



GOA STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Autonomous body registered under Societies Registration Act 1860.

Reg. no.:156/GOA/2024

GSCERT Building, Porvorim - Goa 403 521

Phone no- 0832-2417276

website: <https://scert.goa.gov.in>

e-mail-scertgoa@gmail.com.

GSCERT/NEP/131/2026 /12584

Dated: 07/08/2026

CIRCULAR

In pursuance of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the introduction of NEP-aligned textbooks, a revised assessment pattern has been formulated for Grades 1 to 8 for the Academic Year 2026–2027.

The Comprehensive Assessment Guidelines for Grades 1 to 8, detailing the assessment framework and related procedures to be followed during the Academic Year 2026–2027, are enclosed with this Circular as **Annexure I**.

All Heads of Institutions are hereby directed to take necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of these Assessment Guidelines in their respective institutions, in letter and spirit. The contents of this Circular and the enclosed Guidelines shall also be brought to the notice of all concerned stakeholders, particularly teachers, students, and parents, wherever applicable.

This Circular shall supersede all previous circulars/instructions issued on the subject, to the extent that they are inconsistent with the provisions contained herein.

This Circular is issued with the approval of the competent authority and shall come into effect from the Academic Year 2026–2027.


(Meghana Shetgaonkar)
Director, GSCERT

To,

The Heads of,
all Govt./ Govt-Aided/ Unaided Primary,
Upper Primary & Middle Schools affiliated to Goa Board.

Copy to: -

1. P. A. Secretary (Education), Secretariate, Porvorim Goa.
2. The Director, Directorate of Education, Porvorim, Goa.
3. The State Project Director, Goa Samagra Shiksha, Porvorim-Goa.

4. P. A. to The Director, SCERT, Porvorim-Goa.
5. The Dy. Directors, NEZ/CEZ/SEZ, Mapusa/Panaji/Margao, Goa.
6. The ADEI of all Talukas.
7. The BRCC of all Talukas.
8. Office File
9. Guard File

ANNEXURE – I

Comprehensive Assessment Guidelines for Grades 1–8 for the Academic Year 2026–2027

1. Syllabus for Common Examination:

The syllabus for the Common Examination in all subjects will be as prescribed in the Academic Calendar circulated vide Letter No. GSCERT/Ass.Cell/Acadcal/04/2026/11664 dated 08/06/2026, except as specified below:

Note: 'Contextualised content of Social Science including History of Goa' will form part of the Social Science question paper only for Summative Evaluation–II at the Middle Stage.

2. Question Papers:

- i. Students of Grades 3 to 5 (Preparatory Stage) will appear for externally conducted examinations in each of the Core Curricular Areas, namely R1, R2, Mathematics, and The World Around Us. Each examination will carry 30 marks, of which 40% of the questions shall be Objective Type (Multiple Choice Questions) and 60% will be Subjective Type.
- ii. Students of Grades 6 to 8 (Middle Stage) will appear for externally conducted examinations in each of the Core Curricular Areas, namely R1, R2, R3, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science. Each examination will carry 50 marks, of which 40% of the questions will be Objective Type (Multiple Choice Questions) and 60% will be Subjective Type, in accordance with the prescribed assessment framework.
- iii. The Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) shall be answered on Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) sheets, which will be supplied by GSCERT to all students along with the respective question papers. The subjective questions shall be answered on the answer sheets provided by the schools.
The introduction of OMR-based answering is intended to familiarise students with the use of OMR sheets and to provide them with early exposure to this mode of assessment, thereby enhancing their preparedness for future competitive and other OMR-based examinations.

- iv. The question papers will primarily comprise competency-based questions designed to assess conceptual understanding, application, and higher-order thinking skills. In addition, an appropriate proportion of questions may be included in a competitive examination format to familiarise students with such assessment patterns.
- v. The blueprint and design of the approved sample question papers will be strictly followed while preparing all summative examination papers to ensure uniformity, standardisation, and alignment with the prescribed assessment framework.
- vi. As in the previous academic year, English versions of the question papers for Grades 3 and 4 will also be made available during the Academic Year 2026–2027 to schools having a medium of instruction other than English, subject to the submission of a written request to GSCERT on or before 31st August 2026.
- vii. It is hereby notified that, with effect from the Academic Year 2027–2028, no requests for English versions of question papers from schools having a medium of instruction other than English shall be entertained. Thereafter, question papers shall be supplied strictly in accordance with the officially approved medium of instruction of the school.

