

# Bi-track syllabi for SSC exams of '85 will be introduced

The Government has decided to change the existing uni-track syllabi by introducing a bi-track one for the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations of 1985, which will be applicable for the students now studying in class IX according to an official announcement in Dhaka on Wednesday reports BSS.

The Government has reconsidered the whole issue of the uni-track syllabi, which called for compulsory introduction of science education for all students of class IX and X. The guardian and the teacher communities expressed their worries over the uni-track system and the Government itself felt problems with it and ultimately decided

to revise the syllabi, the announcement said.

According to the new decision the SSC students will have 600 marks as compulsory, Bengali, 200, English 200, Mathematics, 100 and Geography, 100. The rest of the total 1000 marks examination will be taken from two elective group of subjects, the announcement added.

Under this system, the students will be able to exercise option of taking integrated science or arts comprising economics, civics and history covering two hundred marks. Another 200 marks will be taken from second elective group of subjects.

The announcement said, "a national curricular and syllabi development committee was formed in 1975 by the then government. This committee recommended a structure of syllabi for classes IX and X which called for introduction of uni-track system with science as a compulsory subject. In that perspective, the then Government decided in 1981 to introduce uni-track syllabi with science as a compulsory subject.

To introduce a curriculum with science as a compulsory subject the committee in 1978 recommended for creating necessary facilities for imparting science education and training the science teachers. Accordingly, two projects were taken up to supply equipment for science teaching and for the training of teachers. As there was delay in the initial period for the implementation of the programmes, in most of the schools adequate arrangements for science education could not be made.

During the present administration period, the science text book was written according to the new curriculum and distributed among the students and teachers after pre-evaluation. During the last year at least

one teacher from each school and in total 8500 teachers from all over the country, were oriented with the book. In addition to that, for the year long evaluation a copy of the book was given without cost to each school.

Although these programmes were completed, the teachers could not be given adequate training and schools could not be supplied with necessary scientific equipment. In these circumstances, if science was made compulsory in the schools in the remote areas of the country, the students of those schools will find it difficult to achieve a good result in the Secondary School Certificate examinations of 1985.

In the light of the above mentioned problems and in addition to that, considering the worries expressed by the guardian and teachers communities on the newly introduced uni-track syllabi with compulsory science education, The Government has reconsidered the matter.

The Government has taken the alternative decision keeping in view of its efforts for creating equal opportunities in all schools, emphasis on science education and continuing the implementation of all steps taken in this connection. This decision will be applicable for students in Class IX in the session of 1983, Class X in the session 1984, and SSC examinees for 1985.

The new curriculum includes Bengali (200 marks), English

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(200 marks); Mathematics (100 marks) and Geography (100 marks), totalling 600 marks as compulsory subjects. There will be two groups of elective subjects from each of which each student has to select two hundred marks.

In the first group of elective subjects, there are integrated science course (200 marks) or

arts (History and Economics and Civics) (200 marks).

In the second group, out of more than nine subjects of 100 marks for each, the students have to select two subjects.

These subjects are Islamic religion, Hindu religion, Buddhist religion, Christian religion.

(2) Higher Bengali, Higher English, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Sanskrit, Pali,

(2) Higher Mathematics (4), Fine Arts (5), Music (6), Home Economics, (7) Commerce (8), Industrial Arts, (9) technical and vocational subjects: Geometric and technical drawing, foundry, carpentry, applied electronics and house-building.

In addition to those, they will take part in co-curriculum subjects like sports, gymnastic and group activities like scouting guide for which there will be 100 marks, but they will not be added to the examination results.

The new design can be termed as bi-track syllabi. By this those students who cannot take science subjects because of lack of physical facilities, will be able to take arts subjects from the first group of elective subjects.