

DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION; EXAM BRANCH
OLD SECRETARIAT; DELHI-110054

No. DE.5/212/Exam/16-17/Part-I/619-629
ORDER

Date: 17/08/26

Sub: Amendment/Addition in Examination Procedure & Promotion Policy for Class IX w.e.f. 2026-27 -reg.

In continuation of the existing Examination Pattern and Promotion Policy for classes IX and XI issued by the Director (Education), GNCT of Delhi vide order No-DE.5/212/Exam/16-17/Part-1/400-407 dated 07-07-2022, and in partial modification thereof, further, in alignment with the revised Scheme of Studies of class IX under the Curriculum at Secondary Level 2026-27 and assessment framework notified by the Central Board of Secondary Education under the National Curriculum Framework (NCFSE-2023), the following **amendments/additions** have been made in the existing **Examination Procedure & Promotion Policy for Class IX from the Academic Session 2026-27.**

In the interest of the students, certain structural and curricular provisions have been adopted and incorporated as amendments. These amendments are only for class IX and intended to facilitate a smooth transition towards competency-based, multidisciplinary and skill-integrated school education, as envisaged in the NEP-2020/NCFSE-2023 framework. Accordingly, the provisions contained herein shall be read as supplementary, modifying and operative clauses to the earlier orders for examination procedure and promotion to the next higher class, wherever applicable.

1. Core Academic Structure and Examination Pattern

SCHEME OF STUDIES FOR CLASS IX (2026-27)		
Subjects	Name of Subject	Nature of Subject & Assessment
Subject 1	Language-1	Compulsory Subjects with Annual Examination and School-based Internal Assessment
Subject 2	Language-2	
Subject 3	Mathematics	
Subject 4	Science	
Subject 5	Social Science	
Subject 6	Vocational Education (Kaushal Vikas)	
Subject 7	Language-3	Compulsory Subjects with School-based Assessment
Subject 8	Individuals in Society	
Subject 9	Art Education	
Subject 10	Physical Education and Well-Being	Optional Subject with Annual Examination and School-based Internal Assessment
Subject 11	As per table 5 of Secondary School Curriculum Part-1 (Classes IX-X) 2026-27*	
Module**	Computational Thinking & Artificial Intelligence (CT & AI)	School-based Assessment

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* Schools are directed to refer to the CBSE Secondary School Curriculum Part-1 Classes IX-X) 2026-27.

** CT & AI as a compulsory subject in session 2027-28

2. The following six subjects shall continue to constitute the Core Academic Structure for Class IX:

- 2.1. Language-1 (at R1 level)**
- 2.2. Language-2 (at R2 level)**
- 2.3. Mathematics**
- 2.4. Science**
- 2.5. Social Science**
- 2.6. Vocational Education**

These six main subjects shall remain the primary basis for academic progression and promotion. The teaching-learning process shall continue to emphasize conceptual clarity, application-based learning and competency development. Assessment shall be carried out through a combination of internal and external components as per prescribed norms.

Every student in Class IX shall study three languages. Language-3 (R3) shall remain a mandatory qualifying subject and its assessment shall be entirely school-based/internal. The marksheet will distinctly reflect "Qualified/Not Qualified". In case, a student in the current Class IX batch does not qualify the school-based assessment of R3 language during the academic year, the student shall still be promoted to Class X for the next academic session. However, the student must qualify the Class IX R3 assessment while studying in Class X.

3. Languages

- 3.1.** Languages have now been formally categorized under R1, R2, & R3 levels as per NCFSE-2023. To implement the recommendations of NEP-2020 and NCF-2023, R3 (Third Language) is compulsory from Class IX with effect from Academic Session 2026-27, ensuring that every learner studies at least two Bhartiya Bhashas (native Indian languages).
- 3.2.** The students of class IX (2026-27) will continue the same 3 language combinations that they studied in the Class VIII in the previous year. Out of these three languages, 01 language shall be opted for as R3.
- 3.3.** The languages listed in Table 5 of CBSE Secondary School Curriculum Part-1 (Classes IX-X) 2026-27 may be offered at all three levels, namely R1, R2, and R3. However, one language cannot be offered at more than one level. Also, at least two of R1, R2, R3 must be Bhartiya Bhashas (native Indian languages). Further, certain relaxations and exemptions shall be provided in special cases as per CBSE norms with the approval of competent authority.
- 3.4.** The learning outcomes, syllabus coverage, and assessment framework for R1 and R2 shall be distinct. Accordingly, separate assessment patterns shall apply for R1 and R2 levels.
- 3.5.** R3 will remain a mandatory qualifying subject and its assessment shall be entirely school-based/internal. The marksheet will distinctly reflect "Qualified/Not Qualified." In case, a current Class IX student does not qualify the School-Based

