

CHANGES OR REFORMS?



Whenever a change is made to a successful system, people panic. This leads to fast reactions and quick conclusions. Though these conclusions might be true in some cases, a vast majority of these need not be correct. It takes a few years to adopt and see the fruitfulness of such a system. The changes brought in an examination like IIT-JEE are not only attracting the attention of people all over the country but are also being discussed world wide. This article hopefully allays some of the concerns that have surfaced since IIT published the new rules & guidelines.

Until 2005, IIT-JEE used to be a 2 stage process (screening & mains). From 2006 onwards the pattern will be changed. As per the new pattern, there will be only one exam, which will be totally objective type. For 2006, the exam will be held on 9th April. There will be one question paper of two hours duration in each of the subjects Maths, Physics & Chemistry. There will be short write-ups followed by objective type questions. These type of questions are expected to be answered by the students who have an analytical ability and are impromptu than those who go to the exam with a specific kind of preparation. This is expected to reduce the dependence of students on coaching centres.



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Due to these changes in the pattern, a lot of concerns are surfacing. Some of the primary ones are:

IIT - JEE

- 1) The standard of IIT-JEE may go down: The powers that might be, know very well that they are wooing the best talent in the nation (and even worldwide) and hence these changes are very calculated to make the filtering process more efficient. Though the format that's been adopted is somewhat similar to state Engineering Entrance exams (like EAM-CET), the standards of the JEE should be expected a mile higher. Objective type question paper formats can be quite challenging itself. Be clear that JEE will be no cake walk and it will be as difficult as ever - only that it gives hope to more audience and only the best will come out shining.
- 2) It is not correct to think that only non-objective type exams will have higher standards and objective type exam are of lower standard. In fact it is very difficult for an examiner to frame an objective type question involving multiple concepts, more difficult for a teacher to train students to answer such type of questions and it is even more challenging for a student to answer these questions.
- 3) These will require perfection, time management and excellence in numerical calculations. In this modern world priority is given to people who are brief, quick and elegant in expressing themselves. IIT people took right decision at the right time by making the JEE objective type.

2) The competition will increase: Yes, till now only those students who have the provision of taking coaching were aiming at IIT. A student of rural community never used to think about it as he/she could not afford private coaching. The earlier JEE examination template was much above the standard of plus two, though the syllabus was same. Now an opportunity has come for an average student also to be in the race. An aspiring student should focus her efforts only on her preparation and not worry about competition.

3) First division compulsory in plus two: IIT-JEE is a very demanding examination and sets the bar very high. The first division requirement stresses the importance on sound basics. While everyone who gets a first division will not be able to get through JEE, the converse will have to hold true. This step should bring back the focus on having solid fundamentals. In earlier years, it was rare but not impossible for someone to get through JEE without securing a first class in plus two, IIT made sure that this will no longer happen. In mathematical terms, this

can be stated as an implication: Success in JEE implies success in plus two!

4) Number of attempts limited to 2: A section of people are saying that, students of rural area have no awareness about IIT-JEE, they will know about it very lately when they come to cities and are in second or third year of graduation and they can not attempt JEE at that time While this can be true to an extent, the thinking minds at IITs have shifted the burden on the aspirants to know it all and be prepared to play the game. In this modern society where information is available to people who seek it, it is no excuse to say "I was not aware"!

5) The changes brought in the JEE are definitely reforms and are aimed at reducing, the pressure on adolescent students, compulsion of coaching, negligence of intermediate education and spending money and time under the name of IIT-foundation right from the 8th grade. While most people are gearing up to adopt to these changes, there are sections of people and educationists who are not comfortable with these changes. In this fast changing world, people have to learn to adapt and adapt quickly - otherwise some will miss the boat - maybe for life. Then there will be no one left to blame!