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GET ON BOARD

Students are worried about being able to prepare for the new engineering entrance exam. Experts say they should focus on the Class 12 boards, which have an overlapping syllabus and carry weightage for admission to premier institutes, including the IITs

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Like lakhs of other students, Simran Idnani, 17, started preparing for the engineering entrance exam to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) when she was in Class 10.

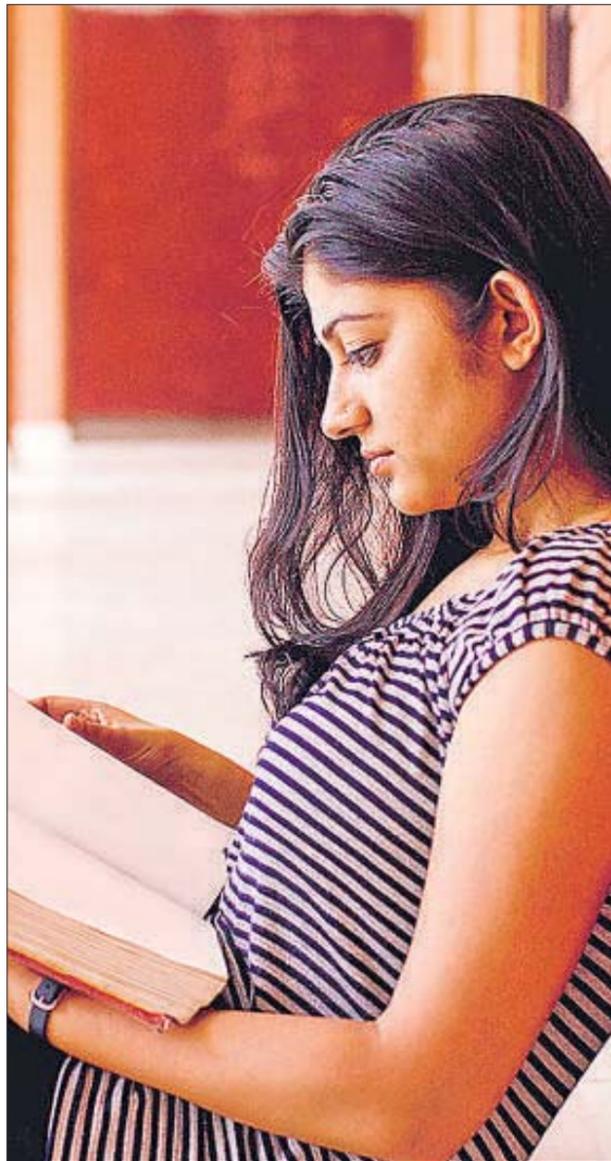
However, earlier this year, the Class 12 student learned that the exam will change entirely, with a new syllabus and format, and that the board exam marks will carry considerable weightage.

"Instead of decreasing the pressure as the philosophy behind this exam claims it will, it has doubled the pressure for our batch," says Idnani. "The main factor working against us is time. They announced the format change in the middle of our preparation, and now we're racing to catch up."

"Earlier, the board exam marks didn't count for entrance into the

IITs," says Aditya Paliwal, Class 12 student at KC College. "So we were only focusing on the joint entrance exam (JEE) syllabus. Now, the study material has increased, and time is running out."

According to experts, the new format should have been implemented in 2014, when students would have enough time to prepare. "This is definitely not a solution to handle the pressure in a better manner," says Vivek Gupta, co-founder, Plances Edusolution, an IIT-Bombay incubated start-up that trains aspirants for the JEE. "The competition has increased as well, because even students who don't want to go to the IITs, but want to go to other colleges like the NITs or the IIITs have to give this exam." Here's how experts say students should prepare. (See box: 'Expert Advice')



INTERVIEW HC GUPTA JEE 2013 CONVENER 'Students won't be able to mug up facts and get by'

Other than the difficulty levels, what are the differences between the JEE Main and Advanced exams?