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Assessment of R3 in the academic year, the student shall still be promoted to Class X for the next academic session as per extant Promotion Policy. However, the student would need to clear the Class IX R3 assessment while studying in Class X. Those who are unable to clear the third language and have been promoted to class X, be provided with adequate support, remediation or any other measures in class X, to enable them to qualify R3 in the exam conducted at school level. **No student shall be eligible to appear in the Class X Board Examination at the end of Class X unless he/she has qualified Class IX third language (R3).**

4. Subjects (Mathematics and Science) at two levels

- 4.1. From the academic session 2026-27, the subjects Mathematics and Science and their assessments have been introduced at two levels.
- 4.2. **Mathematics and Science:** These will cover the common prescribed syllabus, which will be compulsory and be studied by all the students. There will be common compulsory papers of Mathematics and Science (80 marks, 03 hours) for all students.
- 4.3. **Mathematics Advanced and Science Advanced:** These will be optional and meant for students who wish to go beyond the standard common syllabus. These will have additional content and the assessment will be of 25 marks, 01 hour duration, covering all Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) questions.
- 4.4. All students (whether opting for Advanced or not) will appear in a common final examination (Board in class X/school-based annual examination in Class IX of 80 marks, 03 hours). In addition, students opting for the Advanced level will take an additional examination of 25 marks (01 hour) at a higher level, based on the prescribed content.
- 4.5. Students can choose none/one/both subject/s at advanced level.
- 4.6. Marks secured in Mathematics Advanced/Science Advanced shall not be added for the promotion to the next higher class or to the overall aggregate score. Only a notation (The Advanced Level has been successfully cleared) will be reflected on the mark sheet if cleared with 50% and more marks.
- 4.7. This two-level structure will not apply to the internal assessments of 20 marks in Mathematics and Science conducted at the school level.
- 4.8. From the academic session 2026-27, the scheme of two-levels , i.e. Mathematics Basic and Mathematics Standard examination, will be discontinued. However, students of Class-X in 2026-27 will only continue under the existing scheme and may opt for Mathematics Basic, as applicable for the academic year 2025-26.

5. Vocational Education (Kaushal Vikas)

In accordance with the revised Scheme of Studies, Vocational Education (Kaushal Vikas) has been introduced as a mandatory subject for all students at Class IX level w.e.f. 2026-2027. The objective of this provision is to ensure early exposure to skill-based learning and integration of employability skills within school education.

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6. Education in Interdisciplinary Areas

In alignment with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023, which emphasises multidisciplinary learning, constitutional values, environmental consciousness, and the development of rational and ethical reasoning, CBSE introduces Education in Interdisciplinary Areas as a compulsory component at the Secondary Stage. Accordingly, an interdisciplinary curricular area titled “Individuals in Society” in Class IX (2026-27 onwards) shall be introduced as a Compulsory Subject with School Based Assessment as part of the revised Scheme of Studies.

7. Art Education

Under the new Scheme of Studies (as per NCF-SE 2023), Art Education in Class IX has been made a compulsory curricular area rather than an extra-curricular activity. It shall be taught alongside core subjects and will be assessed as a Compulsory Subject through School Based Assessment. The subject includes Visual Arts, Music, Theatre, and Dance & Movement aiming to develop students’ creativity, aesthetic sense, cultural awareness, and overall holistic development.

8. Physical Education and Well Being

Under the new Scheme of Studies (as per NCF-SE 2023), Physical Education and Well Being has been recognised as a core component of school education, with the same rigour and expectations as other disciplines. It focuses on promoting physical fitness, mental health, and overall well-being of students through activities such as sports, yoga, and health education and aims to develop discipline, teamwork, healthy lifestyle habits, and awareness about personal health, ensuring the holistic development of learners. The subject shall be assessed as a Compulsory Subject through School Based Assessment.

