

DHSE • KERALA HIGHER SECONDARY

Kerala Plus Two Exam Pattern 2026

A Complete Colour Guide for Class 12 Students

 Science

 Commerce

 Humanities

Based on official DHSE Kerala exam pattern, March 2026 session

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Everything you need to understand the Plus Two exam structure

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1. Introduction

Understanding why the exam pattern matters

The Kerala Plus Two (Higher Secondary Second Year) examination is conducted by the **Directorate of Higher Secondary Education (DHSE), Kerala**, for students who have completed two years of higher secondary schooling. It is one of the most important milestones in a student's academic journey, opening doors to undergraduate courses, professional degrees, and competitive entrance exams.

Every year, DHSE releases a detailed exam pattern that lays out the structure of the question papers, marking distribution, duration of exams, and the criteria required to pass. Understanding this pattern well in advance helps students plan their studies, manage exam-day time better, and reduce last-minute stress.

Why this guide?

This ebook breaks down the Kerala Plus Two 2026 exam pattern into simple, colour-coded sections — covering the overall structure, stream-wise subject patterns, the marking scheme, and the passing criteria — so you can prepare with clarity and confidence.

Who conducts the exam?

The Kerala Board of Public Examinations (KBPE), through DHSE, conducts the Plus Two public examinations across the state. The exams for the 2025–26 academic year were held from **March 6 to March 28, 2026**.

2. Overview of the Exam Pattern

The big picture before we go stream-wise

The Kerala Plus Two exam pattern follows a consistent structure across most subjects, with a few variations for subjects that include a practical component.

Key features

- **Total marks:** 100 marks per subject (theory + internal assessment, or theory + practical for science subjects)
- **Theory-only subjects:** 80 marks for theory + 20 marks for Continuous Evaluation (CE)
- **Practical subjects** (Physics, Chemistry, Biology): 60 marks for theory + 40 marks for practical/internal assessment
- **Duration:** 2 to 2.5 hours depending on the subject, plus 15 minutes of "cool-off time" to read the question paper
- **Question types:** A mix of MCQs, very short answer, short answer, and long/essay-type questions
- **Internal choice:** Most papers offer internal choices within each question type

Three components of evaluation

Component	Full form	What it measures
TE	Terminal Examination	Final written theory exam
CE	Continuous Evaluation	Assignments, projects, class tests through the year
PE	Practical Examination	Lab-based practical exam (for Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science etc.)

Good to know: Cool-off time (15 minutes) is given before every exam so students can read the question paper carefully and plan their answers — this time is not for writing.

3. Stream-wise Exam Pattern

Science, Commerce and Humanities — how each stream differs

DHSE Kerala offers Plus Two education under three broad streams. While the overall 100-mark structure stays the same, the mix of theory vs. practical marks and the question format changes based on the subjects chosen.

Science

- Physics, Chemistry, Biology: 60 theory + 40 practical
- Mathematics/Computer Science: 80 theory + 20 CE
- Biology paper split into Botany & Zoology (30 marks each)
- Strong focus on numericals, diagrams & lab-based questions

Commerce

- Accountancy, Business Studies, Economics: 80 theory + 20 CE
- Emphasis on case studies, numerical accounting problems
- Statistics/Computer Applications may include practical marks
- Analytical and short-answer questions dominate

Humanities

- History, Political Science, Sociology, Economics: 80 theory + 20 CE
- History includes map-based questions (map to be attached)
- Political Science combines factual + analytical questions
- Language and literature papers stress essay-type answers

Common subject-wise theory marks

Subject	Theory marks	Practical / CE	Duration
Physics	60	40 (Practical)	2 hrs
Chemistry	60	40 (Practical)	2 hrs
Biology (Botany + Zoology)	60 (30+30)	40 (Practical)	2 hrs
Mathematics	80	20 (CE)	2.5 hrs
Accountancy / Business Studies	80	20 (CE)	2.5 hrs
History / Political Science	80	20 (CE)	2.5 hrs
Languages (English etc.)	80	20 (CE)	2.5 hrs

4. Marking Scheme

How marks are distributed within each question paper

Question papers are designed with a mix of short and long answer formats, each carrying different mark values, along with internal choices so students can pick the questions they are most comfortable with.

Typical mark-wise question distribution (theory paper)

Question type	Marks per question	Skill tested
Very Short Answer / MCQ	1 mark	Recall & basic concepts
Short Answer	2 marks	Understanding & brief explanation
Short Essay	3 marks	Application of concepts
Long Essay / Problem	4-5 marks	Analysis, derivation, detailed answers

Example — Biology theory (60 marks)

19 questions in Botany (Part A) and 20 questions in Zoology (Part B), split evenly into 30 marks each, with questions of 1, 2, and 3 marks and internal choices throughout.

Practical / Internal marks breakup (Science subjects)

Component	Marks
Practical examination (external)	~30
Practical record / continuous evaluation	~10

Tip: Since each question type carries an internal choice, read all options before starting to answer — pick the one you can answer most completely for full marks.

5. Passing Marks & Grading

What it takes to clear the Plus Two exam

Passing criteria

- Minimum **30%** required in Terminal Examination (TE) separately
- Minimum **30% aggregate** across CE + PE + TE combined, for each subject
- Overall grade of **D+ or above** needed in every subject
- Students scoring 30% overall but below 30% in one subject must appear for a **Save-A-Year (SAY) / additional exam** in that subject

9-point grading system

Percentage	Grade	Description
90 – 100%	A+	Outstanding
80 – 89%	A	Excellent
70 – 79%	B+	Very Good
60 – 69%	B	Good
50 – 59%	C+	Above Average
40 – 49%	C	Average
30 – 39%	D+	Marginal (Pass)
20 – 29%	D	Below Average (Fail)
Below 20%	E	Needs Improvement (Fail)

Eligibility to sit for the exam

- Must have scored D+ or above in all Class 11 (Plus One) subjects
- Must have completed continuous evaluation (assignments/projects) on time
- Regular students need at least **75% attendance** to be eligible



6. CONCLUSION

You're Ready to Plan Ahead

The Kerala Plus Two exam pattern is designed to test both conceptual understanding and practical skills through a balanced mix of theory, internal assessment, and practicals. Knowing the mark distribution, question types, and passing criteria in advance lets you build a smarter, more targeted study plan.

Quick recap:

100 marks per subject • 30% minimum to pass each part • D+ or above overall grade • Practical count heavily in Science • SAY exam available for one failed subject.

Wishing you the very best for your Plus Two exams!