Both exams have multiple-choice questions. The Main has only one three-hour paper with 30 questions each from physics, chemistry and maths. In the Advanced, there are two papers of three hours each, both of which test all three subjects.

The JEE Advanced is completely offline. In some cities, including Mumbai, students will give an online test for the Main.

How is the JEE 2013 different from its previous versions?

We're laying more stress on conceptual clarity now. Students shouldn't be able to get by if they only mug up the syllabus without understanding it, or use the process of chance and elimination for multiple-choice questions.

What advice would you give to students who are preparing for the JEE 2013?

The first thing they need to do



is get serious about their board exams. Even if they aren't looking to go to the IITs, institutes like the NITs and the IIITs are also giving 40% weight to board exam results.

We've checked to make sure that more than 95% of the board exam syllabus overlaps with the that of the JEE, so if you study well for your boards, your concepts should be clear for the entrance exams. The board exams are not multiple choice, so a different sort of preparation is required.

How should they manage their time during the exam?

Time management is very essential. There are 90 questions, and I'd say they shouldn't spend more than one minute on each.

There are rumours that the JEE might change again in 2014...

Yes, we've appointed a committee to further refine the exam for 2014. We're looking to make the Advanced exam subjective, instead of multiple choice as it is right now.

EXPERT ADVICE

Chandan Dikshit, strategy head, Rao's Academy

"The current Class 12 batch should focus on the board exams right now. If you study properly for your boards, you will be more or less prepared for your JEE (Main) exam. Take a test series simultaneously as well. Solve many analytical and application-based questions so that your concepts are clear."

Pravin Tyagi, managing director, IITian's PACE

"Although all three subjects carry equal weight, you should focus more on conceptual topics such as physical chemistry. Pay more attention to physics and mathematics at this stage, since they are application-based. The new syllabus is all about understanding concepts."

Vivek Gupta, co-founder, Plances Edusolution

"Study thoroughly for your board exams, and treat the JEE (Main) exam as a mock test for the JEE (Advanced) test. Students are confused about the weightage of the boards and JEE (Main) with respect to making the 1.5 lakh shortlist for the Advanced exam. The top 1.5 lakh ranks will be based only on the JEE (Main) scores, not on the board results. But, to get admission into non-IIT colleges, a common rank will be announced, which gives 40% weight to the board results and 60% to the JEE (Main) scores."

TALK TO US

Studying for the JEE exams? Let us know your preparation strategy, and what you think of the proposed fee hike

Share your views on our Facebook page: HT Education Mumbai or send us an email on letters@hindustantimes.com

STUDENT SPEAK: ON A PROPOSED 80% FEE HIKE THE IITS ARE MULLING OVER

"The hike should have been done much earlier. To maintain a standard of quality and brand value, it's justified for the IITs to increase their fees, which are highly subsidised at the moment."

- PURUSHOTTAM CHANDRA, IIT ASPIRANT AND STUDENT AT RN PODAR SCHOOL

"Because the fees, at ₹50,000 is really not that expensive to begin with, I think a considerable hike is justified. This doesn't affect my decision to apply there in any way."

- HARTEG BAWEJA, IIT ASPIRANT AND STUDENT AT IITIAN'S PACE COLLEGE

Get certified in cake craft

Attend cake decoration workshops next month that will get you a diploma or master's certification from PME School of Cake Decorating, Knightsbridge, UK. You can choose from three modules:

- Sugar paste module:** Basic techniques like coating, crimping, embossing, fabric effects, sugar embroidery (bows and ribbons), figures, inlay & appliqué.
- Sugar flowers module:** Flowers including roses, orchids, lilies, cherry blossom, chrysanthemums, freesia, dahlia, garden pinks and fantasy flowers.
- Royal icing & Piping module:** Coating, templates, scroll borders, run-out collars and extension borders, brush embroidery, lace and run-out motifs.

