

Monster of Examinations in India

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From Where to There



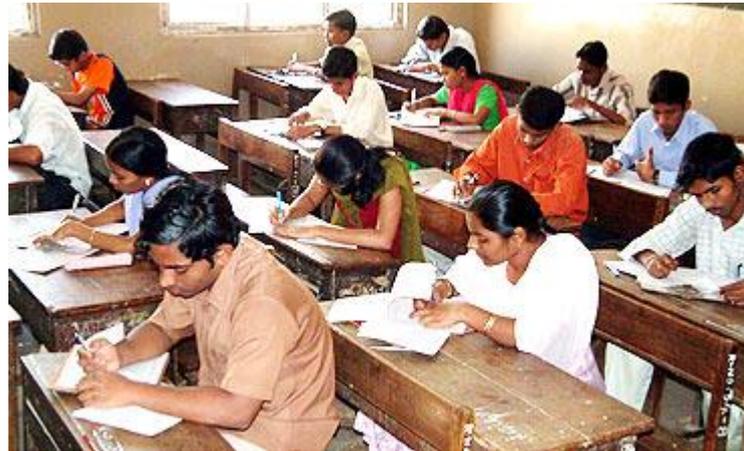
Question of Terminology

- Examination - Test
- Question - Item
- Evaluation - Grading
- Marks - Points
- Paper Setter - Test Designer
- Paper Setter - Subject Matter Expert (SME)
- No Analysis - Psychometric
- Large size - High Volume
- Tough paper - High Stress



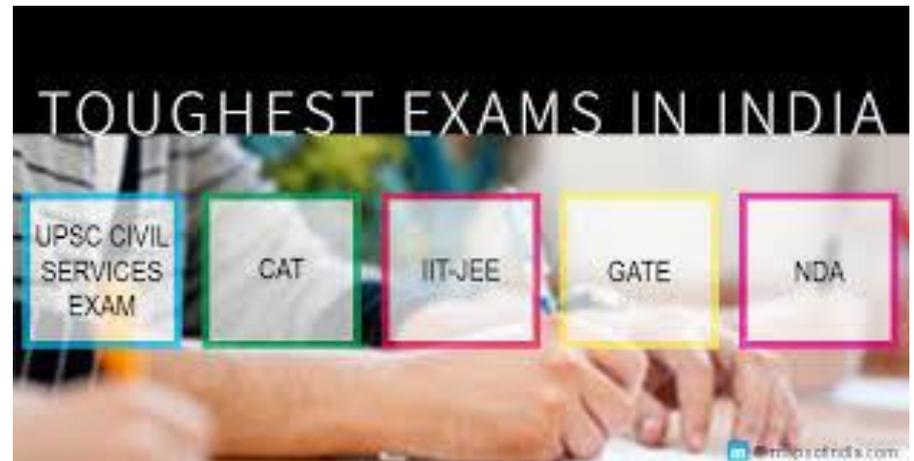
Examinations in Education

- Primary Education
 - School Examination
 - About 100
- Secondary Education
 - School Examination
 - Board Examinations
 - About 80
- Tertiary Education
 - College Examinations
 - University Examinations
 - About 70



Different Types of Examinations

- Entrance Examinations
- Interview Examinations
- Mid-semester Exams
- End-semester Exams
- Oral Examinations
- Written Examinations
- Practical Examinations
- Promotion Examinations
- Multiple Choice Exams
- Take Home Examinations



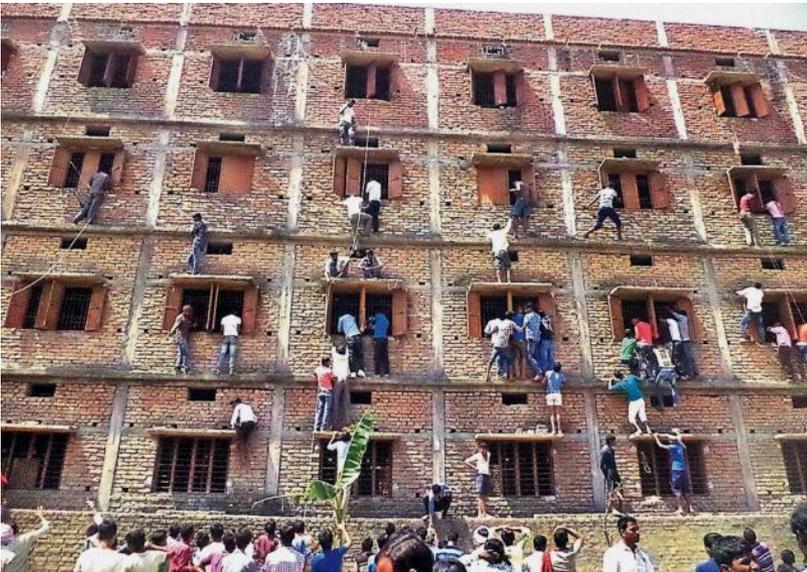
What is an examination after all?



