



EDUCATION IS A MOVEMENT FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Private Unaided Schools' Association-CBSE/ICSE (Regd.) (PUSA) Punjab

Regn. No. 217

(An association of Private Unaided Schools Affiliated to CBSE/ICSE in The State of Punjab)

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The Chairman
Central Board of Secondary Education
Shiksha Kendra, 2, Community Centre,
Preet Vihar, Delhi – 110 092.

Sub: Arguments favouring holding Class XII Examination under transparent test-norms.

Reference ongoing nationwide deliberations on the issue of deciding parameters for holding 12th Class Board examination in physical mode. Our Association representing CBSE schools also wishes to put forward certain suggestions to help solve the multifaceted issue in hand.

The most important concern is about deciding the examination Centres. The fact is that examination centres have already been fixed twice in the recent past of which second time effort was specially to ensure Covid specified distancing norm of 6 ft. Other Covid SOP parameters of foolproof sanitation of the Centre-spaces and the material, including stationary etc., was also put in place. The Board has even equipped the Centres with quantum of stationary required to be used by the number of examinees already specified. Such a time consuming exercise has already been done by competent and farsighted CBSE Regional Officers with the active co-operation of District Co-ordinators who obviously have first-hand knowledge and feel of the local concerns. When so much has already been done and that too keeping all imaginable irritants in mind the task of fixing the centre should be considered as accomplished. Thinking of deviating in favour of self-centres will be tantamount to compromising with the universally accepted transparency norms.

Second issue relates to the mode of question paper: whether subjective or objective or multiple choice. In the fitness of things such deviation from the time-tested norm should not be resorted to in any circumstance. Most potent reason is the pre-set notion of an examinee who for all the past ten years of his academic life got used to writing subjective type answers and has so far been visualizing his would-be question-paper in subjective format. Besides, he has also been assiduously preparing to deal with subjective-type question-paper in the present protracted academic year of fourteen months. Their

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teachers have also helped them build up powerful repertoire of how to deal with the complexity of managing question-answer jigsaw. To change the rules of game in the final round will indeed prove disastrous to say the least. If one feels he is contemplating giving some relief to examinees by switching over to quick-fix options like multiple choice and objective types he is mistaken. He is going to spell consternation and confusion at a time when assured sense of stability and security is direly needed. Additionally, he is sure to unleash inclinations to use underhand means to which a single-word answer is susceptibly amenable.

Next issue of course is the time duration of examination which obviously should be standard three hours and why not! The examinee for all the twelve years of his academic life has been sitting through three-hour writing schedule. He is well-versed in it and has got used to it over the years since he has set his writing speed system in consonance with three-hour time frame. Reduction in time duration will upset his thinking-writing equation which he has perfected through practice umpteen times. Again shortening time duration is no relief to one who has traversed to the Examination Centre all the way and is firmly settled in his hot seat.

In conclusion we wish to submit that nothing should be resorted to by the CBSE which goes counter to the existing clean image that august CBSE has been able to assiduously build over the decades of firmness of resolution and steadfastness of purpose. Varied and minor deviations proposed by various stake-holders will in no way bring any tangible relief to the students who are stout enough to brave the odds and prepared enough, both mentally and academically, to take on all the humps in their normal stride.

The decision of holding examination of three main subjects plus English to curtail the frequency of visits to the Examination Centre and shortening the overall examination time-span is indeed a welcome.

With profound regards,

Yours sincerely,

Vinod Kumar Khurana(President)

S.Mohinder Singh(State Gen. Secretary)

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