3. Goa Foundational Learning Survey (GFLS) for grades 1 & 2

The Goa Foundational Learning Survey (GFLS) is a state-level assessment initiative undertaken by the Goa State Council of Educational Research and Training (GSCERT) to measure the foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) competencies of young learners in the early grades. The survey is aligned with the vision of NEP 2020, NCF-FS and the NIPUN Bharat Mission, which aims to ensure that every child achieves foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3.

In view of the above, GSCERT shall conduct the Goa Foundational Learning Survey (GFLS) for students of Grades 1 and 2 on two occasions during the academic year—once in October and again in March/April.

4. Question Paper Distribution:

- i. Question paper packets will be dispatched to the respective Blocks. The distribution process is tentatively scheduled to commence 10

days prior to the commencement of the Summative Evaluation. Schools will have to collect their respective question paper packets from the designated Block office as per the schedule communicated by the concerned Block.

- ii. The question paper packets will be handed over only to the Head of the Institution or an authorised representative upon production of the institution's valid Identity Card. The recipient will be responsible for ensuring the safe custody and maintaining the confidentiality of the question papers until the commencement of the examination.
- iii. To ensure the timely distribution of question papers to all schools, certain schools may be required to make necessary arrangements to receive the question paper packets even on holidays. Such schools, if any, will be informed well in advance.
- iv. Any school that does not receive the question paper packets at least two days prior to the scheduled commencement of the Summative Evaluation will immediately inform this office by contacting Karuna Satardekar (9850694885) or Deeplaxmi Moghe (9823721810).

5. Supply of additional material

- i. Schools will have to make adequate arrangements to keep sufficient answer sheets ready for the examinations of the respective grades.
- ii. Graph papers and maps of Goa, India, and the World will be supplied by GSCERT along with the question papers. However, schools are advised to keep an adequate stock of these materials available as a contingency to meet any additional requirements during the examination.
- iii. Students of Grades 3 and 4 will be provided with Question-cum-Answer Booklets. The Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) will be answered on the integrated Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) sheet provided as part of the booklet.

6. External (Summative) Assessment Component for Skill-Based Subjects (Preparatory and Middle Stages)

- i. The practical examination constituting the External (Summative) Assessment component shall be conducted only for the two Skill-Based Subjects, namely Art Education and Physical Education. No external examiner shall be appointed for this purpose. The practical examination will be conducted by the respective schools in accordance with the prescribed guidelines and assessment criteria.

- ii. Vocational Education will not have any External (Summative) Assessment component. The assessment of this subject will be carried out entirely through the Internal Assessment process.
- iii. For the Preparatory Stage (Grades 3–5), schools will have to conduct two practical activities of 15 marks each in both Art Education and Physical Education. For the Middle Stage (Grades 6–8), schools will conduct two practical activities of 25 marks each in both subjects.
- iv. The practical activities will be assessed using the following prescribed criteria:

Art Education

- i. It is recommended that one practical activity each be conducted from any two components for the purpose of the External (Summative) Assessment. However, where this is not feasible due to the non-availability of teachers or other genuine constraints, schools may conduct both practical activities from any one component.
- ii. The following assessment criteria are prescribed for evaluating the External (Summative) Practical Activities:

Criteria	Grades 3 - 5	Grades 6 - 8
	Marks	Marks
Identifies and recalls basic concepts, materials and techniques.	2	4
Demonstrates understanding of the given theme or concept through the artwork.	2	4
Applies the appropriate use of techniques while performing the activity.	3	5
Organises and integrates the elements and techniques of the chosen art form effectively to communicate the intended idea or expression.	3	5
Makes suitable artistic choices and explains them during discussion/reflection.	3	4
Produces an original and creative artforms showing imagination and self-	2	3

expression.		
-------------	--	--

Physical Education

- i. It is recommended that two activities be conducted from physical education for the purpose of external (summative) assessment.
- ii. The following assessment criteria are recommended for evaluating the external practical activities.

