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The e-learning challenge

While online education is not a failed experiment, it is far from realising its full potential

John J. Kennedy

Online education was once seen as a game-changer, promising accessibility, flexibility, and borderless learning. Platforms like SWAYAM, Coursera, edX, and Udemy have expanded learning opportunities for millions. However, low completion rates remain a major challenge. In India, less than 4% of SWAYAM students have completed their courses since its launch in 2017, while global MOOCs report completion rates of only 5-15%. Despite rising enrollments, retention is a challenge. A 2019 MIT-Harvard study found MOOC completion rates averaging just 3.13%. Coursera fares slightly better at 15% for paid courses but only 5% for free ones. EdX has completion rates of 10-12%.

This pattern reflects a global issue: attracting learners is easier than keeping them engaged. The parliamentary panel that studied the digital initiatives cites SWAYAM's outdated content, rigid teaching methods, poor infrastructure, and untrained instructors as key issues. Also, the digital divide has worsened accessibility. Oxfam India's 2022 report found that only 4% of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students and 7% of Other Backward Classes students have Internet-enabled computers.

Drawbacks

One of the most common criticisms of online courses is that the content is often outdated or irrelevant to learners' needs. In a rapidly evolving job market, learners seek skills that are immediately applicable. However, many online courses fail to keep pace with industry trends. Many courses follow rigid structures that don't account for diverse learner needs. Working professionals may struggle with fixed schedules, while students in rural areas face connectivity issues. The digital divide remains a major barrier. In India, only 24% of households have Internet access, according to the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) 2017-18 report. Even among those with access, low bandwidth, lack of devices, and unreliable electricity hinder participation. Online learning also demands a high degree of self-discipline and motivation, which many learners lack. Teachers, too, struggle to make online courses engaging. The parliamentary panel noted that SWAYAM instructors face inadequate training, low compensation, and technical hurdles, undermining their effectiveness.

A key recommendation is to link online education with job placements. Currently, most platforms, including SWAYAM, lack robust mechanisms to connect learners with employers. This disconnect reduces the perceived value of online courses, especially for job-seekers. Global platforms often collaborate with top universities and industry leaders to offer cutting-edge content. Paid courses on platforms like Coursera see higher completion rates, suggesting that financial investment increases learner commitment. SWAYAM, being free, lacks this incentive. Additionally, global platforms offer certifications recognised by employers, adding value to their courses. SWAYAM's certifications, while recognised by some Indian universities, lack widespread industry acceptance.

Suggestions

The challenges to online education are significant but not insurmountable. Courses must be regularly updated to reflect industry trends and tailored to local contexts. For instance, SWAYAM could collaborate with Indian industries to address specific skill gaps. Instructors need better training to deliver engaging online content, including technical and pedagogical strategies. Governments and private players must work together to improve Internet access and affordability through initiatives like subsidised devices and community Internet centres. Gamification, interactive quizzes, and peer-to-peer learning can make courses more engaging, as seen with platforms like Duolingo. Establishing placement cells or partnering with recruiters can enhance the value of online courses. The parliamentary panel's recommendation to connect SWAYAM students with employers is a step in the right direction. Courses should also allow learners to progress at their own pace and choose modules aligned with their goals. Micro-credentials and stackable certificates can add further value.

Online education is not a failed experiment but is far from realising its full potential. It can become a powerful tool for inclusive and flexible learning with targeted interventions such as updating content, improving teacher training, bridging the digital divide, and linking education to employment. Abandoning it is not the solution; stakeholders must work collaboratively to address its shortcomings. As the world welcomes digital transformation, online education must evolve to meet the needs of learners and employers alike. Only then can it fulfill its promise of democratising access to quality education.

The writer is Professor and Dean, Christ University, Bengaluru.

