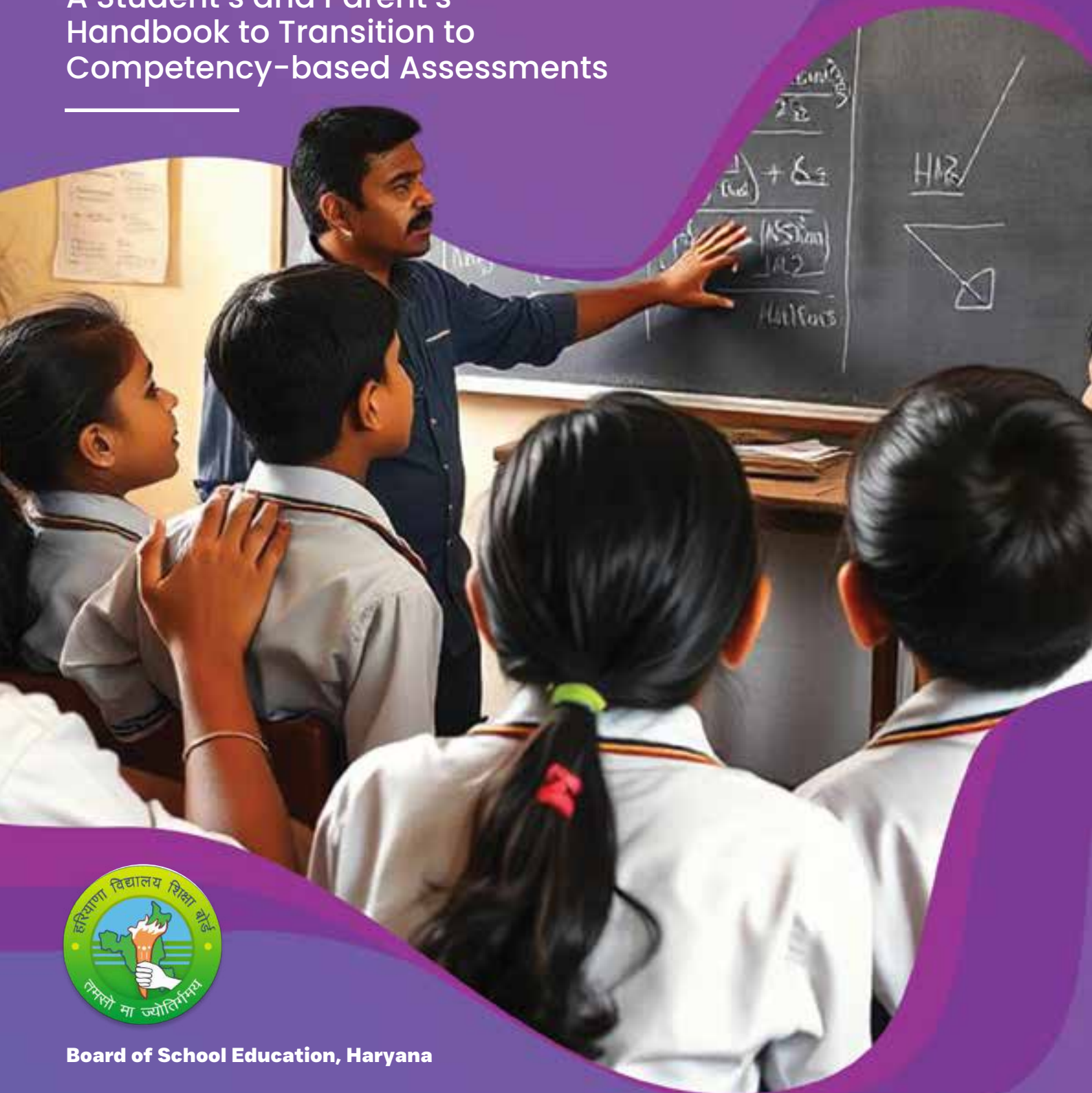


# SHIFT TO COMPETENCY- BASED ASSESSMENT

A Student's and Parent's  
Handbook to Transition to  
Competency-based Assessments

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# FOREWORD

Dear Students and Parents,  
Greetings and warm regards.

Welcome to your guide to competency-based questions!

Have you ever wondered why we learn what we learn in school? Or how it connects to real life? Well, education is changing in an exciting way, and this handbook is here to help you understand and prepare for these changes.

Think of this handbook as your friendly guide through the shift to competency-based questions. Whether you are a student wondering what these new types of questions will look like, or a parent wanting to understand how to support your child, this handbook has got you covered.

We know that any change in how we learn and how we are tested can feel a bit overwhelming. That is perfectly normal! But here is the good news - these changes are designed to make learning more meaningful and useful in real life. Instead of just memorising facts for exams, you will be developing skills that will help you succeed not just in school, but in whatever you choose to do in life.

This handbook is your companion in this journey. It will help you understand what competency-based questions are, why they are important, and how to prepare for them. Most importantly, it will show you that these changes aren't something to worry about - they are actually exciting opportunities to learn in new and better ways!

Remember, students, you are not alone in this journey. Your teachers, parents, and the entire education system are working together to help you succeed. Let us embrace this change together and discover how it can make learning more interesting and meaningful.

**Board of School Education Haryana**



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# How to use this handbook?

*This handbook is designed to be your friendly guide to understanding and preparing for competency-based questions. Here is how you can make the most of it:*

## 1. Start with understanding the basics

Read “The need to move to competency-based assessments” first. This section explains why these changes are happening and how they’ll benefit you. It’s like building the foundation of a house – everything else makes more sense once you understand this part!



## 2. Get to know the new questions

The section “Understanding competency-based questions” shows you what these questions look like and how they are different from traditional questions. You will see many examples that help make things clear.



## 3. Learn how to prepare

Check the “How to prepare and be ready for the competency-based questions” for practical tips and strategies. This section is full of useful advice that both students and parents can use.



