

What is the pattern of the paper?

A set of passages on a scientific topic explained in layman's terms and a crossword open the eyes of the student to the fact that how the seemingly dull subjects of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics are all intertwined in the great big book called life.

Why does BITS organize this event?

Our exam focuses on inculcating an 'out of the box' thinking mindset in a student by making them solve application based questions with limited resources, thus enhancing their analytical thinking. We want them to know that at college level it's not only about grades but also about knowledge. Moreover, it promotes the name of BITS as a premier engineering institute as quite a few students are unaware about it.

When will it be conducted? What is the eligibility criteria?

The exam would be conducted somewhere between mid December and early January as per the convenience of schools of the region. The exam will be held on a particular day in a specific region.

All the students of class 9th & 10th and all those from the non-medical science stream in 11th & 12th are eligible to appear for the exam. The mode of registration for them is through their respective schools.

Tell us more about APOGEE?

APOGEE is the annual technical festival of BITS Pilani. It is a large scale event that has attracted the connoisseurs of engineering and technology over the years. It represents the zenith of science and engineering in a landscape of future visionaries and scientists. From projects, paper presentations & guest lectures on one hand, to debates, quizzes & cultural nights on the other, APOGEE would be playing host to a gamut of activities giving students the opportunity to interact with the brightest minds.

What would the students gain?

The students get a chance to experience the magic of science through our innovative paper. The winners of the competition get a chance to travel to BITS Pilani accompanied by one guardian for their technical fest APOGEE, fully sponsored* by the organizing team. Also, all participants get a certificate and All India Rank which would let them know where they stand at the national level.

What is in this for the school?

At the end of the day, school will get to know their student's aptitude and their way of thinking and this can help them to improve their teaching style. Also, their students would be representing the school at not just a national, but a global platform at APOGEE, which has a footfall of more than 7500.

How is this paper different from others; especially those having such a huge participation like SOF, NTSE etc.?

Papers of these organization focus majorly on a single thing i.e. who can solve more questions in less time via just applying the formula. They don't care if students understand the concept or even know how to make one and one eleven.

We want students to be able to go through our paper even if they have not revised the subject because the topic would not be something you'd find in their standard textbook. Rather, this topic would be explained through a set of passages and questions would be based upon them. So, students just have to think and analyse the whole paper and apply their critical-thinking skills to get the solutions.

Why should the students devote their time to this rather than preparing for boards or finals?

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What all is required from the school for conducting the paper?

The school has to provide us with the basic infrastructure including the rooms and invigilators for conducting the exam. They also need to provide us with the soft copy of the list of all participants and collect the participation fee and give it to our associate.

What response did Aarohan get in the previous editions?

The response has been quite amazing in the previous 3 editions of Aarohan, and participation is steadily increasing. In the latest edition, it was conducted in over 30 cities including major cities like Jaipur, Kota, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad with a participation of over 5000 students. We even crossed our borders to go international in faraway lands like UAE and Germany.

What's your role (associate) and how are you gaining from this?

My role primarily includes making all the necessary arrangements for the smooth conduction of Aarohan in your school including delivering question papers and OMRs, collecting the payment, etc. Besides gaining lots of hands-on experience on managing such a grand event, we are provided with certificates and other rewards. Plus, I want schools from my city to be associated with my college.

How credible is the paper, since it's designed by a student body?

The paper made by the organizing committee would be proof-read by a panel of Professors at BITS, Pilani so the credibility of the paper is unquestionable.

Also, we have different sets of paper for school's convenience. However, then comes the problem of standardization but we overcome it by bringing in a panel of the best Professors from BITS Pilani, who ensure that the standard of our paper is maintained and all papers have similar levels of difficulty.