SCHOLARSHIPS

University of Derby GREAT Scholarships
Offered by the University of Derby, the U.K., in partnership with the British Council and the GREAT Britain Campaign.
Eligibility: Indian citizens who hold an offer from the University of Derby for a PG programme and are classified as an international student for tuition fee purposes and have a strong academic background or meet the English language requirements set.
Rewards: £10,000
Application: Online
Deadline: April 30
www.b4s.in/edge/UDGS1

South Asia Postgraduate Excellence Award
Offered by the University of Nottingham, the U.K.
Eligibility: Open to Indian citizens who hold an offer for a full-time Master's programme for 2025-26 and are classed as an overseas student for fee purposes.
Rewards: Up to £8,000
Application: Online
Deadline: April 30
www.b4s.in/edge/SAPE1

The Glasgow MBA Scholarship 2025
Offered by the University of Glasgow, Scotland, the U.K.
Eligibility: Indian citizens who holdan unconditional offer for the September 2025 MBA program intake or a conditional offer contingent only upon their IELTS score and have gone through an MBA interview successfully and demonstrate either a strong academic record.
Rewards: €18,750 one time
Application: Online
Deadline: July 21
www.b4s.in/edge/UGAS4

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

Awards

EY announced the winners of Techathon 5.0: Harnessing AI to transform Bharat, a competition that involved developing Generative AI (GenAI)-based solutions to address real-world challenges in sectors such as education, healthcare, financial inclusion, and so on. Team CaseWizz from IIT-Kharagpur (Siddharth Asthana, Sanyam Jhuria, and Ayush Sikarwal) took the first place. Team SE827 from Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar, (Dastageer Siddiqui and Arun Bhattachrya) were the runners-up. Team Catalyst from Vallurupalli Nageswara Rao Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering & Technology, Telangana, (Tejaswini Atluri, Pabitha Kommineni, Rishik K.N.R., and Akshay Pulla) won the People's Choice award.

What's your interest?

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

I graduated in Physics and attempted the UPSC CSE thrice but didn't clear the Prelims. I am now doing an M.A. (Public Administration) from IGNOU and preparing for the UGC-NET JRF. Are there any other areas I can explore? Anam

Dear Anam,

Are you interested in think tanks or research on public policy, governance or social issues? You can attempt the state-level government exams. What about exploring science communication roles? You can also consider data analysis with a focus on public policy such as economic data analysis, social data analysis, or environmental data analysis. Technology policy is another option, as your Physics background could be an asset. With the NET JRF, academia, teaching or research is another option. Also explore options in the NGO or non-profit sector. Be aware that the competition for JRF positions are high and so explore various options to create a more diversified career strategy and to have a Plan B to the UGC-NET JRF.

My son has been schooled in an experiential democratic environment where he has explored various options and is preparing to appear for the IGCSE exams in 2025 with PCB and Maths as his subjects. When assessed by a career counsellor, his aptitude was highest in Spatial, with Analytical-Logical and Physical-Mechanical being close seconds. What sort of subjects should he choose for Class 11? Anshul

Dear Anshul,

The most important factor is his interest in the subjects that he wants to explore. He should choose subjects that he finds engaging and motivating. What are his goals? Does he have a specific course or university programme in mind? If yes, research their subject requirements for admission. Have open communication and allow him to make informed decisions about his future. It is okay to have a combination of subjects that cater to both his spatial and analytical/mechanical aptitudes. He could combine Art and Design with Physics and Math.

A high score in Spatial Aptitude indicates a natural fit for Art and Design (visual arts). This could lead to careers in architecture, graphic design, industrial design, animation, and other visual arts fields. Geography also involves spatial reasoning, map interpretation, and understanding spatial patterns leading to careers in urban planning, Geographic Information Systems, environmental management, and related fields are open with this subject. Analytical-logical and Physical-Mechanical Aptitudes indicate a solid foundation for STEM fields. Computer Science, Design and Technology or Engineering Technology can lead to careers in engineering, product design, and manufacturing.

My son will take the Class 12 exams via NIOS in March 2025. He is interested in Marine Biology. Is the Government Science College, Kutch, a good option? Apart from South India, are there any other good institutions? What is the future of this subject? Atit Dalal

Dear Atit,

Since the college is located in Kutch, I assume that it must provide field study opportunities as well. However, I am not sure about the in-house resources and infrastructure compared to larger more established institutions. Research the faculty, curriculum, placement opportunities and research facilities for the programme. Try to visit the campus to get a feel of the environment and facilities. Connect with current students or alumni to get their perspectives on the programme and career prospects.

Other reputable institutions across India are Department of Marine Sciences, University of Calcutta, Kolkata; Faculty of Marine Sciences, Annamalai University, Chidambaram (Tamil Nadu); National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa; and Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai.

The future of Marine Biology is promising and crucial today due to climate change. It opens career paths in fields such as conservation and biodiversity, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and biotechnology.