## 4. Special sections for parents

Parents, you will find specific guidance in “Understanding competency-based questions: A parent’s guide.” This section helps you understand how to support your child through this transition.



### Tips for Using This Handbook:



Don’t try to read everything at once! Take your time and focus on one section at a time.



Pay special attention to the examples – they show you exactly what to expect.



Keep coming back to relevant sections when you need guidance.



Share and discuss what you learn with your classmates and family.



Use the practical tips and start applying them in your daily studies.

This handbook is meant to help make these changes feel less overwhelming and more manageable. Whether you are a student or a parent, you can always refer back to it whenever you need guidance or reassurance.

The most important thing is to stay positive and remember that these changes are designed to make learning more meaningful and useful. Let us embrace this journey together!

# The need to move to competency-based assessments

## Why do we have tests anyway?

Think of tests like a GPS that helps you know where you are in your learning journey. Just like while using maps, your phone tells you whether you are going in the correct direction or if you have taken a wrong turn and need to reroute, tests help you figure out what you understand well and what needs more work. They are not just about getting marks – they are tools to help you learn better!



## Are all questions good questions or are there some traits that make some questions better than others? And what role do such good questions play?

Questions are central to any good assessment and the quality of the questions determine how well we understand what students can and cannot do. There are some questions that do a better job of giving us this information about students, in a more authentic way, than others. A good question is one that challenges and stimulates one to think deeply and to apply concepts learnt. A good question, correctly framed, can also help understand the thought processes of students and how well a concept has been internalised or a skill mastered.

Such good questions are very important because of the following reasons.





## 1. Good questions make you think differently

Let us look at the following two examples:

**What is 44% of 5?**

vs

**10% of Vivek's income is the same as 30% of Azhar's income. What can we say about their incomes?**

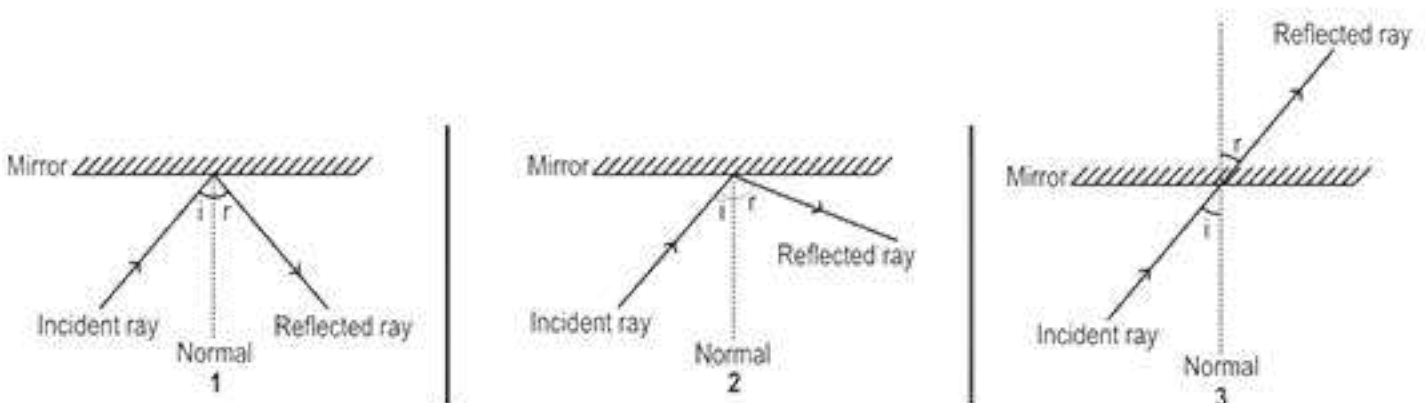
Both these questions are related to the concept of percentages. The key difference is that the first one simply checks whether students know and can calculate the given percentage of a value whereas the second one checks whether students 'understand' what percentages mean and how the percentage value may depend on the value of which the percentage is calculated. While there is nothing wrong with the first question, what it can do is only check whether students can demonstrate the procedure of calculation. Either a student knows it or doesn't. On the other hand, what the second question can do is it can influence the way students think and learn. Even if a student doesn't know the answer, it may stimulate thinking and trigger a series of thoughts that can help students try out different values, different percentages and in the process understand the concept in a deeper way.

Here are two more questions.

**State the laws of reflection.**

vs

**The law of reflection states that the angle made by an incident light ray with the surface normal (at the point where the ray strikes the surface) is equal to that made by the reflected ray with the normal. Thus the angle of incidence equals the angle of reflection. In which of these cases is the law of reflection shown correctly? Justify your answer.**



Both these questions are related to the concept of laws of reflection. The key difference is that the first one simply checks whether students know the laws of reflection whereas the second one checks whether students can use the understanding of a law of reflection to identify the correct representation of the law. Both the questions are correct and can be used in an assessment. While the first one can give information about the knowledge of students, the second question can make students think whether the given representation correctly depicts the law of reflection or not. The second question does not rely on the knowledge of the law of reflection, in fact it states the law in the question itself. Such a question may actually help internalise the concept of how reflection works much better.



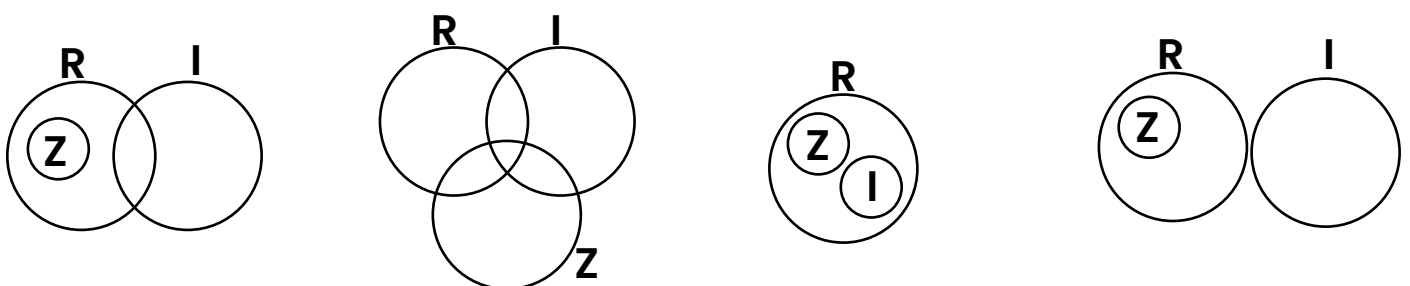
## 2. Good questions test whether you have really understood a concept.

