluation** (noun) – Assessment, appraisal, estimation, calculation, estimate मूल्यांकन
2. **Initiate** (verb) – Commence, start, begin, introduce, launch आरंभ करना
3. **Establish** (verb) – Set up, institute, create, found, form स्थापित करना
4. **Assessment** (noun) – Evaluation, appraisal, judgement, measurement, analysis आकलन
5. **Framework** (noun) – Structure, system, scheme, model, pattern ढांचा
6. **Necessitate** (verb) – Require, demand, call for, make necessary, compel आवश्यक बनाना
7. **Disparity** (noun) – Inequality, difference, dissimilarity, imbalance, disproportion असमानता
8. **Deviation** (noun) – Variation, divergence, difference, departure, discrepancy विचलन
9. **Witness** (verb) – Observe, see, note, notice, perceive देखना
10. **Affiliated** (to) (adjective) – Allied, united, joined, associated, से संबंधित
11. **Consequently** (adverb) – So, thus, therefore, accordingly, subsequently फलस्वरूप
12. **Syllabi** (noun) – Curricula, courses, programmes, subjects, studies पाठ्यक्रम
13. **Consistency** (noun) – Uniformity, steadiness, stability, coherence, reliability स्थिरता
14. **Emphasise** (verb) – Stress, underline, highlight, insist, accentuate जोर देना
15. **Envisage** (verb) – Foresee, predict, anticipate, contemplate, imagine कल्पना करना
16. **Setting up** (noun) – Establishment, institution, formation, initiation, creation स्थापना
17. **Aegis** (noun) – Protection, backing, support, patronage, sponsorship संरक्षण
18. **Encourage** (verb) – Promote, support, foster, stimulate, inspire प्रोत्साहित करना
19. **Assist** (verb) – Help, aid, support, lend a hand, cooperate सहायता करना
20. **Shift** (verb) – Change, move, alter, adjust, transform परिवर्तन
21. **Contemporarily** (adverb) – in a way that relates to the present time समकालीन रूप से
22. **Obsessive** (adjective) – Compulsive, fanatic, maniacal, excessive, uncontrolled जुनूनी

23. **Astonishingly** (adverb) – Amazingly, surprisingly, incredibly, shockingly, remarkably आश्चर्यजनक रूप से
24. **Call into question** (phrase) – Doubt, challenge, dispute, question, contest संदेह में डालना
25. **Credibility** (noun) – Trustworthiness, reliability, dependability, integrity, reputation विश्वसनीयता
26. **Existing** (adjective) – Present, current, extant, ongoing, prevailing मौजूदा
27. **Impart** (verb) – Provide, convey, deliver, disseminate, transmit प्रदान करना
28. **Bring on the same page** (phrase) – To make someone understand or agree to a particular idea or plan समझाना या सहमत कराना
29. **Consideration** (noun) – Attention, regard, respect, heed, deliberation विचार
30. **Coordination** (noun) – Cooperation, teamwork, collaboration, synchronization, harmony समन्वय
31. **Skewed** (adjective) – Distorted, twisted, slanted, misshapen, unbalanced विकृत/तिरछा

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Union Ministry of Education is working on establishing a common assessment framework for all state board examinations by November.
2. The initiative is due to the significant disparity in exam results across different school boards, with major discrepancies within the same state or Union Territory.
3. The current situation is causing problems for students when they switch boards or when they take national-level tests like CUET, JEE, and NEET.
4. The editorial emphasizes the importance of standardized syllabi and exam formats to maintain consistency across various boards.
5. The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) plans to set up a National Assessment Centre, PARAKH.
6. The role of PARAKH is to encourage and assist school boards in shifting their assessment patterns to match contemporary skill requirements.
7. There is a prevailing focus on generating exceptionally high exam results, with many students scoring above 90% in exams.
8. The credibility of existing evaluation systems is being questioned due to the high scores.
9. Concerns have been raised about the quality of education and whether top-performing students are truly prepared for the future.
10. It will be a challenge for the Central assessment body to unify various state boards, especially in states where Opposition parties have power.
11. The success of this educational reform requires the Centre and states/Union Territories to work together, rising above political considerations.
12. The issue of skewed preferences towards science or arts in Classes XI-XII needs urgent attention.
13. The editorial highlights the need for reforms in the education system to ensure fair assessments and quality education.
14. It underscores the importance of the proposed national assessment framework in promoting fairness and consistency in educational evaluation.
15. The key takeaway is the need for collaboration between the Centre and states, disregarding political differences, to successfully implement these crucial educational reforms.