I completed DMLT in 2023 but rejected the job offers I got. I did this course without interest in lab work. I don't know what I am interested in and am very confused about my life goals. Amihtaf

Dear Amihtaf,

It is never too late to explore other options. It is courageous to recognise and vocalise your disinterest rather than continue on a path that doesn't fulfil you. The course would have equipped you with numerous valuable skills that can be transferred to other fields. Please take proactive steps to explore your interests and identify your calling. If you are unable to do this on your own, get in touch with a career counsellor who will help you identify your strengths, skills and values. Explore a few online courses across different subjects (coding, writing, marketing, graphic design) and see what you like and can focus upon. Try to volunteer or freelance across different fields and industries to get a first-hand feel.

Based on the skills developed during your DMLT, some potential career paths that you can try across healthcare are medical coding or billing, medical administration or office management, patient care coordination or support, administrative or office roles, data entry or analysis, technical writing and documentation.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

FREEPIK

Career compass

How predictive analytics can help students navigate career choices

Aparna Hanumantu

Among the various aspects of the Indian education system is the intense competition to gain admission to prestigious top-tier institutions leading to the rise of coaching centres. However, obtaining admission and completing the coursework is only half the story. The other part involves gaining clarity about career goals, acquiring relevant skills, and aligning them with the demands of evolving industries. Many students graduate without clear perspectives on their career paths, which hinders their ability to align education with long-term aspirations.

Traditionally, students relied on instructors, experienced professionals, and online forums, blogs, and outdated portals for career guidance. While these traditional methods offer some value, they often fall short in the current fast-evolving job market. Today's students have access to a wealth of online resources, where success depends not just on hard work but also on leveraging advanced tools to align their skills with career paths. The digitisation of services and the online recruitment process, coupled with advances in Artificial Intelligence, have enabled companies to offer tools that help students select their career paths.

These tools, powered by predictive analytics and AI, generate personalised recommendations to help students navigate career choices effectively. For instance, predictive analytics tools assess students' strengths and weaknesses to recommend suitable career paths that align with their potential and goals. They also analyse industry trends to suggest careers in high-demand fields and evaluate financial data alongside academic records to identify scholarships or grants, reducing financial barriers.

Below are a few tools that provide personalised insights to help students align their strengths with career opportunities:

LinkedIn: The career insights feature analyses a student's skills, completed courses, and professional interests to recommend potential career paths and skills to develop. For example, a student proficient in Python and data analysis might be guided toward roles in data science or business intelligence, along with suggestions for relevant certifications.

Coursera's Career Explorer: This includes tailored course recommendations based on a student's academic history and career goals. By completing targeted courses and projects, students can strengthen their resumes and acquire in-demand skills.

Personalised career guidance: Platforms like iDreamCareer and CareerGuide provide personalised counselling supported by data analytics and help students factor in academic records, interests, and job market trends. As colleges and universities increasingly utilise big data, these platforms can provide precise and innovative career advice.

StrengthsFinder: This helps students discover their innate strengths and talents. By identifying their core abilities, students can narrow down career options that capitalise on these traits. For instance, a student with strong analytical and problem-solving skills may be guided toward roles in engineering, finance, or technology. Organisations such as MyNextMove.org also offer these assessments for free.

Most of these tools thrive on the data students provide, directly linking the quality and quantity of input to the effectiveness of their recommendations. Maintaining a strong professional online presence gives students a significant advantage when entering the workforce, helping them overcome the "cold start" problem. In today's digital age, a well-curated online presence is as important as a traditional resume. This also aligns with emerging trends in digital hiring practices, where employers increasingly rely on online profiles to evaluate candidates' skills and professional growth. By maintaining an active and authentic digital presence, students can position themselves as adaptable, forward-thinking professionals in an increasingly competitive job market.

The writer is an AI and analytics leader.

Future-ready finances

Why students must start establishing good credit scores early

FREEPIK

Yogesh Rawat

A credit score is a statistical method to measure an individual's probability of repaying borrowed money and a key indicator of their financial reliability.

This is generated by credit bureaus, which collect and maintain information about an individual's or business' financial activities. These organisations are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act 2005.

What is credit score?

