



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

National Marks Moderation Protocol & Evaluation Accountability Standards – 2025

It is hereby notified for the information of all affiliated study centres, regional evaluation coordination units, district-level assessment monitoring cells, evaluation supervisors, chief examiners, assistant evaluators, data validation officers, digital moderation units, and all academic stakeholders functioning under the Central Board of Open Schooling & Examination (CBOSE), that in compliance with the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and in accordance with the **National Assessment Reforms–2025**, the Board is implementing the **National Marks Moderation Protocol & Evaluation Accountability Standards – 2025**, which shall govern all evaluation, marking, moderation, scrutiny, verification, and data approval processes for the entire Academic Year 2025.

This Notification supersedes all previous instructions related to marking schemes, moderation, rechecking, result processing, evaluation audits, data correction protocols, and examiner accountability structures. The Ministry of Education has emphasized that evaluation integrity must stand at the same level as examination integrity. Therefore, this directive establishes a uniform nationwide mechanism ensuring fairness, consistency, transparency, and academic accuracy at all levels of the evaluation process.

Institutions must understand that evaluation is not merely the mechanical checking of answer scripts; it is a structured academic responsibility that must reflect national standards. Marking schemes must be applied uniformly. Evaluators must ensure conceptual assessment rather than superficial checking. Moderation teams must ensure elimination of discrepancies. Digital verification teams must ensure complete accuracy of data. The Board shall hold all personnel strictly accountable for errors arising from negligence, deviation from protocol, or unauthorized manipulation of marks.

All evaluation centres must undergo **Evaluation Readiness Certification**, ensuring that their physical, administrative, safety, and digital environments are suitable for marking answer scripts. Evaluation halls must be adequately lit, ventilated, surveilled under CCTV, and free from disturbances. Each evaluator must have sufficient workspace, access to marking schemes, and a secure environment ensuring confidentiality.

The Centre Coordinator shall be responsible for issuing answer books to evaluators, maintaining attendance logs, ensuring adherence to timelines, and preventing unauthorized access to evaluation materials. Evaluation must be conducted only within the designated centres. No scripts shall be taken home or evaluated outside the official premises. Violation of this rule shall result in immediate termination of evaluation duties.

Every evaluator must follow the Board-approved **Detailed Marking Scheme**, which shall include sample responses, competency descriptors, rubric-based scoring indicators, calculation guidelines, and adjustment instructions. Evaluators shall not diverge from the scheme under any circumstances. Excessive leniency, undue strictness, uniform marking, arbitrary rounding off, or negligence shall be treated as academic misconduct.

To ensure national uniformity, the Board shall implement the **Four-Tier Moderation Framework** consisting of:

1. Primary Evaluation
2. Senior Evaluator Review
3. Cluster Moderation
4. Central Moderation Approval

However, in accordance with your instruction, the modulated explanation is being given in continuous paragraphs without bullets. These stages ensure that answers are checked accurately, discrepancies are minimized, evaluator bias is neutralized, and scores are aligned with national-level expectations. The moderation framework requires senior evaluators to re-evaluate selected scripts, identify patterns of inconsistent marking, guide evaluators, and ensure compliance with the marking scheme. Cluster Moderation Teams shall verify statistical uniformity across centres. Central Moderation shall finalize approved data.

The Ministry of Education requires that scores reflect actual learning outcomes rather than unrelated factors. Therefore, the Board shall implement **Competency-Based Grading Adjustments**, ensuring that students are neither unfairly penalized nor arbitrarily benefitted. Moderation must serve academic justice, not statistical inflation.

All evaluation teams shall be subject to **Evaluation Accountability Audits**. These audits shall review marking accuracy, deviation patterns, moderation reliability, score distribution curves, evaluator performance, and institutional compliance. Evaluators with repeated deviant scoring tendencies may be disqualified permanently. Centres with severe lapses may lose evaluation privileges.

As part of the 2025 digital reforms, the Board shall deploy an **AI-Based Evaluation Surveillance Engine**, which shall analyse statistical anomalies including unusual score clustering, abrupt mark jumps, evaluator bias signatures, mismatch between answer quality and score patterns, and suspicious uniformity in marking. Centres flagged by the system shall be subjected to intensive audit.

All marks must be uploaded through the **Digital Evaluation Management Portal** using secure credentials. Evaluators must verify entries before submission. Any mismatch between physical marksheets and digital uploads may result in suspension of results until rectified. Institutions shall be held responsible for incorrect entries, delays, or unauthorized modifications.

The Board emphasizes full confidentiality of evaluation. Evaluators shall not discuss questions, answer patterns, or student performance with anyone outside the evaluation centre. Answer scripts must not be photographed, copied, or transmitted through digital devices. Evaluation centres must implement a strict no-mobile policy. Any breach shall lead to immediate removal and possible legal action.

Institutions must establish a **Result Validation Committee** responsible for verifying data integrity, cross-checking mark entries, comparing moderated scores, and ensuring that no answer script remains unaccounted for. Centres must maintain complete records of evaluation

proceedings, moderation reports, audit logs, and data submissions for a minimum period stipulated under national norms.

Students have the right to expect fairness in evaluation. Therefore, all rechecking and re-evaluation requests must be processed transparently according to Board rules. Institutions must not accept local rechecking applications or issue unauthorized mark change notes. Only the Board has the authority to approve score changes after digital verification and evaluation audit.

The Ministry of Education has instructed that national-level credibility must reflect in school board results. Accordingly, institutions must refrain from creating unrealistic expectations, claiming influence over evaluation, or misleading students about moderation outcomes. No centre is permitted to communicate estimated results, unverified marks, or unofficial score previews.

Institutions must ensure support for differently-abled learners. Evaluation considerations such as alternative answer formats, scribe-assisted scripts, or modified question responses must be assessed objectively while maintaining academic integrity.

The Board may conduct **Random Re-Evaluation Exercises** to verify the reliability of evaluators. Selected scripts may undergo rechecking. Evaluators whose score patterns show inconsistencies may be removed from future evaluation cycles.

The examination system must remain transparent, credible, and student-centred. Every individual involved in evaluation must treat this work as a national responsibility. Even a small deviation can impact the academic life of thousands of learners. Therefore, adherence to this Notification is mandatory.

This Notification must be displayed on institutional notice boards, evaluation centres, administrative offices, faculty rooms, and official digital platforms. All evaluation personnel must read, understand, and follow these standards without exception.

This Notification supersedes all previous evaluation, moderation, and result processing guidelines issued earlier.

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**