- Test for memory – enter, store, recall
- Mugging , Rote Learning
- Speed of solving
- Numerical handling

- Critical thinking
- Problem formulation
- Problem solving
- Learning forming habits
- Self expression

Examination Maladies in India



- Individual copying
- Mass copying
- Leakage of question paper
- Wrong questions
- Incorrect translation
- Fake identity
- Poor invigilation
- Poor design of test
- Delay in evaluation
- Incorrect grading

Teaching, Learning, Testing

- Classical music is an example of ideal environment
- Instant feedback
- Continuous improvement
- Graded difficulty
- Individual attention
- Learning by doing
- Skills and Information
- Informal atmosphere



Advantages of KBC Testing



- Graded difficulty
- Graded reward
- Multiple choice questions
- Time constraints
- Knowledge testing plus some guess work
- Testing as a game
- Testing in fun mode
- Help in testing
- Graded entry on hot seat

One Time or Continuous Evaluation?

- One time or event based evaluation is outdated
- Continuous evaluation should be decentralized
- Individual teacher / faculty should be trained for continuous assessment
- Training in assessment essential for every teacher
- Transparency and objectivity is necessary



Examining the Examiner



- Subject Matter Experts should focus on the content
- Test Designers should focus on innovation in testing
- SME and TD are the two pillars of testing
- Administering the test is critical
- Evaluation should be as objective and error free as possible

Examining the Examination

- Selection of quality invigilators
- Ensuring fair conduct of examination
- Rules for examination should be clear
- Evaluation should be transparent
- Answers should unambiguous
- Technology should be error free



Quality and Standards in Testing

- Subjectivity in assessment should be as minimal as possible
- Standards are essential for setting up a quality benchmark as well as reducing the subjectivity
- Quality standards are helpful in doing the “equating” of tests when scores have to be compared between two events
- Quality standard also help build a level of excellence of the test year after year
- Operational standard are also essential to ensure that the test is conducted in the same manner at any location or at any time
- Different questions are to be tested with same standards

Confirmity

- Syllabus of an examination is the domain of testing
- All questions of an examination should confirm to the stated syllabus
- All topics should be covered in the questions in a uniform manner
- All skills claimed to have been imparted in the stated syllabus should be covered as well.

Accuracy and Clarity

- Questions should be free from any grammatical errors even when the question is translated in a different language
- Questions should be supported by figures if necessary
- Questions should have numerical consistency



Difficulty Level and Marks



- Difficulty level of some questions and not all should be high
- Overall, an average student should be able to score the average marks
- All types of capabilities like deductive logic, visual intelligence should be tested
- Marks should be assigned to questions based on standards

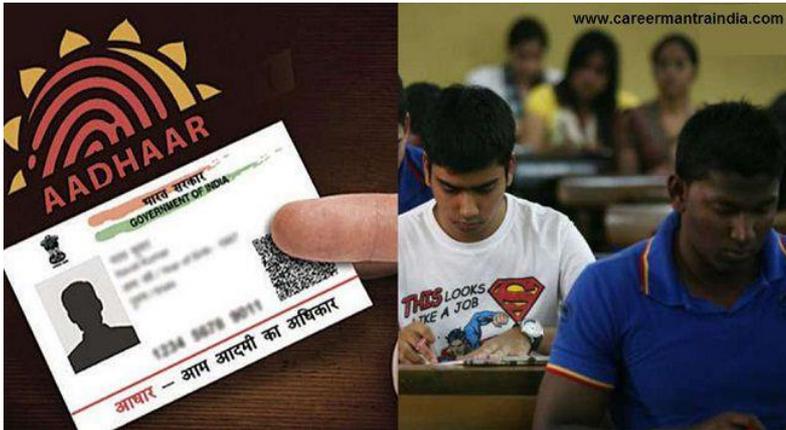
Legal Issues of an Examination

- Many examination results are now challenged in a court of law
- Question paper should be free from any loop holes that can be challenged legally
- Rules should be declared up front to all
- “Equating” should be explained to all



Administrative Issues

- Policies regarding “late arrival”, “copying”, “proxy” should be strict and should be implemented at all places
- Invigilation should be competent, strict and impartial
- Test fees and remunerations should be fair and transparent
- Security at test centers is essential as a precaution



Psychometric Analysis



- Question banks with student performance or scores should be available for analysis
- Questions and responses should be analysed using modern tools of statistics and psychology
- Software tools based on these techniques should be used extensively
- The techniques should be known to all

Equating Technology

- India needs to adopt multiple dates option for many examinations since the numbers are very large
- Science and techniques of “equating” must be promoted for this purpose
- The scientific basis of equating should be promoted
- Legal protection should be provided for such actions



Adaptive Testing

- Adaptive testing allows testing based on response
- Same test for every student may become not an effective means of testing
- Adaptive testing may need technology support
- Assignment of score which can be compared becomes far more difficult
- Adaptive testing is future



Technology in Testing



- In some cases, online testing using modern technology is a feasible option
 - Technology enables “instant” evaluation
 - Technology enables elimination of subjective elements
 - Technology use is a “double” edged sword – some advantages and some drawback

In Summary...

Why Examination reforms?

- Examination reform has been a consideration by various Committees and Commissions appointed by the Government of India from time to time.
- Examinations over the years have tended to be an instrument for testing memory.
- Learning has become a rather mechanical process of acquiring skills and teaching has been largely a process of coaching for examinations.
- The relationship between examinations and standards of teaching and learning are intimate. Improvement in any one of these aspects results in improvement of other aspects as well.
- Therefore, the objective of examination reform is to make it an instrument of good education.