Criteria	Grades 3 - 5	Grades 6 - 8
	Marks	Marks
Identifies and recalls the rules, terminology, safety measures, and objectives of the activity.	2	4
Explains the purpose of the activity, demonstrates awareness of health, fitness, and fair play, and understands the importance of warm-up and cool-down.	2	4
Performs the required skills, techniques, and movements correctly while following the prescribed rules and safety practices.	3	5
Demonstrates coordination, balance, timing, and strategic decision-making by adapting movements or tactics according to the situation.	3	5
Assesses personal performance, identifies strengths and areas for improvement, accepts feedback positively, and exhibits sportsmanship and teamwork.	3	4
Plans or modifies strategies, combines learned skills creatively, or demonstrates innovative movement patterns	2	3

during the activity.		
----------------------	--	--

7. Internal Component

The internal assessment component for all subjects from Grades 1 to 8 will follow a uniform assessment pattern aligned with the PARAKH Taxonomy.

For Grades 1 and 2, Internal Assessment will be conducted only in the core curricular areas, namely R1, R2, and Mathematics.

No formal assessment will be conducted for the other Holistic Learning subjects. These subjects will continue to be transacted through experiential, activity-based, and play-based pedagogical approaches to support the holistic development of learners.

Each subject (grades 1 to 8) will include four activities per semester, which will be assessed using competency-based assessment rubrics based on the criteria provided below.

Skills	Descriptive Indicators		
	Beginner	Proficient	Advanced
Awareness			
Sensitivity			
Creativity			

8. Children with Special Needs

GSCERT will not send modified question papers for CwSN for year 2026-2027. However following instructions are issued for the benefit of CwSN.

Environment and other provisions required for Assessment of CwSN:

- Organising a distraction-free room
- Permitting more frequent breaks during assessment
- Provision of alternative furniture, as required
- Assistive devices and appropriate technology-based tools
- Language appropriate Teaching Learning Materials
- Provision of facilities, infrastructure, devices, as required

Formatting of Question Papers for CwSN:

- a. Changing or re-organizing the order of tasks or questions
- b. Large font size and Line spacing for ease of reading
- c. Pictures to help in retrieval (preferably with colours)
- d. Question papers with provision for answering on the same sheet as question paper
- e. Questions requiring answers in a single word / phrase / sentence

Concessions for CwSN:

- a. Extended time for completion: Extra time of 30 minutes to facilitate memory retrieval.
- b. Allowing Scribe / writer or reading assistance wherever applicable.
- c. Allowing for the use of a simple calculator or any other gadget as recommended.
- d. Allow use of Multiplication table chart, Formula chart, etc., where rote learning is traditionally required.
- e. Optional text question for each graphical question, in case of children with Visual Impairment. Similarly, optional text / visual question to replace Sound related question for children with Hearing Impairment.
- f. Restrict long descriptive answers
- g. Allow point-form writing

Evaluation of Answer Sheets:

Evaluation of answer sheets of CwSN may be carried out while taking care of the following:

- a. Permit all forms of readable writing
- b. In subjects other than languages, evaluate the content of the answer, overlook the spelling errors, syntax, sentence structure
- c. For language subjects, marks are to be allotted for content and ideas, and ability to communicate
- d. Award marks for the method employed in mathematics

Responsibility of Schools:

- a. Heads of Institutions are requested to identify eligible students in advance and ensure that all necessary support is planned and

communicated to the parents of such children before the commencement of the examination.

- b. Schools must maintain records of students availing these concessions, with justification and documentation as per guidelines issued by the GBSHSE.
- c. Teachers and invigilators should be sensitized about these guidelines to ensure compassionate and fair treatment during assessments.
- d. Schools allowing concessions to CwSN students as mentioned above will have to send a detailed list of CwSN students along with the concession granted to those students to GSCERT.
- e. Schools should grant concessions only to those students having valid CwSN certificate issued by a competent authority.

GUIDELINES & PROFORMA FOR PREPARING PROGRESS REPORT CARDS

- i. Schools will have to evaluate the students' answer scripts at the school level using the suggestive Model Answer Key, which will be shared by GSCERT shortly after the conduct of the examination.
- ii. The Holistic Progress Card (HPC) shall be implemented in all schools with effect from the Academic Year 2026–2027. The External Component of the HPC shall reflect the marks obtained by the student in the Summative Assessment.
- iii. Schools shall prepare the Holistic Progress Card for all students strictly in accordance with the format prescribed by GSCERT, which will be shared separately.