Let us look at the following two examples.

Prove that  $\sqrt{3}$  is an irrational number.

vs

Which of the following diagrams is the correct diagrammatic representation of the sets of Integers (Z), Rational numbers (R) and Irrational numbers (I)?



Both these questions are related to the concept of rational and irrational numbers. The first question requires students to prove that  $\sqrt{3}$  is an irrational number. This is a common proof that they study and is stressed upon in textbooks as well. The second question requires students to understand what the three sets of numbers – integers, rational numbers and irrational numbers mean and how they are related. While students can get the first question correctly just by reproducing the memorised steps of the proof, the second question cannot be answered without a deeper understanding of the three sets of numbers. Only a good question like the second question can distinguish if students have really understood the concept or have rote learnt it.

Which of the following is the meaning of the phrase 'call it a day'?

- A. make a schedule
- B. stop working on something
- C. invite people to a public event
- D. inform someone about your arrival

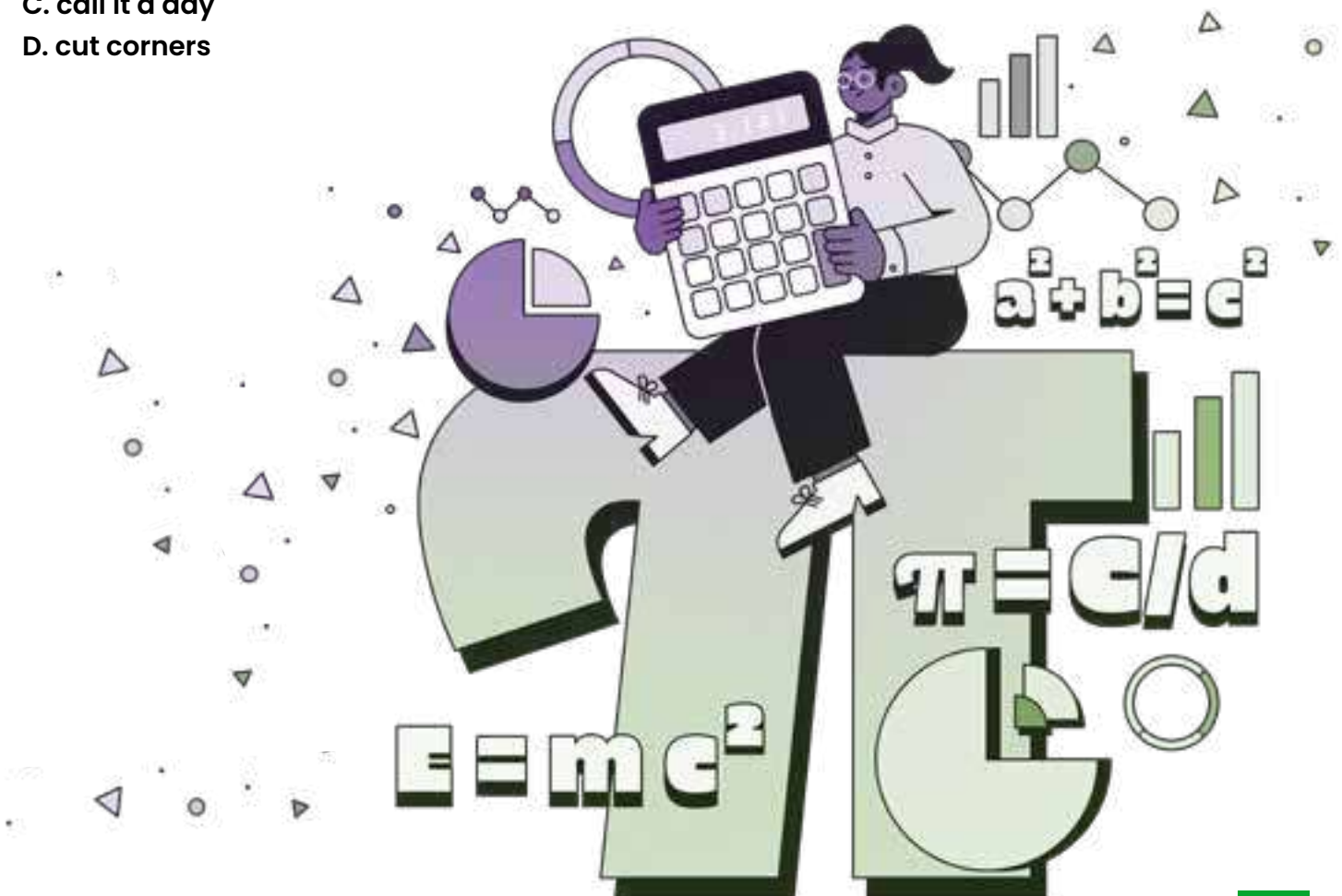
vs

Read the sentence given below.

I have tried everything to fix this broken pipe but have not been able to. I am going to \_\_\_\_\_ !

Which of the following correctly completes the above sentence?

- A. bite the bullet
- B. break a leg
- C. call it a day
- D. cut corners



Both these questions are related to the meaning of a phrase, 'call it a day'. The first question requires students to identify the correct meaning of the phrase. Students would either know it or don't know it. The second question requires students to identify the correct phrase that can be used in the given context. Only if students know the meanings of each phrase and how it is used in a context, they will be able to answer the question correctly. So while there could be students who get the first question correct, if they don't know the real meaning and how it is used in a context, they are unlikely to get the second question correct.



