

Schools tighten tech watch as mid-term exams start

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Kolkata: As mid-term exams start at city schools, institutes, such as The Heritage School, Julien Day Group of Schools, Birla Bharati School and The Newtown School, are coming up with secure browser technology, remote proctoring and own software to conduct online exams as well as to keep an eye on students.

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The system, and the stakeholders (institution managements, teachers and students), will have to get used to the new normal. The first set of examinations will be critical in setting out the path for the immediate future.

Birla Bharati School is uploading question papers on Google Classroom and students are writing tests on Zoom. The kids have to sit in front of cameras so that teachers can keep a watch and also, the individual device's audio has to be kept on so that any prompting by parents is audible. Multiple teachers are being assigned for invigilation. "After writing



Most students have been told to keep the camera and audio modes on, while writing

tests, students are uploading answer scripts on the platform. We give 45 minutes for reading and writing. Question papers are typed on a word document and converted to PDF so that it can't be copied or changed," said Birla Bharati School principal Apala Datta.

At The Newtown School, founder-director Sunil Agarwal said the institute was holding exams on a proctored platform. "It's a technology under which one can have access to camera and device. Images are captured at frequent interval and can be analysed later. Also, examinees can't open multiple windows as page shifts are recorded. The exams are held on a de-

icated portal," he said.

The Heritage School principal Seema Sapru said they had finished the exams by August 10. "The tests were divided into different formats. We didn't want children to appear for a lengthy test to avoid connectivity issues. Some papers were subjective and some were objective. The exams were separated by short breaks. Also, once the answers were written, they were auto-corrected and the evaluation was done immediately," Sapru said. She added two invigilators were assigned for every 15 kids and that they remote proctored. "We trust students. The laptops used by the kids are fitted with cameras. They move them around to show there is no book or anyone else in the room. Some parents also volunteered to proctor the tests," she said.

For all four Julien Day Schools in Ganganagar, Kalyani, Howrah and Kolkata, Ganganagar principal Bobby Baxter said, "An app has been developed where an exam module has been built for MCQ exams. The subjective module is being developed. Students have to download the app for exams. If a kid tries to open another page or website, it can be detected."