A credit score is a three-digit numeric summary, ranging from 300 to 850, derived from data provided by lenders and compiled in the Credit Information Report (CIR). It is determined by analysing credit history, including the number of open accounts, total level of debt, repayment history, and other factors. For example, a person with a credit score of 800-850 is considered financially responsible. He/she pays loans, credit card bills, rent and so on on time. At the other end, a credit score of 300-579 is a poor rating and means that the individual has defaulted payment several times and has little chance of being given new loans.

Apart from the above, those with minimum or no credit history fall into the "new to credit" category. Students applying for education loans usually come under this section. As a result, their academic background and other data are examined to consider potential for employment before their loans are sanctioned. Students can strengthen their credit scores by following these tips:

Timely repayment: Paying the EMI regularly is crucial. Enable automated payment or set a reminder to ensure you adhere to payment timeline, as late payment can have a negative impact.

Credit utilisation: Those who have credit cards should ensure that credit utilisation is below 30% of the available limit. This indicates disciplined financial behaviour and can enhance one's credit score and offer opportunities for future borrowing.

Length of credit history: A longer credit history reflects stability and reliability in handling financial obligations and gives lenders a clearer picture of borrowing habits, payment consistency, and overall financial stability.

Credit types: A mix of secured credit and unsecured credit portrays a well-rounded profile.

Hard inquiries: Applying for multiple loans or credit cards within a short period can lead to hard inquiries on a credit report, temporarily lowering the score.

Relevance for students

As first-time borrowers, students often start with little to no credit history. Building a strong credit score early offers access to better terms for education financing, housing loans, or even funding entrepreneurial ventures. In the long term, lenders tend to favour individuals who have demonstrated financial discipline, making future borrowing hassle-free. A good score can unlock easy access to credit for unexpected expenses. While credit should be used judiciously, it offers flexibility in managing short-term financial challenges without immediate strain.

By managing and improving credit scores, students develop financial independence and skills such as budgeting, debt management, and making sound financial decisions that extend beyond their academic years.

As students build their credit score, they gain access to higher credit limits and better reward programmes such as cashback, travel points, and other incentives.

Students who take education loans to study usually start understanding such financial nuances early. With new non-banking financial companies introducing repayment options such as Simple Interest and Partial Interest that usually start immediately after the education loan is taken, students become financially prudent from the start of their academic and loan journey, contributing towards building a stronger credit score. Thus, establishing a good credit score during this phase is not merely a financial milestone but a long-term investment for the future.

The writer is the Chief Operating Officer, Avanse Financial Services.

FREEPIK

When learning is fun

By combining neuroscience, modern education theories and technology, edutainment offers an engaging learning experience

Anthony Hié

In a world where attention spans are increasingly limited, Edutainment (a combination of education and entertainment) is fast emerging as a method of involving learners and facilitating acquisition of knowledge. According to a study by Data Bridge Market Research published in November 2024, the value of the global Edutainment market in 2024 was estimated at $2.60 billion and was expected to reach $9.43 billion by 2032, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17.5% between 2025 and 2032. In the Asia-Pacific region, the CAGR is projected to be between 18% and 20%, due to the rapid spread of immersive technologies and gamification.

This innovative concept is based on a pedagogical approach that combines elements of Ludo-pedagogy, immersive storytelling, and interactive experiences to ensure an engaging learning experience. Edutainment also draws its strength from neuroscience and modern learning theories and its potential has been enhanced by the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Understanding the brain

To understand edutainment's effectiveness, we need to understand how the human brain learns. The hippocampus plays a key role in learning and memory. In *The Emotional Brain: The Mysterious Underpinnings of Emotional Life*, Joseph LeDoux shows that we are more likely to remember information if it is associated with emotions or memorable experiences. By using captivating narratives, fun challenges and engaging interaction, edutainment ensures that knowledge is firmly embedded in emotional experiences so that it is retained over the long term.

Edutainment also draws on the concept of the rhythm of learning, a fundamental notion in cognitive neuroscience. The brain was not designed for constant concentration. Biological rhythms, known as Ultradian Rhythms, influence our ability to process complex information. Alternating periods of intense concentration with breaks or fun activities helps to maximise cognitive efficiency. Edutainment orchestrates this by interspersing immersive and stimulating activities with moments for reflection or relaxation. These pauses enable the brain to consolidate learning by transferring information from working memory to long-term memory.