### 3. Good questions help spot common mistakes.

Let us look at some examples where questions can help identify if you are making a common mistake that many other students are also making. Try answering the question first before reading the explanation given below it.

**Rani lives in Hyderabad. She wants to open an account in a bank. In which of the following banks will she NOT be able to open an account?**

- A. ICICI Bank
- B. Bank of Baroda
- C. Reserve Bank of India
- D. State Bank of Hyderabad

## Was your answer C?

If yes, you also seem to be making the same common mistake that more than half 15-year old students make. The correct answer here is option B. Students may have a wrong notion that certain banks that have the name of the place/state in its name can only be used by people of the place and not others. For eg. in this case they may think that since Rani lives in Hyderabad, she will not be able to use services of Bank of Baroda. They don't understand that Reserve Bank of India is a regulatory body and does not serve as the other banks and so Rani won't be able to open an account at the Reserve Bank of India. Good multiple-choice questions (MCQs) have wrong options that check for such common mistakes/misconceptions that students harbour.

Let us look at another question.

**The density of ice is less than that of water. Manu has a bottle that contains water frozen into ice, as shown here. He then poured some water into the bottle. The level of water is as indicated in the figure here. What will happen to the level of water once all the ice melts?**

- A. It will go up.
- B. It will come down.
- C. It will remain at the same level.
- D. We cannot say anything without knowing the amount of water that was added.



## Was your answer A?

If yes, you also seem to be making the same common mistake that almost half of the 15-year old students make. The correct answer here is option B. If students understand that the density of ice is more than that of water and hence when it melts, it occupies less space. However, students don't seem to understand that and think that solids are less dense than liquids and so when ice melts, the resulting liquid will occupy more space, leading to an increase in the level of water in the bottle.

Questions are special tools that can help show what you really know and understand. It's like the difference between someone asking you to name all the superheroes (which is just memory) vs asking you which superhero would be best for solving a specific problem (which needs real understanding about the superheroes and their strengths).

You can think of good questions as mental workout equipment - they help exercise your brain in different ways. Like they can:



make you think deeply about what you have learned



help you connect different ideas



show how well you can use your knowledge in new situations



help your teachers understand how you think





## Why rote learning isn't the best way to learn

Have you ever tried to memorise facts, formulas, and definitions for exams? Many students do. While memorisation is important in some cases (like remembering multiplication tables), just memorising without understanding doesn't help at all. It is called rote learning. Rote learning involves repetition of information without understanding its meaning or context. It is like the difference between memorising a cake recipe without understanding what each step does and actually understanding how ingredients work together - with understanding, you can even create your own recipes!

Rote learning isn't the best way to learn. Imagine you have rote learnt the formula for calculating percentages but don't really know how it works. When you are shopping during a sale and need to figure out the final price of a 25% off item, you might get stuck because the situation looks different from what you rote learnt earlier.

This is exactly why our education system is changing. The National Education Policy 2020 wants schools to focus more on helping you truly understand concepts rather than just rote learn them. The goal is to prepare you for real life, where you will need to solve problems that don't look exactly like the ones in your textbook. Whether it's managing your money, starting a YouTube channel, or working at a future job, you will need skills that go beyond just remembering facts - you will need to think creatively, solve problems, and come up with new ideas.



## What is changing in exams? Understanding what the NEP 2020 talks about.

*You might have heard about the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and how it's changing the way we learn and take exams. Let's break down what this means for you!*

### What's the Big Deal?

Think of this as a major update to India's education system - like when your favourite game gets a big update that makes it better! The NEP wants to change how we learn and how we are tested, making it more useful for your future. The NEP proposes a shift toward more meaningful, competency-based assessments that better prepare students for the future. Here are the main changes:

#### 1. No more just memorising!

Remember cramming definitions the night before an exam, only to forget them the next week? The NEP wants to stop that! Instead of asking you to memorise stuff, new exam questions will check if you really understand the concept and can use it to solve real-life problems.

For example, instead of asking only questions like "What is photosynthesis?", you might also get a question like "Why do plants in shady areas have larger leaves than plants in sunny spots?" This tests whether you understand how photosynthesis actually affects in the real world!



## 2. Testing what you can do, not just what you know

The new ways of assessments will also test your skills – like how well you can:



**solve problems you haven't seen before**



**think critically about new situations**



**apply what you've learned in different ways**

It is like playing a video game – you need to understand the basic controls (the concepts), but then you use those skills to tackle new challenges and levels (real-world problems)!



## 3. Making exams less stressful

Do you know of anyone who has felt super stressed about board exams? The NEP wants to fix that over a few years from now! Here's how:



**Instead of having just one big exam that decides everything, you'll have several smaller assessments throughout the year.**



**These regular assessments will help you know how you are doing and where you need to improve.**



**Your report card will show more than just marks – it will also show skills you are good at, like problem-solving, creativity, or teamwork.**



**There will be special school exams in classes 3, 5, and 8 to check for progress.**

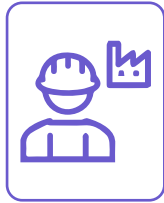
Some of these may take some time to get implemented, but the vision is to make the experience of exams less stressful for students.

# But why are these changes in assessments important?

The world is changing fast! Many jobs that existed when your parents were young have disappeared, and new ones have taken their place. For example:



many bank tellers have been replaced by ATMs and banking apps



many factory workers have been replaced by robots

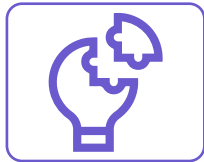


new jobs like app developers and data analysts have emerged

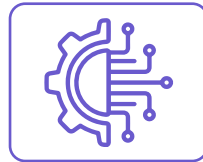
The skills needed for some of the emerging jobs and future jobs are different from what was needed before. You will need to:



understand and apply concepts in new situations



think creatively to solve problems



work well with technology



adapt to new challenges

These new types of exam questions will help you develop these important skills. They are not just about getting good marks – they are about preparing you for real life and future careers!