9. Optional Subject

Apart from above, a student may also be offered an additional subject from the list of optional subjects as given in Table 5 of Secondary School Curriculum Part-1 (Classes IX-X) 2026-27.

10. Computational Thinking & Artificial Intelligence

Computational Thinking and Artificial Intelligence (CT & AI) shall be introduced as structured modules (to be provided by NCERT) in the Academic Session 2026-27 across all schools as part of foundational skill development and will be assessed through School Based Assessment. **However CT & AI shall be a Compulsory Subject from session 2027-28 onwards.**

11. Note:

11.1. First Six subjects opted by the student as mentioned in para 2 will be considered as Main Subjects and the result will be calculated accordingly as per Promotion Policy.

11.2. R3 will remain a mandatory qualifying subject and its assessment shall be entirely School-Based/Internal. The marksheets will distinctly reflect “Qualified/Not Qualified.”

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- 11.3. The assessments of Individuals in Society, Art Education, Physical Education & Well-Being, and CT & AI shall be entirely School-Based. However, this component shall not be treated as a core subject for promotion purposes.**
- 11.4. Marks secured in Mathematics Advanced/Science Advanced shall not be added for the promotion to the next higher class or to the overall aggregate score.**
- 12.** The scheme of studies for CwSN shall be similar to the scheme prescribed for all students. However, in accordance with Clause 17(i) of the RPwD Act, 2016 and the provisions of NCFSE 2023, CwSN shall be required to study only one compulsory language. All other subjects, whether compulsory (with Board Examination or School-Based Assessment) or optional, may be replaced by any of the optional subjects listed in Table 5 of the Secondary School Curriculum Part-I (Classes IX-X) 2026-27, as per the choice and comfort level of the CwSN student. However, CwSN students are free to retain as many subjects from the standard scheme of studies as they feel comfortable with; alternatively, they may replace any number of subjects, or even all subjects except the one compulsory language, with optional subjects. CwSN with certified Specific Learning Disabilities or other specified conditions may be exempted from the study of R2 and R3, as per the norms specified in the Examination Bye Laws.

Promotion Rules For Class IX w.e.f. Academic Session 2026-2027

13. Passing Criteria:

- 13.1. (i)** In order to be declared "Pass" at the end of the session, a student must secure 33% marks separately in Internal Assessment/Practical and 33% marks in External Assessment (i.e. Mid Term exam plus Annual exam) in each of the six main subjects.
- (ii)** The promotion is also subject to the condition that a minimum of 25% of marks must be secured in the Annual Examination conducted at the end of the session.
- (iii)** the conditions stipulated under Clauses 13.1 (i) and 13.1 (ii) shall be mandatory and cumulative in nature. A student shall be eligible for promotion to the next higher class only upon fulfilling both the aforesaid conditions.
- 13.2. (i)** R3 will remain a mandatory qualifying subject and its assessment shall be entirely School-Based/Internal. The marksheet will distinctly reflect "Qualified/Not Qualified." The student must secure 33% marks in the subject i.e. 33 out of 100 in total in order to qualify for R3.
- (ii)** In case, a current Class IX student does not qualify the school-based assessment of R3 in the academic year, the student will still be promoted to Class X for the next academic session, provided that the conditions mentioned at 13.1 (i), (ii) & (iii) are fulfilled. However, the student would need to clear the Class IX R3 assessment while studying in Class X.

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(iii) Students who are unable to qualify in the third language in Class IX may be re-assessed at school level by the concerned school. Such students be provided with adequate support, remediation or any other measures in Class X, to enable them to qualify Class IX R3 in the exam conducted at school level.

(iv) The Head of School (HOS) must ensure that students appearing for the Class X Board Examination have successfully qualified in the third language (R3) studied in Class IX.

13.3. 3rd Language (R3) will not replace any language i.e. R1 or R2 or any other subjects for the promotion to the next higher class from the academic session 2026-2027.

13.4. Skill Course/additional optional subjects (as subject 11) opted by the student will not replace any of the other subjects opted by the students in class IX.

13.5. A student not eligible to be declared "Pass" shall be declared "Promoted" at the end of the session provided he/she is eligible for Grace Marks as admissible.

