

STATE EDUCATIONAL BOARDS

Apart from the international and national level boards like CIE, CBSE and ICSE, each state in India also has specific educational boards that are affiliated to the respective state governments. These educational boards are regulated and supervised by the State apex bodies for secondary and senior secondary education. Majority of Indian schools are affiliated with the state government boards. A portion of the curriculum focuses specifically on imparting knowledge about the state. The oldest state board is the

U.P. Board of High School & Intermediate Education established in 1921 as an autonomous body under the Department of Education. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of State board schools followed by Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Covering all the state boards here is not possible; therefore, 4 of the most reputed state boards have been covered here. They are:

- Maharashtra
- West Bengal
- Andhra Pradesh
- Uttar Pradesh

Maharashtra

The Maharashtra State Board of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education conducts the HSC and SSC Examinations in the state of Maharashtra. It was formed in 1965. The Board conducts examination twice a year and the number of students appearing for the main examination is around

14 Lacs for HSC i.e. class 12 and 17 Lac's for SSC ie class 10. There are about 21000 schools (SSC) and 7000 (HSC) Higher Sec. Schools / Jr. Colleges in the entire state.

Students have to take 7 subjects at the 10th level, which are:

- 1st language- English
- 2nd language- Hindi
- 3rd Language- Marathi

- 4th subject- Social sciences- History, Geography & Civics
- 5th Subject- Sciences- Physics, Chemistry & Biology
- 6th Subject -Mathematics (Algebra & Geometry)
- 7th Subject- Information Communication Technology

Each subject is marked on a total of 100 marks and scores are then converted into percentages.

At the class 12 level i.e. HSC, there are 4 compulsory papers that all students must take in their class 12th which are: English, Modern Indian Language or a foreign language, Environment Education and Physical Education apart from the subjects offered in three main streams, sciences, Arts and Commerce.

Marking Scheme

English & Modern Indian Language or a foreign language are marked on a total of 100 marks each while Physical Education is a graded component.

Under the elective subjects, students can choose any 4 subjects under any of the 3 streams which are Arts, Commerce, and Science. All subjects in this group are marked out of a total of

100 marks each. The Arts stream offers 39 subjects for students to choose from, while Commerce offers 11 and Science offers 20 under the electives category.

Under class 10 & 12 the students would get percentages which help them to get admission on merit basis.

West Bengal

The West Bengal Board of Secondary Education is the state governed examining authority for the Standard 10 examination. The examination for the 10th standard is called the Madhyamik Pariksha or secondary examination. The Madhyamik examination is conducted annually and simultaneously all over the state of West Bengal and also in affiliates of the board located outside West Bengal, elsewhere in India. More than 10,50,000 examinees take the exam each year. Presently the Board is handling more than 10,000 schools.

The curriculum consists of two language papers, three compulsory subjects and three additional subjects with many options to choose from. The compulsory subjects are Maths, Life Science

and Physical Science. The additional subjects are further divided into 2 groups: one that has the option between History and Geography and the other group has Computers, Physical Education and Work Education to choose from.

At class 12th level, students have to opt for two languages; 3 compulsory elective subjects from Science, Humanities or Commerce streams; and one optional subject from any of the groups.

Marking scheme

Each paper consists of 100 marks with 90 marks for the theoretical written examination and rest 10 marks for the viva voce.

The minimum passing marks are 25% and a student must pass in every subject to attain the certification.

Uttar Pradesh

The Board was set up in the year 1921 at Allahabad and conducted its first examination in 1923. As mentioned earlier, it is the oldest state board in India and is also the biggest examining body

in the world. Presently, the Board is holding the examinations and preparing the results of nearly 32 lakh students.

With the introduction of the new curriculum the syllabi of Class 9 and 10 have been bifurcated. Formerly, the High School Examination was conducted including the syllabus of both the classes, but now there is only internal assessment and evaluation up to class 9 and board exams for class 10th.

At Intermediate level, five subjects are to be selected by a student, of which Hindi is compulsory

and four other subjects are to be chosen from any of the various groups of subjects.

It is said that generally students who want to appear for state level entrance examinations of engineering, medicine etc. KCET, MCET, TANCET etc. will find it easier to score in them by studying in state boards.

The assessment of exam papers in the UP board is done very strictly. A score of about 75% in UP board is equivalent to a score of about 90% in CBSE.

Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Board of Intermediate Education regulates and supervises the system of Intermediate education in Andhra Pradesh State. It executes and governs various activities that include devising of courses of study, prescribing syllabus, conducting examinations, granting affiliations to colleges and, providing direction, support and leadership for all educational institutions under its jurisdiction.

The student goes through the following exam pattern through two years in 11th and 12th:

For Arts group:

- For 1st year- 500 marks
- For 2nd year- 500 marks

For Physics, Chemistry and Math group (PCM)

- 1st year- 470 marks
- 2nd year- 530 marks

For Biology, Physics, Chemistry group (PCB)

- 1st year- 440 marks
- 2nd year- 560 marks

35% marks are necessary to pass the examinations.

The assessment of exams in the Andhra Pradesh is more relaxed. A student who secures even 90% marks in the AP board exams can be considered equal to the student who has secured 75% marks in -say- the UP board.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Each state in India has an education board which is regulated by the respective state governments
- Although the subjects vary, each state board has a curriculum which offers state related subjects, for example the local languages
- The UP board is the oldest board while the state boards of Maharashtra, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have considerably good reputation
- The marking and assessment of exams varies in all states in terms of strictness. For example, a high score like 90% in the AP board is considered equivalent to a score of 75% in -say- the UP board