## What Does This Mean for You?

All these changes are designed to help you:



**really understand what you're learning (not just memorise it)**



**develop skills that will help you in real life**



**be better prepared for future jobs and challenges**



**feel less stressed about exams**

The best part? These changes mean your education will be more interesting and useful. Instead of just studying for tests, you will be learning things you can actually use in life - whether it's knowing new things, understanding how things work, or solving real-world problems.

**Remember:** These changes aren't happening to make things harder! They are happening to make your learning more meaningful and to help you become better prepared for your future.

# Understanding competency-based questions

*You might have heard about competency-based questions. But what are these? Are they going to be any different than the kind of questions that are asked today? Will it mean doing anything differently so that you are able to answer them better? Don't worry - you're not alone! These are questions many students may have.*

*Let us break down these competency-based questions, understand them better and figure out how to tackle them.*

## What will the competency-based questions look like?

Shift to competency-based questions would mean having a good representation of questions that:

### 1. Test your understanding

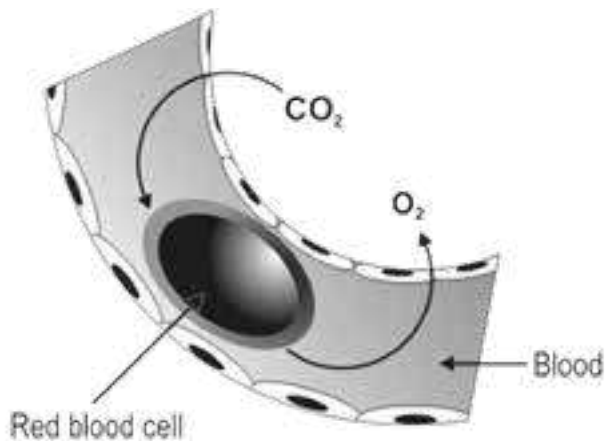
Instead of asking you to recite definitions or facts, they will ask you to apply concepts. For example, here are two questions. The first question tests whether one knows the differences between aerobic and anaerobic respiration and can recall the names of organisms that use one of the modes. The second question tests whether students can apply their understanding of respiration, that the demonstrated gaseous exchange of carbon dioxide and oxygen between the cells and blood, happens in all the parts of the body. Shift to competency-based assessments would mean having a good representation of the second kind of questions.



What are the differences between aerobic and anaerobic respiration? Name some organisms that use the anaerobic mode of respiration.

vs

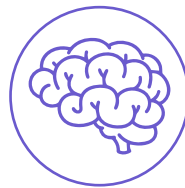
Given below is a diagrammatic representation of a process taking place in the human body. In which of these regions/organs could it be occurring?



1 lungs



2 heart

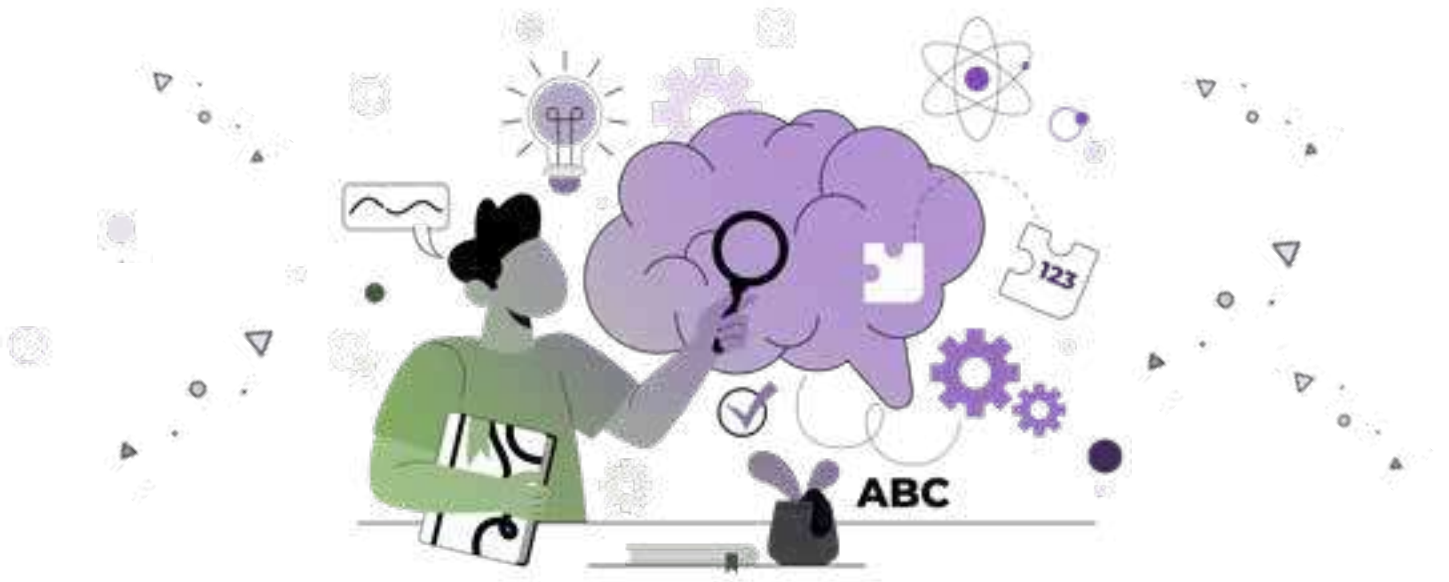


3 brain

- A. only in 1
- B. only in 2
- C. only in 2 and 3
- D. all – 1, 2 and 3

(Source of the first question: NCERT Class 10 Science Textbook  
Source of the second question: Ei ASSET)





## 2. Use different ways to ask the same concept

Questions might come in formats you may not necessarily have seen before. Don't worry - if you understand the concept, you can solve them! For example, here are two questions on the concept of Democracy. The first one is typical and many students may be able to answer it even without understanding the meaning of democracy. This is because it is a commonly seen question and students know what exactly to write to score the given marks. The second question though it looks a little different, it is checking whether one understands the meaning of the different forms of governance and can identify the one that best represents the given situation. Even if students may not have heard about the given political system, if students understand the meanings of the governance, they will be able to answer it. Shift to competency-based assessments would mean having a good representation of the second kind of questions.