14. GRACE MARKS:

14.1. Grace Marks up to a maximum of ten (10) in all six main subjects, shall be awarded to a student to reach the minimum required 33% of marks in theory (Not in Practical/Internal Assessment) subject to the following conditions:

- (i) provided that a minimum of 25% of marks are secured in each of the six main subjects at the Annual Examination to make him/her eligible for promotion,
- (ii) provided that he/she does not require more than five (05) marks in one subject to come up to the minimum requirement of 33% of marks in theory (Mid Term Exam plus Annual Exam) of that subject.
- (iii) the condition mentioned above at (i) and (ii) shall be applicable provided that a minimum of 33% marks have been secured in Internal Assessment/Practical.
- (iv) the conditions stipulated under Clauses 14.1 (i), 14.1 (ii) and 14.1 (iii) shall be mandatory and cumulative in nature.

However, no Grace Marks shall be awarded to a student for taking the Compartment Examination.

14.2. In case, a total ten (10) Grace Marks are not awarded in six Main Subjects then rest of Grace Marks may be awarded to Additional Optional Subjects (subject 11) in theory for making it qualify to appear in Board Exam, if required.

15. Compartment Examination:

15.1. A student who appears in the Annual Examination can be declared eligible for appearing at the Compartment Examination in not more than three failing subjects out of the six Main Subjects. Such a student shall be eligible to appear

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in the subject(s) at a subsequent examination to be held in the Second/third week of April Known as "Compartment Examination".

- 15.2. The Compartment Examination will be conducted on the same pattern as the Annual Examination.
- 15.3. If a student fails/is absent in one/two/three subjects and Medical leave in other one or more subjects, he/she will be eligible for Compartment Examination in the subjects for which he/she has submitted the medical certificate as per norms along with the failing one/two/three subjects only.
- 15.4. If a student fails/is absent in four or more subjects and Medical Leave in other one or more subjects, he/she shall not be eligible to appear in Compartment Examination.
- 15.5. A student who fails in Theory, he/she will be placed in the Compartment only in Theory. If a student who fails in Practical, he/she will be placed in compartment only in Practical.
- 15.6. In case, a student fails in Theory and passes in Internal Assessment/Practical, his/her marks of Internal Assessment/Practical secured in the annual exam will be taken up to calculate his/her Compartment result as per norms stipulated under clause 16.
- 15.7. In case, a student fails in Internal Assessment, he/she can be given another opportunity to qualify only in those Internal Assessments subjects in which he/she has been placed in Compartment only after the approval of the concerned DDE (Zone).

16. Passing Criteria for Compartment Examination:

- 16.1. (i) In order to be declared "Successful" in the Compartment Examination, a student must secure, at least, 33% marks in the subject(s) in which he/she has taken the Compartment Examination.

(ii) Provided that a minimum of 33% marks must be secured in Internal Assessment/Practical.

(iii) the conditions stipulated under Clauses 16.1 (i) and 16.1 (ii) shall be mandatory and cumulative in nature. A student shall be declared to have qualified only upon fulfilling both the aforesaid conditions.
- 16.2. If a student does not secure in the subject(s) in which he/she has taken the Compartment Examination, at least 33% marks in the subject of Compartment (Theory) and minimum of 33% marks in Internal Assessment/Practical in that subject, he/she shall be declared unsuccessful in the Examination.
- 16.3. No benefit of Grace Marks will be given to the student appearing in the Compartment Examination for the promotion to the next higher class.

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17. **Essential Repeat:** A student of Class IX who is not eligible for Pass, Promotion or Compartment Examination either at the end of the session or after the Compartment Examination, shall be declared "Essential Repeat" and detained in the same class during the next session.
18. All the Heads of Govt., Govt Aided and Recognized Un-Aided Schools are hereby directed to comply with all these Promotion Rules and no dilution of the criteria prescribed is permissible under any circumstances.
19. All the Govt., Govt Aided and Recognized Un-Aided Schools shall bring these instructions into the notice of the teachers, students and their parents/guardians immediately on the commencement of the session and in any case, within 15 days of the issue of this order.



(VEDITHA REDDY)
DIRECTOR (EDUCATION)

All Heads of Govt., Govt. Aided & Recognised Unaided Schools in the NCT of Delhi through website of DoE

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(DR. RITA SHARMA)
Addl. Director of Education (Exam)