You will get a diploma for each module you complete; if you complete all three, you will get a master's certificate. Each module is for five days, five hours per day. **What:** Cake decoration workshops using fondant, royal icing and gum paste and sugar paste modeled on the format of the PME School of Cake Decorating, Knightsbridge, UK **Dates:** Three separate five-day workshops from December 7 onwards **Cost:** ₹10,000 per five-day module **Company:** Cakekraft India



An intricate floral cake.

Trainer: Khushi Malani, a PME-approved teacher, who is authorised to issue diploma and master's certification from PME School of Cake Decorating, Knightsbridge. Khushi is also the one-point contact in Mumbai for PME products. **Contact:** Call 9969363320 or email info@cakekraftindia.com. To know more about PME in the UK, visit www.knightsbridgepmeschoolofcakecrafting.co.uk **Venue:** Santaacruz (West)

NOTE:

- The workshops will provide all ingredients and tools.
- These are strictly cake craft and fancy decorating workshops and do not teach baking.
- You can work with eggless and gelatin-free ingredients in the sugar paste and sugar flowers modules.

Management education a must for lawyers



Now, lawyers are expected to give legal advice right from the time of inception of a business.

need of the hour
Prof Mohna Rajee

PROBLEM: Law graduates need to change their lenses to be able to compete in the turbulent global scenario, and be better attuned with their clients' businesses

Globalisation has changed the world permanently, and technology has brought even far flung communities together, giving good opportunities to international businesses. This era of commerce and industry has catapulted India into the world economy, making innovation crucial in all professions and businesses.

Indian lawyers have traditionally pursued careers as practicing advocates, solicitors and barristers, but with high profile rainmakers like Zia Mody making waves in the global corporate world, the role of a legal professional is likely to undergo a drastic change.

Modern law firms are expected to meet the present and future needs of the business that they serve. They need to be closely attuned to changes in the clients' businesses, moves made by their

In this column, we invite experts to describe what they think is the most pressing issue in higher education in India

clients' competitors, and possess fairly good knowledge of the trends and forecasts of the markets in which their clients operate. Thus, the need for management education for legal professionals becomes of paramount importance.

Gone are the days when the lawyer entered the scenario after the problem/dispute arose. Now, they are expected to give legal advice right from the inception of a business, and during negotiations with clients.

Almost all documents, be it a reply to a customer or a product flyer, has to be vetted by the legal and compliance department before it can be released. The contents of the document have to be within the parameters either set by the company or by the regulator; any deviation may lead to heavy penalties.

Due to the involvement and interaction of the legal, commercial and compliance departments in daily affairs, knowledge of the working of the different departments/functions of the company is important. Lawyers have become an integral part of the

strategic management team because their advice is becoming increasingly important in complex business decisions.

SOLUTION: Legal education must include management modules

Today's lawyer has to wear many hats - that of a mentor, teacher, leader, counsellor, negotiator/ arbitrator, trustee, environmentalist, investigator, social activist, and entrepreneur among others. For lawyers to render correct advice, they must learn project financing, intellectual property protection, corporate taxation, business and investment law, communica-

tion skills, negotiation skills, ethics and corporate governance—basically, all kinds of management skills.

Academic institutions will have to pave the way for this need to be achieved by developing a course that combines management functions and practical aspects of law.

Teaching methods need to combine lectures, case studies, workshops and role-play. Faculty from the corporate and legal sector should be roped in to give a balanced perspective, and the syllabus can be formed, as in WeSchool, based on the guidelines from experienced advisory and academic board members from the legal and corporate fraternity.

ABOUT THE EXPERT

Professor Mohna Rajee, LLB, LLM, and faculty—legal at WeSchool, has more than 15 years of varied experience in the legal field. This includes High Court litigation, chamber practice and teaching. She has taught law in ILS and Symbiosis Law Colleges, Pune and Maharashtra Stree Shikshan Samstha Management Institute, Pune. She has been a legal advisor to many business establishments and also been an assistant district government pleader to the Government of Maharashtra.