Practice Exercise: SSC Based pattern

1. **Why is the Union Ministry of Education moving towards establishing a common assessment framework for all state board examinations?**
 - A. To standardize syllabi and exam format, which will improve consistency across different boards.
 - B. To address the problems students face when switching from one board to another and when they take national-level tests.
 - C. To fulfill the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) vision of setting up a National Assessment Centre, PARAKH.
 - D. All of the above.
2. **Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the passage?**
 - A. The Union Ministry of Education is establishing a common assessment framework for all state board exams.
 - B. The disparity in exam results across various school boards has led to issues when students switch boards or take national tests.
 - C. The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) aims to set up a National Assessment Centre called PARAKH.
 - D. PARAKH's main role is to discourage school boards from changing their assessment patterns to meet current skill requirements.
3. **Based on the passage, which of the following best reflects a critical issue concerning the current state of school education in India?**
 - A. Students focusing solely on the arts subjects, causing an imbalance.
 - B. Evaluation systems that may lack credibility due to the high proportion of students achieving over 90 per cent marks.
 - C. Future readiness of students is unquestionable as long as they perform exceptionally in their exams.
 - D. The Central assessment body should avoid collaborating with state boards, particularly where Opposition parties are in power.
4. **What tone is primarily reflected in the provided passage?**
 - A. Indifferent
 - B. Comical
 - C. Critical
 - D. Suggestive
5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The importance of extracurricular activities in education
 - B. The standardisation of assessment frameworks across state boards in India
 - C. The popularity of science and arts subjects among students
 - D. The influence of opposition parties in state education
6. **Which of the following is a synonym for the term "Aegis" used in the passage?**
 - A. Protection
 - B. Danger

- C. Threat
D. Negligence
7. Which word in the passage is a synonym for "**Astonishingly**"?
A. Amazingly
B. Horrifically
C. Terribly
D. Awfully
8. What is an antonym for the word "**Deviation**" as used in the passage?
A. Concordance
B. Discrepancy
C. Variation
D. Disparity
9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
This is _____ famine this country has seen in a decade.
A. most worse
B. the worse
C. the worst
D. very worst
10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error**
He took a hurried glance / on the newspaper / and swiftly left for work.
A. He took a hurried glance
B. and swiftly left for work
C. on the newspaper
D. No error
11. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
A. stretch
B. sense
C. swallow
D. survey
12. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**
Mohan says that he would like to be an electronics engineer when he grows up.
A. Mohan says, "He likes to be an electronics engineer when he grows up."
B. Mohan says, "I would like to be an electronics engineer when I grow up."
C. Mohan said, "I will like to be an electronics engineer when I grow up."
D. Mohan says, "I like to be an electronics engineer when I grow up."
13. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active/passive voice.**
Success cannot be achieved without hard work and sincerity.
A. One cannot achieve hard work and sincerity without success.
B. One cannot achieve success without hard work and sincerity.
C. No one could achieve success without hard work and sincerity.

D. Hard work and sincerity one cannot achieve without success.

14. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive/active voice.**

He was given another chance by his employer.

A. His employer has given him another chance.

B. His employer is giving him another chance.

C. He gave his employer another chance.

D. His employer gave him another chance.

15. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**

Football fans are feeling proud of their teams when they win.

A. No substitution required

B. felt proud to their teams

C. are feel to proud of their teams

D. feel proud of their teams

16. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph**

A. It is impossible to reach the space as there is no passage that leads to it.

B. The void seems to have no meaning at all and was perhaps just left there for construction reasons.

C. It is about the size of the Grand Gallery which is a known passageway that leads to the King's Chamber.

D. The newly found chamber in the Egyptian pyramid is 30 metres long.

A. DCBA

B. CADB

C. DCAB

D. BDCA

17. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**

Negotiations were at a crucial stage

A. Urgent

B. Stable

C. Essential

D. Trivial

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank**

I enjoy _____ at my little brother

A. To laugh

B. Laughing

C. Laughed

D. laugh

19. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**

A. Kunming, the Spring City, is the largest city in the Yunnan province of China.

- B. It is the political, economic, communication and cultural centre of Yunnan.
 - C. Kunming has pleasant weather and picturesque views.
 - D. Owing to the standard of life and favourable climate, the city has been ranked among the best cities to live in China.
- A. ABCD
 - B. CBDA
 - C. ABDC
 - D. CADB

20. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**

Neha told me that Sejal was having her online cooking class then.

