



CENTRAL BOARD OF OPEN SCHOOLING AND EXAMINATION

“Serving under the national framework for open schooling and vocational education, in alignment with the guiding principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) – Government of India.”

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Press Release

Practical Examination Reforms & Skill Demonstration Protocol

It is hereby notified for the information of all affiliated study centres, regional skill coordination units, district vocational monitoring cells, examination superintendents, laboratory supervisors, internal and external examiners, faculty members, skill trainers, digital compliance officers, and all stakeholders functioning under the Central Board of Open Schooling & Examination (CBOSE), that in alignment with the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India, and in accordance with NEP-2020, National Curriculum Framework 2023, and National Credit Framework 2025, the Board is implementing the **Revised Practical Examination Reforms & Skill Demonstration Protocol** for the Academic Year 2025.

The Ministry of Education has issued several directives in 2024–2025 emphasizing transformation of assessments from content-heavy formats toward competency-based, skill-driven, practical-outcome-oriented structures. In accordance with this reform mandate, the Board shall ensure that all practical examinations conducted under CBOSE reflect national standards of demonstrative learning, experiential application, real-world task execution, and objective evaluation processes.

This Notification aims to establish uniform procedures, strengthen examination integrity, enhance learning outcomes, and create nationally consistent benchmarks for skill demonstration across vocational, academic, technical, applied sciences, paramedical, commerce, IT, and skill-based domains. Institutions must comply strictly with every direction contained herein.

The practical examination window for 2025 shall commence only after institutions complete all mandatory readiness conditions, including laboratory preparation, tool availability, calibration of instruments, digital surveillance testing, seating and batch planning, safety verification, examiner briefing, and documentation readiness as prescribed by the Board. Institutions must treat practical examinations not as procedural formalities but as critical demonstrations of learner competencies.

The Ministry has emphasized the integration of **Skill Demonstration Tasks, Structured Practical Components, Process-Based Evaluation, and Outcome-Based Assessment**. Accordingly, the practical examination structure for 2025 shall evaluate learners on task-execution accuracy, procedural knowledge, safety adherence, quality of outcome, ability to justify steps, conceptual clarity demonstrated during viva-voce, and documentation competency reflected in project files, logbooks, or practical notebooks.

Institutions must ensure that all laboratories are fully functional and meet the minimum required standards. Equipment must be in working condition, arranged in accessible sequences,

and calibrated where necessary. Laboratories must maintain adequate lighting, ventilation, safety alarms, first-aid kits, fire extinguishers, and protective gear. Institutions conducting practicals involving chemicals, clinical procedures, electrical equipment, heating tools, blades, machinery, or sensitive digital components must ensure that safety instructions are displayed prominently and all learners receive a briefing before task execution.

Institutions must verify that every learner has completed the required number of practical hours as per NCrf-aligned notional learning expectations before appearing in the examination. Attendance logs must be truthful, verifiable, and free of discrepancies. Learners lacking required practical exposure must not be allowed to appear unless approved through an authorized remedial program.

The Board shall appoint qualified **External Examiners** and institutions must not alter, replace, influence, or substitute externally appointed personnel. Internal Examiners must be subject experts with a minimum level of experience as defined in the institutional faculty norms. Both examiners must work jointly to ensure fairness, objectivity, and national standard compliance.

On the day of examination, candidates must report with their Admit Card, ABC-linked ID, and complete practical files, project work, journals, logbooks, or field-exposure reports as applicable. Examiners must verify that submissions are original, reflective of genuine student effort, and in harmony with competency expectations. Any duplicated, templated, photocopied, mass-replicated, or artificially-produced content must be rejected.

Practical exams must be conducted in batches to ensure that each learner receives adequate time and fair opportunity to demonstrate skills. Examiners must observe each learner individually and note performance on structured evaluation sheets provided by the Board. Examiners must document procedural accuracy, conceptual justification, safety practices followed, quality of results, troubleshooting ability, and responses during viva-voce.

The Board emphasizes **Zero-Tolerance for Malpractice**. Learners attempting to imitate skills without understanding, using unauthorized materials, receiving assistance from staff, copying others' results, or engaging in disruptive behavior shall be subject to disciplinary action. Institutions found facilitating unfair practices may face withdrawal of examination privileges.

To ensure integrity, all practical examinations must be conducted under **CCTV surveillance**. Cameras must capture every workstation, movement of learners, interaction with examiners, and execution of tasks. Institutions must ensure uninterrupted power supply for surveillance systems. Any gap in footage may be treated as a potential irregularity and the Board may demand re-examination for affected batches.

After completion of each batch, examiners must finalize marks collaboratively. Marks must not be inflated, generalized, or influenced by personal perceptions. Examiners must adhere strictly to the Board-approved competency rubric, ensuring that marks reflect actual performance. Examiners must sign mark sheets jointly and ensure that no overwriting, correction fluid, or tampering exists.

The upload of practical marks must be completed within the mandated digital window. Institutions must verify entries before submission to avoid mismatches between physical sheets and online data. Any discrepancy may lead to result withholding, audit flags, or invalidation of marks.

Institutions must ensure that all practical files, project work, documentation records, attendance logs, examiner reports, and video archives are preserved for a minimum of one year. These documents must be available for verification, audit inspection, moderation, or dispute resolution.

Learners with disabilities must be provided reasonable accommodations such as extended time, supportive tools, accessible seating, or modified task formats without compromising competency standards. Institutions must document accommodations and submit records to the Board.

The Ministry of Education's 2025 standards require practical examinations to represent **Experiential Learning, Competency Demonstration, and Application Orientation**. Accordingly, institutions must not conduct superficial or outdated practical formats. Examinations must reflect industry relevance, real-world tasks, and subject-specific skill expectations.

Institutions must display this Notification prominently on academic boards, institutional websites, laboratories, and student briefing areas. Heads of Institutions must ensure that all staff and learners are thoroughly briefed on these reforms.

This Notification supersedes all previous practical examination circulars issued for earlier years.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

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

1. All Regional Directors/Regional Officers of CBOSE with the request to send this circular to all the Heads of the affiliated schools of the Board in their respective regions
2. All Joint Directors/Deputy Directors/Assistant Directors, CBOSE
3. In charge IT Unit with the request to put this circular on the CBOSE websites
4. The Assistant Librarian, CBOSE
5. The Public Relations Officer, CBOSE
6. PS to Chairperson, CBOSE
7. SPS to Secretary, CBOSE
8. Guard File



Organization Secretary
Central Board of Open Schooling and
Examination, New Delhi