**“Democracy is a better form of government than any other alternative.” Analyse the statement.**

vs

**In the political system of Switzerland, citizens have more power than political representatives. At the federal level, citizens can propose changes to the Constitution or ask for a referendum to be held on any law voted by the Parliament. What is this system of governance known as?**

- A. aristocracy**
- B. direct democracy**
- C. constitutional monarchy**
- D. representative democracy**

(Source of the first question: CBSE Class X, 2022  
Source of the second question: Ei ASSET)

Movies sometimes show ordinary humans as huge beings. This is done by making the surrounding objects proportionately smaller.

For example, to show a child who is 3 feet tall as being 4 times larger (12 feet tall), the buildings in the surroundings are made 4 times smaller (i.e. a 40 feet building would be shown as a 10 feet model).



In order to make a child who is 3 feet tall look 27 feet tall, what should be the size of the model used to represent a 36 feet building? Show the calculation.

(Source: Ei ASSET)



# How are competency-based questions different from the other questions and will they replace all the existing questions?

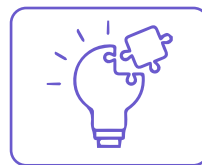
You can think of competency-based questions as good questions that are designed to check how well you understand a topic by asking clear error-free, often using real-life examples or unfamiliar kind of questions. These questions make you think and explore new ways to test what you know about important ideas taught in school. They also help identify which parts of a subject you understand well and where you might have some misunderstandings.

While some of the existing kind of good questions that are there in the assessments will continue, competency-based questions will add to the power of the assessments to help understand the learning levels of students better!

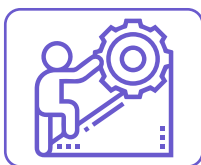
Remember: Don't panic about these changes! These new types of questions might seem challenging at first, but they're actually helping you:



Develop deeper understanding



Build real-world problem-solving skills



Prepare for future challenges



Think creatively and critically



Become a better learner overall







The goal isn't to make tests harder - it's to make your learning more meaningful and useful for real life. When you encounter these questions, don't just think about what the answer is, but why that is the answer. That is the kind of thinking that will help you succeed not just in exams, but in whatever you choose to do in life!

Think of it this way: would you rather be able to recite facts about swimming, or actually know how to swim? These questions are teaching you to "swim" in the ocean of knowledge, not just memorise facts about it!

Ready to take on these new types of questions? Remember, every time you tackle a tricky question, you're not just preparing for an exam - you're building skills that will help you in real life. Good luck!

# How to prepare and be ready for the competency-based questions: A practical guide for students

It is understandable that one feels nervous about something new, especially when we have to face it in a situation like an exam. And so if you feeling a bit nervous, that's ok. Don't worry - you're not alone. Many students feel anxious when they first hear about this change in how they will be tested. But the good news is that once you understand what these questions are really about, you will probably find them less scary and maybe even more interesting than traditional exam questions.

## **What have we understood about competency-based questions and why you shouldn't fear them**

*Change can be scary, but here is why competency-based questions might actually be better. As we have understood in the previous sections, competency-based questions are not about memorising lots of facts or reciting definitions or answers word-for-word. Instead, they are about showing how well you understand and can use what you have learned. Some reasons how these questions may be helpful and better than the earlier kind of questions are -*



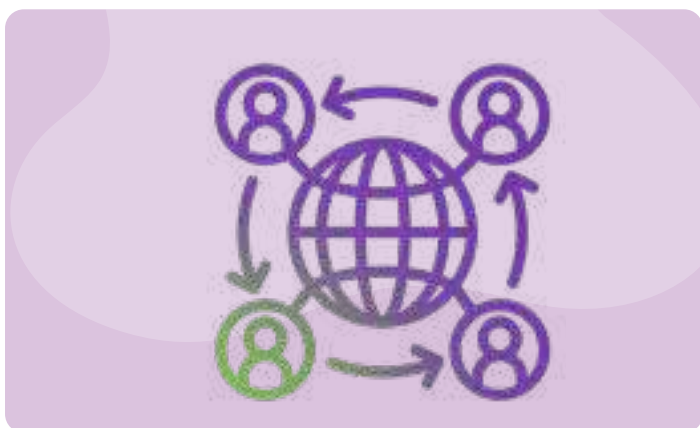


## 1. Less pressure to memorise

Instead of staying up late trying to memorise every single fact, you can focus on really understanding the concepts. Once you understand something, you can apply it to different situations – that is what these questions will be testing. And this understanding you develop can then be useful lifelong.

## 2. More room for thinking

Many of these questions may not have just one “right” way to solve them. You can use your own reasoning and approach, as long as you can explain your thinking. This means you can play to your strengths!



## 3. Real-world connections

The scenarios in these questions often connect to real life, which can make the material more interesting and easier to remember. Plus, you are learning skills you will actually use later in life.

Here is something to know and remember:



The subjects and topics you are studying aren't changing.



Not all questions will be competency-based.



The change is happening gradually – you will have plenty of time to get used to it.



You will be supported with different resources to help you prepare for this change.



You might actually find these questions more interesting because they connect to real life.

# Practical tips that can help prepare you for competency-based questions

## 1. Make changes to your study approach

Here is something to know and remember:



Ask yourself “why” and “how” questions while studying.



Look for real-life examples of what you are learning



Create your own examples and scenarios using the concepts.

## 2. Practice active learning

When you are in class:



Don't just take notes - try to think about how what you are learning could be applied.



Ask questions about how concepts connect to real situations.



