

CBSE Class 10 Exam Pattern 2025-26

August 2025

Introduction

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has released the exam pattern for Class 10 for the academic year 2025-26. This document outlines the exam structure, marking scheme, and topic-wise weightage for core subjects, including Mathematics, Science, Social Science, English, and Hindi. The exam pattern emphasizes competency-based education, with 50% of questions being competency-based (e.g., MCQs, case-based, source-based), 20% multiple-choice questions (MCQs), and 30% short and long-answer questions. Each subject carries a total of 100 marks, with 80 marks for the theory exam and 20 marks for internal assessment or project work. Students must score a minimum of 33% in each subject (theory and internal assessment combined) to pass.

Exam Structure

The CBSE Class 10 board exams for 2025-26 will be conducted in two phases: Phase 1 (February 17 to March 6, 2026) and Phase 2 (May 5 to May 20, 2026), with the best score considered. The exams include:

- **Theory Exam:** 80 marks, comprising competency-based questions (50%), MCQs (20%), and short/long-answer questions (30%).
- **Internal Assessment:** 20 marks, including periodic tests, notebook submission, and subject enrichment activities.
- **Exam Duration:** Typically 3 hours per subject.
- **Passing Criteria:** Minimum 33% marks in each subject (theory and internal assessment combined).

Subject-Wise Exam Pattern and Marking Scheme

Mathematics (Standard and Basic)

- **Total Marks:** 100 (80 theory + 20 internal assessment).

- **Question Types:** 50% competency-based (MCQs, case-based, source-based), 20% MCQs, 30% short/long-answer questions.
- **Units and Weightage:**

Unit	Topics
Number Systems	Real Numbers
Algebra	Polynomials, Linear Equations, Quadratic Equations, Arithmetic
Coordinate Geometry	Lines, Distance Formula
Geometry	Triangles, Circles
Trigonometry	Trigonometric Identities, Heights and Distances
Mensuration	Areas, Surface Areas and Volumes
Statistics and Probability	Mean, Median, Mode, Probability
Total	

Table 1: Mathematics Topic-Wise Weightage

Science

- **Total Marks:** 100 (80 theory + 20 internal assessment).
- **Question Types:** 50% competency-based, 20% MCQs, 30% short/long-answer questions.
- **Units and Weightage:**

Unit	Topics
Chemical Substances	Chemical Reactions, Acids, Bases, Salts, Metals, Carbon Compounds
World of Living	Life Processes, Control and Coordination, Reproduction
Natural Phenomena	Light, Human Eye
Effects of Current	Electricity, Magnetic Effects
Natural Resources	Sources of Energy, Environment
Total	

Table 2: Science Topic-Wise Weightage

Social Science

- **Total Marks:** 100 (80 theory + 20 internal assessment).
- **Question Types:** 50% competency-based, 20% MCQs, 30% short/long-answer questions, including map-based questions.
- **Units and Weightage:**

English (Language and Literature, Communicative)

- **Total Marks:** 100 (80 theory + 20 internal assessment).

Unit	Topics	Marks
History	Nationalism, Industrialization, Independence	20
Geography	Resources, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Lifelines	20
Political Science	Power Sharing, Democracy, Gender	20
Economics	Development, Sectors, Money, Globalization	20
Total		80

Table 3: Social Science Topic-Wise Weightage

- **Sections:** Reading (20 marks), Writing and Grammar (20 marks), Literature (40 marks).
- **Question Types:** 50% competency-based, 20% MCQs, 30% short/long-answer questions.

Hindi (Course A and Course B)

- **Total Marks:** 100 (80 theory + 20 internal assessment).
- **Sections (Hindi A):** Prose, Poetry, Drama, Grammar, Comprehension, Writing.
- **Sections (Hindi B):** Comprehension, Grammar, Writing, Communication Skills.
- **Question Types:** 50% competency-based, 20% MCQs, 30% short/long-answer questions.

Additional Notes

- **Sample Papers:** CBSE provides sample papers and marking schemes on cbseacademic.nic.in to familiarize students with the exam pattern.
- **Syllabus:** The detailed syllabus for each subject is available on the official CBSE website (cbse.gov.in or cbseacademic.nic.in).
- **Preparation Tips:** Focus on NCERT textbooks, practice sample papers, and prioritize high-weightage topics. Regular revision and time management are key.

Conclusion

Understanding the CBSE Class 10 exam pattern for 2025-26 is crucial for effective preparation. By focusing on the marking scheme, question types, and topic-wise weightage, students can strategize their studies to excel in the board exams. For the latest updates, visit cbse.gov.in or cbseacademic.nic.in.