- A. Neha said to me, "Sejal was having her online cooking class at this time."
- B. Neha said to me, "Sejal will be having her online cooking class now."
- C. Neha said to me, "Sejal is having her online cooking class at that time."
- D. Neha said to me, "Sejal is having her online cooking class now."

Answers

1. D 2. D 3. B 4. D 5. B 6. A 7.A 8. A 9. C 10. C 11. A 12. B
13. B 14. D 15 D 16. C 17. D 18. B 19. A 20. D

Explanation

1. D. All of the above.

The passage provides several reasons for the Ministry's move towards a common assessment framework. Firstly, the passage mentions that a common framework would address the problems students face when they switch boards or take national-level tests (Option B). It also states the need for standardization of syllabi and exam format across different boards for better consistency (Option A). Lastly, it also mentions that the establishment of a common assessment framework is in line with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) which envisages setting up a National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Option C). Hence, all the provided options are reasons mentioned in the passage, making Option D the correct choice.

2. D) PARAKH's main role is to discourage school boards from changing their assessment patterns to meet current skill requirements.

According to the passage, the main role of PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic development), the National Assessment Centre established under the aegis of the ministry, is to encourage (not discourage) and assist school boards in shifting their assessment patterns to meet current and relevant skill requirements. This statement contradicts the information provided in the passage, making it the correct choice.

3. B) Evaluation systems that may lack credibility due to the high proportion of students achieving over 90 per cent marks.

The passage mentions several issues related to school education. However, the most critical issue emphasized is the credibility of the existing evaluation systems due to the unusually high proportion of students scoring over 90 per cent marks in exams conducted by the CBSE and state boards. This scenario has led to doubts about the quality of education imparted and the future readiness of the students. Therefore, option B best encapsulates the primary concern raised in the passage.

4. D) Suggestive

The tone of this passage can be identified as "suggestive". The author is not indifferent as they provide details about the current education system, and it's not comical or critical. They suggest the need for a common assessment framework, the importance of standardised syllabi and exam format, and the requirement for close coordination between the Centre and the states/UTs for the success of this key reform

5. B) The standardisation of assessment frameworks across state boards in India

The central theme of the passage is the necessity of standardising assessment frameworks across state boards in India. This is evident in the discussion of the efforts by the Union Ministry of Education to establish a common assessment framework, the role of the National Assessment Centre, PARAKH, and the need for a consistent syllabus and exam format across

various boards. Although the passage also mentions the skewed science-arts ratio and political considerations, these are subsidiary themes and do not form the crux of the text.

6. A) The term "**Aegis**" refers to the protection, backing, or support of a particular person or organization. Here, in the context of the passage, the National Assessment Centre, PARAKH, operates under the aegis (or protection/support) of the ministry. Hence, the correct answer is (a) Protection
7. A) The term "**Astonishingly**" is used to express a great surprise or amazement. In the context of the passage, it refers to the surprisingly high proportion of students achieving more than 90% in their exams. Therefore, the correct answer is (a) Amazingly.
8. A) In this context, "**Deviation**" refers to a difference or a variation from a standard or norm. The antonym or opposite meaning would be a term that implies agreement or alignment with a standard, which is (a) Concordance.
9. C) 'the worst' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि superlative degree of adjective के साथ article 'The' का प्रयोग होता है! और 'worse' comparative degree of adjective है 'bad' का !
10. C) 'On' के बदले 'At' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Glance at' का अर्थ होता है 'a quick look'
11. A) The correct spelling of 'strech' is 'stretch' which means 'cause (something) to become longer or wider by pulling it. खिंचना
12. B) Mohan says, "I would like to be an electronics engineer when I grow up."
13. B) One cannot achieve success without hard work and sincerity.
14. D) His employer gave him another chance.
15. D) Feel proud of their teams
 - Present indefinite tense का उपयोग आम तौर पर 'habit, custom, practice, repeated action, permanent activity, general truth' आदि को निरूपित करने के लिए किया जाता है।
16. C) **DCAB**
 Sentence D: "The newly found chamber in the Egyptian pyramid is 30 metres long."
 • This sentence introduces the main topic of the paragraph, which is the newly found chamber in the Egyptian pyramid. It provides the size of the chamber, making it the ideal starting sentence.
 Sentence C: "It is about the size of the Grand Gallery which is a known passageway that leads to the King's Chamber."
 • Sentence C follows up on the size of the chamber mentioned in sentence D, comparing it to another known passageway in the pyramid. This comparison helps readers understand the scale and importance of the new discovery.
 Sentence A: "It is impossible to reach the space as there is no passage that leads to it."
 • After introducing the chamber and providing a size comparison, sentence A explains a key characteristic of the chamber: that it is inaccessible due to the lack of a passage leading to it.