Participate in class discussions - hearing different perspectives helps deepen your understanding.

## 3. Use the “Explain it to someone else” method

One of the best ways to check if you really understand something is to explain it to someone else. Try:



Teaching the concept to a classmate.



Explaining it to a family member who doesn't know the subject.



Recording yourself explaining it.




Writing it down as if you're explaining it to a friend.

## 4. Break down practice questions

When you are working on a competency-based question:

- 

1 First, read the situation carefully.
- 

2 Identify what concept or topics it is testing.
- 

3 Think about what information you need to solve it.
- 


4 Plan your approach before starting to write.
- 


5 Explain your reasoning as you go.


## How to deal with test anxiety


It is totally normal to feel nervous about these questions, especially at first. Here are some strategies to help:

Before the test

- 

Practice with similar questions regularly - familiarity reduces anxiety.
- 


Study with friends and discuss different approaches to problems.
- 

Get comfortable with explaining your thinking process.
- 

Remember that you don't need to be perfect - focus on showing your understanding.

During the test

- 

Take deep breaths if you start feeling anxious.
- 

Read each question twice to make sure you understand what it is asking.
- 

Start with questions you feel most confident about.
- 

Remember that you probably know more than you think you do.
- 

If you get stuck, write down what you do know and build from there.

# Making the most of practice opportunities

Your teachers will likely give you plenty of chances to practice these questions. Here is how to make the most of them.

## 1. Don't skip the easy stuff

Even if a practice question seems simple, do it! It is good practice for explaining your thinking, which is a key skill for competency-based questions.

## 2. Ensure that you learn from mistakes

When you get something wrong, don't just look at the right answer. Try to understand:



Where did your thinking go off track?



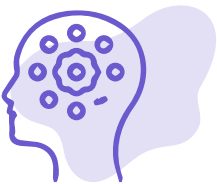
What can you learn from this mistake?



How would you approach a similar question next time?

## 3. Use feedback effectively

When teachers give you feedback:



Pay attention to comments about your reasoning, not just whether you got the right answer.



Ask questions if you don't understand something.



Keep track of feedback patterns to identify areas where you might need more practice.

# Remember: You've got this!

The shift to competency-based questions might feel challenging at first, but remember:



You are not alone in feeling nervous.



Your teachers want you to succeed and are there to help.



These questions are actually testing your understanding, not your memory.



You probably already know more than you think you do.



With practice, these questions will become more familiar and less scary.

The most important thing is to be patient with yourself as you adjust to this new way of thinking. Focus on understanding concepts deeply rather than memorising facts, and don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it. With time and practice, you might find that you actually prefer these types of questions because they let you show what you really know and understand.

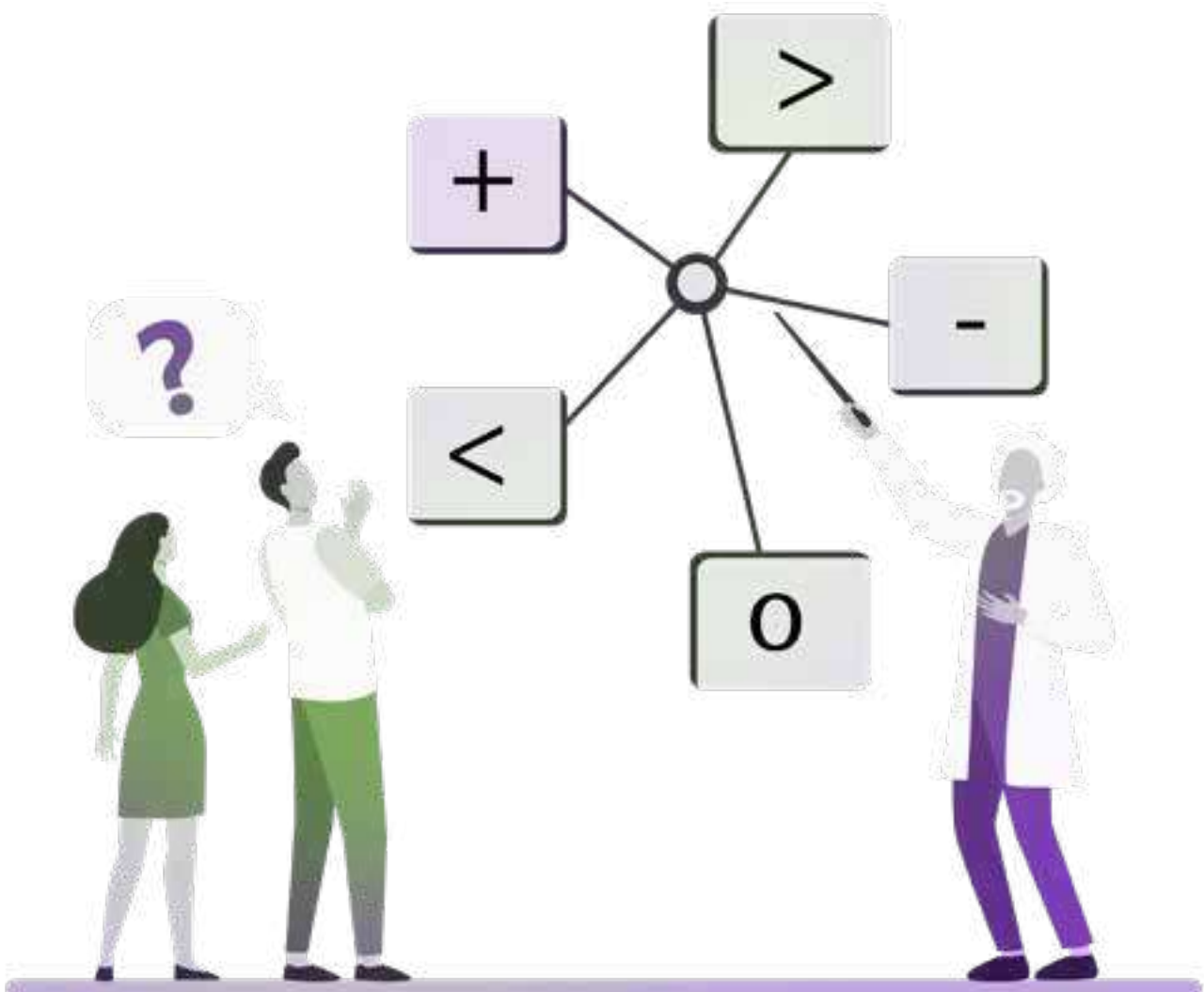
Keep in mind that this change is happening gradually, so you have time to adjust and improve. Stay curious, keep practicing, and remember that making mistakes is just part of the learning process. You've got this!



