

Pre-Board Paper: What to Expect and How to Use It

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What a pre-board actually is

A **pre-board** is a full mock board exam run by **your school**, usually 1–2 months before the real CBSE boards. It copies the actual exam as closely as possible — same structure, same three hours, same exam-hall conditions.

It is not set by CBSE. There is no official “CBSE pre-board paper”. Every school writes its own to match the board pattern, which is exactly why difficulty varies from school to school.

Pre-board vs sample paper

	Sample paper	Pre-board paper
Set by	CBSE (official) or publishers	Your school
When	Anytime you practise	Usually 1–2 months before boards
Conditions	You choose (ideally timed)	Formal exam conditions
Graded by	Yourself, or examfront	Your teachers
Purpose	Practice and self-assessment	Rehearsal under real pressure

Sample papers are practice on *your* terms. The pre-board is the supervised rehearsal where that practice gets tested.

The paper your pre-board is copying

3 hours · 80 marks · 38 questions · Sections A–E

Section	Questions	Type	Marks each	Total
A	20 (Q1–Q20)	MCQ × 18, Assertion–Reason × 2	1	20
B	5 (Q21–Q25)	Very Short Answer	2	10
C	6 (Q26–Q31)	Short Answer	3	18
D	4 (Q32–Q35)	Long Answer	5	20
E	3 (Q36–Q38)	Case-Based	4	12
Total	38	No overall choice; internal choices in B, C, D, E	—	80

Key takeaways

- A pre-board is **your school's mock board** — not a CBSE paper. Difficulty varies; the pattern should not.
- It gives you three things solo practice cannot: **real conditions**, an **honest external grade**, and a **full map of your weak spots**.
- Prepare for it like the real exam — whole syllabus, one or two timed full papers first, and a decided attempt order.
- The score matters far less than the analysis.** Sort every lost mark by type: concept, method, calculation, misread, timing, presentation.
- A low pre-board score is **information, not a verdict** — many schools mark strictly on purpose, and you still have weeks to act on it.

28 lost marks, and what they were really telling him

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The problem

Arjun scores **52 out of 80** in his maths pre-board and reads it as “I am weak at maths”. That reading is useless. Instead he goes through the graded script and tags **every one of the 28 lost marks** by *type* of mistake.

Step 1 — Tag every lost mark

Mistake type	Where it happened	Marks lost
Timing	Section E case study left blank — ran out of time	8
Concept gap	Circles tangent proof (Q34), sum of an AP (Q28)	9
Calculation slip	Sign error in a quadratic; wrong $\sqrt{3}$ substitution	6
Misread question	Found the radius when the question asked for area	4
Presentation	Steps skipped, so method marks were not awarded	1
Total	80 – 52	28

Step 2 — Read the tally, not the score

Biggest single leak is timing, not ability. 8 marks were lost to a blank Section E, and 4 more to misreading — that is **12 of 28 marks**, nearly half, with no new concept required to recover them.

Only 9 marks are true concept gaps — two named topics, circles and AP. That is a two-evening fix, not a “weak at maths” problem.

The fix plan writes itself: (1) two timed full papers with a hard 25-minute stop for Section E; (2) underline what each question *asks for* before solving; (3) targeted revision of circles and AP; (4) write every step, even obvious ones.

52 → a realistic 68–70, without learning a single new chapter

Now do the same with your own paper: total your lost marks, tag each one, and spend your remaining weeks on the biggest column — not on whatever feels most uncomfortable.

Turn your pre-board into a plan with examfront

- **Chapter 1 free** — start practising today, no payment needed.
- **Mistake identification** — every attempt is tagged by mistake type, so your leaks are named for you.
- **Anytime tests** — practise any chapter, any time, in the board's own question formats.
- **Weekly tests** — a steady rhythm that keeps the whole syllabus warm, not just the recent chapters.
- **Full mock tests before the exam** — timed, board-pattern rehearsals so exam day is never the first time.

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