

PRESS RELEASE

Formal Handover of the *National Student-Learning Assessment Framework* and the *Assessment Syllabuses*

23rd March 2026

The official handover of the *National Student-Learning Assessment Framework* and *Assessment Syllabuses* marks a key milestone in strengthening competency-based assessment across 13 subjects at Key Stage 5 in Bhutanese schools.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment (CUP&A) formally handed over the *National Student-Learning Assessment Framework* (NSLAF) and *Assessment Syllabuses* to the Bhutan Council for School Examinations and Assessment (BCSEA) during the handover event held on 23rd March 2026 in the BCSEA Conference Hall, Thimphu. The handover marks a significant milestone in Bhutan's education system, aligning national assessment practices with international standards while preserving the country's educational vision and values.

The Controller of Examinations, in his keynote address, emphasised:

“This is far more than a ceremonial transfer of documents. It signifies a defining milestone in Bhutan's journey towards strengthening its assessment systems and aligning them with internationally benchmarked standards.”

The framework and syllabuses were developed through months of rigorous consultation and collaboration between BCSEA and assessment experts from CUP&A. This partnership ensures reliable, valid, and internationally benchmarked assessment of student learning outcomes across key stages of schooling. The framework and syllabuses provide clear learning objectives, fair assessment practices, and robust evaluation tools to guide teachers and students in achieving meaningful learning outcomes.

Dan Bray, Director of Assessment Innovation and Transformation, CUP&A, remarked:

“We have co-developed a coherent curriculum and assessment structure for Grades 11 and 12, with accredited certification at Grade 12, to support Bhutan's commitment to high-quality, internationally aligned assessment practices.”

The official handover also marks the implementation of the 13 *Assessment Syllabuses* from 2026 academic year, reinforcing BCSEA's commitment to:

- strengthening the quality and credibility of national examinations,
- enhancing teacher capacity, and
- improving learning outcomes for students nationwide.

This initiative is expected to improve transparency, consistency, and fairness in student evaluation and provide a solid foundation for future innovations in Bhutan's national assessment system.

Beginning in 2027, Class XII graduates will be awarded joint certification from Cambridge and BCSEA. Schools will align their continuous assessment practices with coursework requirements. Students will be assessed using grades rather than marks, and higher education institutions and scholarship agencies will need to adjust their admission processes accordingly. This represents a significant step in the transformation of Bhutan's national assessment system.

Jane Mann, Managing Director, Partnership for Education, Cambridge University Press & Assessment, stated:

"The certificate that students will earn will be an international currency evidencing their achievements to the world. Together, we share a long-term view. Accreditation of Grade 12 assessments is only possible when a system is coherent and aligned. Around the world, we see how such coherence provides the basis for highly impactful improvements in education outcomes. Today we recognise all that you have done to place coherence and alignment at the heart of your education system."

The event reaffirmed the strong partnership between BCSEA and CUP&A in advancing high-quality, internationally aligned assessment practices for Bhutan's education system.

About BCSEA

The Bhutan Council for School Examinations and Assessment (BCSEA) manages and regulates school examinations and assessments, ensuring quality, fairness, and reliability across Bhutan's education system.

About CUP&A

Cambridge University Press & Assessment (CUP&A) is a globally recognised provider of educational programmes and qualifications, supporting schools worldwide with curriculum development, assessment, and teacher professional development.

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