A major advantage of edutainment is its ability to generate emotional engagement. Emotions, whether linked to pleasure, curiosity or surprise, are crucial in stimulating the desire to learn. Neuroscience has shown that positive emotions release dopamine, a neurotransmitter that stimulates the development of new neuronal connections and memory. Interactive narratives and immersive simulations are ways of triggering these emotions. In a 2021 article in the *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience* Journal, Timothy Broom writes that people "internalize these experiences and respond to them as if they had happened to themselves".

Edutainment uses this ability to embed learning in emotional and narrative contexts, to ensure that concepts remain relevant and effective. A 2023 study by French Development Agency (AFD) highlighted that programmes should continue to leverage entertainment as a key part of their overall appeal.

Role of AI

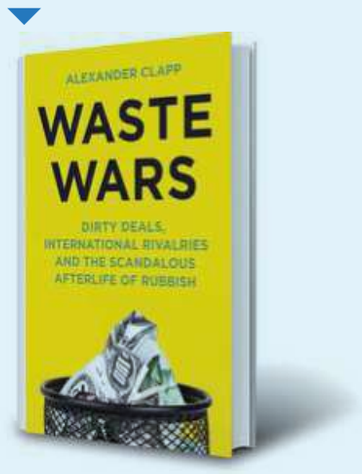
Edutainment, enhanced by AI, not only makes learning more appealing but transforms it into an immersive, engaging, and profoundly human adventure. By harnessing the natural mechanisms of our brain, it paves the way for education that inspires, captivates, and shapes learners who will be better prepared to face the challenges of the future. AI enables learning to be sequenced and personalised. Thanks to machine learning algorithms, systems can analyse user performance and adapt content in real time, ensuring it is delivered at precisely the right moment. Additionally AI is capable of designing interactive environments where scenarios can be adapted to suit learner preferences, thereby boosting engagement and providing an improved experiential learning experience.

The introduction of increasingly immersive interfaces, such as Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality, helps immerse users in exciting environments and makes it possible to simulate complex situations – such as international negotiations or surgical operations – giving learners the possibility of putting their skills into practise in realistic but risk-free conditions.

Through a combination of neuroscience, experiential learning, and innovative technology, edutainment enhances knowledge retention, stimulates intrinsic motivation, and enables more sustainable learning. Last but not least, it democratises access to quality education by proposing formats that are both accessible and relevant to different audiences.

The writer is the Chief Innovation and Digital Officer, Excelia.

ON THE SHELF



Waste Wars

A book that tells the stories of five trash conflicts being waged in different corners of the world right now. In each theatre, a different commodity is being smuggled or imported or bartered. Sometimes there is a winner; sometimes there is a loser. And in each theatre a different political dilemma — from global inequality to the pitfalls of green politics — is presenting itself through the seemingly pedestrian medium of trash. A globe-trotting work of investigative reporting, the book exposes the multi-billion dollar global garbage trade in which almost everyone in the world unknowingly engages and asks: If the handling of its trash reveals deeper truths about a particular society, what does the global business of trash say about our world today?

Author: Alexander Clapp
Publisher: Hachette
Price: ₹799

Building blocks to success

Rethinking failure in architectural education is not just about changing how we teach but also about preparing students for the profession's complexities

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Anand Achari

Failure is often seen as a setback but, in architectural education, it can be a powerful tool for growth and learning. Architecture demands creativity, problem-solving, and adaptability; qualities that are often developed through trial and error. To prepare students for the profession's challenges, we need to rethink how we approach failure in the educational process and embrace it as an essential part of learning.

Design is rarely a straightforward journey. Students frequently go through multiple attempts and revisions before they find solutions that work. These moments of failure are not the end but stepping stones towards better understanding and skill development. When students are encouraged to reflect on what didn't work and why, they learn to approach problems with a mindset that values exploration and resilience.

Real-world example

The story of the Sydney Opera House highlights the role of challenges in architectural success. Danish architect Jørn Utzon's original design was met with criticism, as many considered it too ambitious and difficult to build. The project faced engineering problems and cost overruns, causing delays that almost halted its progress. Yet, it became one of the most iconic buildings in the world. This shows how setbacks in the design process can lead to remarkable results when tackled with determination and a willingness to improve.

The architectural studio, a cornerstone of education, is the ideal space to engage with this process. Here, students are free to experiment and take risks without fear of real-world repercussions. Faculty play a critical role in shaping how students perceive failure, offering guidance and feedback that helps them turn mistakes into learning opportunities. This approach not only improves technical skills but also fosters the confidence needed to tackle complex challenges in the professional world.