Sentence B: "The void seems to have no meaning at all and was perhaps just left there for construction reasons."

- Finally, sentence B provides an interpretation of the chamber's purpose (or lack thereof), suggesting that it may have been left for construction reasons rather than serving a specific function.

17. D) **Crucial** (adjective) – Vital, critical, central, key, essential महत्वपूर्ण

- **Trivial** (adjective) – Unimportant, small, inconsequential, minor तुच्छ

18. B) 'Laughing' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि निचे दिए गए verbs/expressions के बाद यदि कोई अन्य verb आता है तो वह verb V4 (gerund) रूप में होगा!

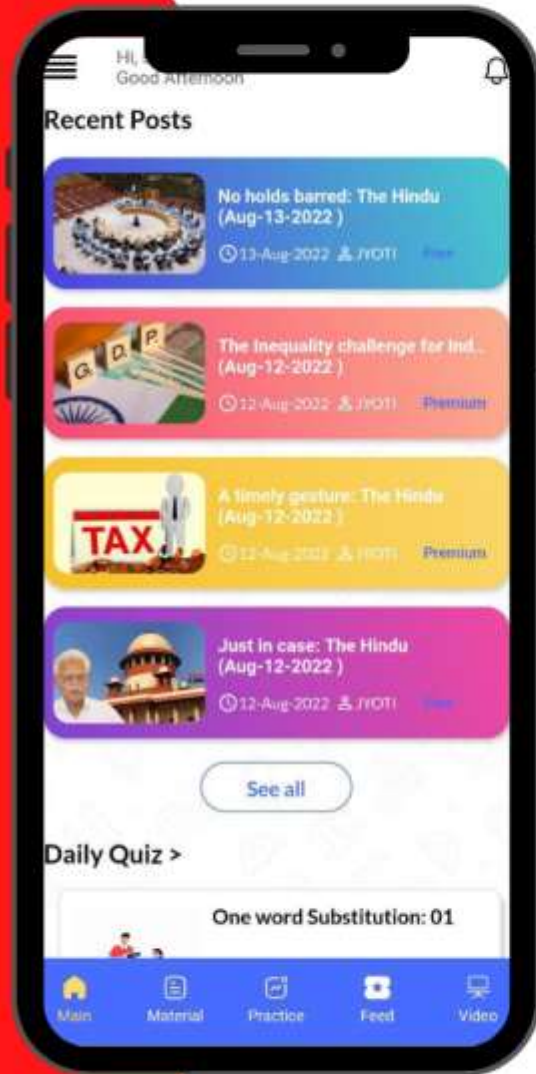
Admit, Avoid, Delay, Deny, Detest, Enjoy, Excuse, Finish, Forgive, Mind, Prevent, Resent, Can't stand, Can't help, it is no use/good, worth.

I always enjoy to talk to strangers. (talking)

19. A) **ABCD**

The paragraph starts with sentence A, which introduces Kunming as the largest city in the Yunnan province and its nickname "the Spring City." Sentence B follows up by describing the importance of Kunming within the Yunnan province, making it a logical continuation of sentence A. Sentence C details the pleasant weather and picturesque views of Kunming, which contribute to its nickname "the Spring City." Finally, sentence D connects the standard of life

D) Neha said to me, "Sejal is having her online cooking class now."



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