

Examinations are a necessary evil

Essay No. 01

**“Farishtay bhi cheekh utthen rubaru-i-imtehan
Ye insaan hi hai ho diye jata hai imtehan-pe-imtehan”**

Even ten angels cry aloud before the examination. It is only man who repeatedly takes the examination.

This may sound philosophical. But this is a also reality to the day.

Examinations are an age-old practice of evaluating students' god had tested the devotion of Ibrahim. But the modern system of examination is the gift of the British rule.

From of examination today: prior notice regarding the date and programme of the examination; many students curse it; the examination sets the students' heart pounding; however, students concentrate on studies with longer hours; date approaches; question-papers distributed by the invigilators; certain number of the questions to be done in allotted hours; answer -books given to examiners; evolution and allotment of marks; result published....

Why examinations are taken: to test a student's mental ability and knowledge.

Why examinations are necessary: to make students work-fear of failure and humiliations; to know the comparative merit of students and place them accordingly in their careers....

Why examination are evil: Examinations encourage creaming rather than true and applicable knowledge; a game of chance and skill; standard of marking not uniformly personal moods and approach of the examiners may affect objectivity; one year's efforts tested in just two-three hours (?). etc.

Suggestion for reform: A series of practical test, weekly tests, objective –plus – subjective test; counseling for examinations to help students to take the examinations in a sporting spirit; progressive idea is to allow text-books in examination halls...

Conclusion: the analysis shows that despite the evil nature of examinations we are bound to go along with them. This is because we have not hitherto evolved any effective alternatives to them. However, the tests and

evaluation systems should be so designed that they make a real test of a student's mental ability, originally and faculty of critical thinking.

Essay No. 02

Examinations are a Necessary Evil

Examinations are an age-old method of evaluating student's performance. They are regarded as a curse by the students the approach of an examination sets the students hearts pounding. They are left with the choice of either draping out or applying themselves to working hard. There is no escape from them for any student wishing to do well in life. There is no short cut to success, No wonder, days before examinations are to commence, the schools, colleges and universities appear deserted. Students are given preparation time to get ready for taking the examinations.

Examination is held to test student's mental ability and to assess the work. They have done during a term to determine whether they have been utilizing or wasting their time. Teaching and testing go hand in hand and every stage of scholastic activity, some type of test is used to measure performance of the pupils. The concept of measurement is not something new; we need some sort of tool to serve the purpose. A teacher cannot help asking himself whether what has been taught by him or her has been understood by the pupils. Thus, the question that arises is what is the means of knowing the level of a student's understanding! Obviously, the answer is to conduct periodical tests.

Examinations are indeed a necessity because it is only the fear of Examinations that makes students work. They know that they cannot hope to fare well if they do not study the fear of failure and humiliation spur them on to work hard, even if, only when the examination is approaching Examinations therefore act as an incentive to effort and hard work. There were no examinations, the merits of the various students could it be judged, not would the majority of them take any interest in their studies.

The critics of examinations argue that the examinations are not a reliable test of the ability of the students. They support their arguments by pointing out the shortfalls in the examination system. They feel examination encourage cramming. A student with a cramming power may just Stud for two months and do better than another student who has Studio" throughout the year and has developed his ability to think critically independently. Even his teachers may agree that he is the brighter of the game of chance and skill.

Similarly, they feel, not wrongly, that the standard of marking can never be uniform considering the number of examinees and examiners. No examiner can humanly check all the papers on one subject of a particular Class. So there is every likelihood of the personal moods and approach an examiner affecting his marking. Some students may benefit from the lenient approach of an examiner, while others may suffer because of the strictness on the part of the other. Consequently, a marginal case. Would have to keep his fingers crossed and pray that God may send his paper evaluation to a kind person.

In View of these arguments, if examinations are scrapped, then what alternative method can be used to measure the student's knowledge? Moreover, educationists now agree where is even a national debate going on the issue-that a final examination is not to be the only test of ability. The upon a series of practical tests, weekly tests, objective tests in whirl instead of marks, grades are awarded. The results of all these should taken into account while making an annual performance report of a studies Although this approach is practical, it does not resolve the issue of doing away with the examination system. On the other hand, students feel under constant pressure when such an approach is implemented. They are the left with no time for leisure and hobbies

Another alternative is that the teachers should keep a record of the daily progress of the students and that no examination should be held. This is kind of internal assessment method. It was in fact practiced in ancient times, when teaching was considered a very noble profession. But today the teachers are not above narrow prejudices and human weaknesses of character There is every possibility of their personal likes and dislike infecting the assessment of the students. No such method has yet been devised which can bring uniformity in marking solely on the basis of the performance

Some complain of the element of chance in the examinations. Sometimes, a student may not be able to make it to the examination hall due to fever, accident or some other calamity that befalls him "A death in the family of a near and dear one can be very disturbing and is likely to affect the performance. However, such cases are rare. An element of risk and chance is in everything we undertake to do. It is-not restricted to examinations only.

Since no alternative method has yet been discovered to test a student's performance and ability objectively, examinations are a necessity. How: her, the tests and. evaluation systems should be so designed that they aim a real test of a student's mental ability, originality and faculty of critical thinking. This will make the students more regular, attentive and interested in their studies Therefore we can say that examinations are necessary evil. We cannot do away with them this is the only method so far discovered to distinguish between the lit and the unfit, a scholar

and a duffer, and a worker and a shirker. Each individual has a high opinion of himself. It is through examinations that we are able to ascertain the worth of all. So, the real ability of man lies in passing a test. Empty boasting cannot get a person anywhere. However, much we may decry" the Examination, they remain the most important: tool of measuring ability in various filed.