# Understanding competency-based questions: A parent's guide

Dear Parents,

You might have heard that the examinations are moving toward ones that will have competency-based questions and may feel a bit concerned, you are not alone. Many parents have questions about this change and what it means for their children's education. The earlier parts of this guide will help you understand what competency-based questions are, why they are beneficial, and how your child can prepare through this transition.







## Common concerns you may have

Here are some common concerns that we have come across. We have tried to address the same.

### ***“Will my child’s grades suffer?”***

This is perhaps the most common concern among parents. Remember:

- The transition is gradual.
- Teachers are trained to help students adjust.
- Your child’s understanding may actually improve with this approach.
- Grades often stabilize or improve once students adapt.

### ***“How can I help if I don’t understand these questions myself?”***

You don’t need to be an expert! You can help by:

- encouraging critical thinking at home.

- asking your child to explain concepts to you.
- discussing real-world applications of what they’re learning.
- maintaining open communication with teachers.

### ***“Is this just another educational trend?”*** No - this shift reflects:

- current research on effective learning.
- what workplaces are and will demand in future.
- higher education requirements.
- international educational best practices.

# How you can support your child

## 1. Encourage different ways of thinking If you are spending time with your child on any topic/subject,

- Ask “Why?” and “How?” questions.
- Discuss different approaches to problems.
- Validate creative solutions.
- Help them see connections to everyday life.

## 2. Create a supportive learning environment

- Celebrate effort and understanding, not just grades.
- Encourage questions and curiosity.
- Help them see mistakes as learning opportunities.
- Stay positive about the changes.

## 3. Practical ways to help at home

- Discuss news articles related to their subjects.
- Ask them to explain concepts in their own words.
- Connect school topics to family activities.
- Help them find real-world examples of what they’re learning.



# Working with teachers

Your partnership with teachers is crucial during this transition. Here is how to make the most of it:

## 1. Stay informed

- Attend parent information sessions.
- Read school communications about the changes.
- Ask questions when you are unsure.

## 2. Maintain regular communication

- Share your observations about your child's progress.
- Discuss any concerns early.
- Ask for examples of competency-based questions.

## 3. Provide constructive feedback

- Share what's working well.
- Express concerns constructively.
- Suggest ways the school can better support parents.



# The bigger picture

Remember that competency-based questions are designed to prepare your child for success in the real world. In today's rapidly changing environment, the ability to think critically and apply knowledge is more valuable than ever. These skills will serve your child well in:



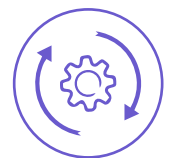
Higher education



Future careers



Problem-solving in daily life



Adapting to new situations

## A few final thoughts



### **Trust the process**

Educational changes are carefully planned and implemented.



### **Be patient**

Both you and your child will need time to adjust.



### **Stay positive**

Your attitude can significantly influence your child's adaptation.



### **Keep perspective**

These changes are designed to benefit your child's long-term success.

Remember, you are not alone in this transition. Teachers, school administrators, and other parents, along with their children, are all working together to ensure our children succeed. The shift to competency-based questions might feel challenging at first, but it is an important step toward better preparing our children for their future.

If you have specific concerns or questions, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers or school administrators. They are there to support both you and your child through this transition.

The most important thing is to maintain a positive attitude and show your child that you support their learning journey. With time and practice, both you and your child will become more comfortable with this new approach to learning and assessment.



# Moving forward with competency-based assessments: A message for students

Dear Student,

As we wrap up our discussion about competency-based questions, here's the big picture of what this means for you.

Think of this change as an exciting opportunity rather than a challenge. Instead of memorising facts that you might forget after exams, you are learning to think critically and solve real problems. It's like upgrading from a basic phone to a smartphone – you're getting more powerful tools to show what you know!

What makes this change special is the fact that you will spend less time memorizing and more time understanding. What you learn will connect directly to real life. You will have the opportunity to show your knowledge in different ways. And the skills you develop will help you in high school, college, and your future career.

Remember, this change is happening step by step. Your teachers are here to help you adjust, and you don't need to master everything at once. Every time you tackle a competency-based question, you're building valuable skills that will serve you well in the future.

Stay curious, keep asking questions, and remember – you've got this!



# Moving forward with competency-based assessments: A message for parents

Dear Parents,

As we conclude our discussion about the transition to competency-based assessments, we want to emphasize that this change represents an important step forward in your child's education journey.

This new approach focuses on deep understanding rather than memorisation. The skills your child will develop through competency-based assessments are precisely those needed for success in higher education and future careers. It will require practical application of knowledge that students will build, development of critical thinking skills and real-world problem-solving abilities.

We understand that change can be concerning, but rest assured that this transition is being implemented gradually and thoughtfully. Your child's teachers are trained to guide students through this process, ensuring they develop both confidence and competence with the new format.

Your role in this transition is invaluable. By maintaining open communication with teachers and encouraging your child's efforts to understand rather than just memorise, you help create an environment where deep learning can flourish.

Remember, this isn't just a change in testing methods – it is an investment in your child's future success. Together, we can help our students develop the skills they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Thank you for your support and partnership in this important educational journey.





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Board of School Education, Haryana  
Bhiwani, Haryana, 127021