Cultural attitudes toward failure can also influence how students approach their work. In many places, failure is viewed negatively and this can discourage risk-taking and limit creativity. To counter this, schools and educators need to normalise failure as part of the journey to success. Sharing examples of well-known architects who faced setbacks but went on to achieve greatness can help students see that failure is part of the process.

Introducing real-world situations into the curriculum is another way to prepare students for the demands of the profession. Projects that mimic the complexities of actual work – tight deadlines, unexpected obstacles, and limited resources – teach students how to manage setbacks and adapt their strategies. These experiences help bridge the gap between education and practice, making students more prepared for the realities of their careers.

Digital tools

Technology has also changed how we approach failure. Digital tools and simulations allow students to test and refine their ideas in a low-risk environment before moving to physical models. This lets them learn from mistakes early and adjust accordingly. At the same time, hands-on experience remains essential, as working with real materials and constraints teaches lessons that technology alone cannot.

Finally, institutions need to build reflection on failure into their programmes. Workshops, critiques, and open discussions about setbacks should be a regular part of the learning process. When assessments value the journey as much as the final result, students are more likely to see failure as an opportunity for growth rather than a reason to give up.

In the end, rethinking failure in architectural education is not just about changing how we teach; it is about preparing students for the profession's complexities.

The writer is Principal, VES College of Architecture.

Ace the exam

With the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) going fully digital, students need to adjust their preparation strategies

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Rohan Rai

The Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) is a standardised exam taken for college admissions in the U.S. and Canada. It evaluates mathematical, reading and writing skills, helping institutions assess applicants' academic abilities. The SAT has now become fully digital, requiring students to adjust their preparation strategies. The new format includes adaptive questioning, a shorter duration, and quicker score reporting. Here are some tips to master the new format.

Understand the features: The new digital test is for two hours and 14 minutes and features adaptive testing. This means that the difficulty level of the second module will depend on your performance in the first. The reading section includes shorter passages and a built-in Desmos calculator for the entire Maths section. To prepare, students could practise using official online platforms like Bluebook app that mimic the real exam interface. Getting comfortable with the on-screen tools and navigation will make a big difference on test day.

Structured study: Efficient preparation depends on creating a structured study plan. Students need to start their study routine two to three months before the exam while maintaining preparation for other competitive exams. Begin by identifying strengths and weaknesses. Those who excel at Maths but struggle with reading comprehension should dedicate additional study time to that. Effective learning results from dividing study sessions into manageable segments by focussing on Maths one day followed by reading the next day.

Practice tests: Taking full-length practice tests under timed conditions is one of the best ways to build confidence and improve time management. Attempt at least four to five mock tests before the actual exam to get used to the pressure and pacing. Key strategies to improve include reviewing mistakes, focusing on weaker sections, and learning when to skip difficult questions.

Reading and writing: For these sections, students should develop strong comprehension abilities. Reading newspapers, journals and online articles will help enhance reading abilities. The study of grammar rules, along with sentence structure and vocabulary expansion, will provide additional benefits. Divide complex and difficult-to-understand passages into sections and create personal summaries for each paragraph. Better comprehension abilities will come with consistent practice.

Maths: Revising key topics such as algebra, data analysis, and trigonometry is important. Since a built-in calculator is available for the entire section, students should practise using it efficiently. However, relying too much on the calculator can slow down problem-solving, so mental Maths skills should also be sharpened. A useful tip is to practise solving equations quickly. For instance, instead of manually expanding an equation, try recognising patterns and using shortcuts to simplify calculations.

Additional support: Joining a structured programme or hiring a tutor can help those who cannot self-study. Online study groups can also provide motivation and an opportunity to discuss doubts with peers.

Time management: Balancing SAT preparation with schoolwork or other entrance exams can be challenging, but a well-planned schedule makes it manageable. Keeping a daily or weekly checklist of topics covered can help track progress and stay motivated.

Before the exam: In the last week, students should take a final mock test to check readiness. Avoid last-minute cramming and focus on revising key concepts. Ensure familiarity with the digital test interface, get enough rest, and stay relaxed. In the exam hall, read the instructions carefully before beginning the answers to prevent unnecessary mistakes.

The writer is Co-Founder, Edupull