

NIOS CLASS 10th

SYLLABUS & EXAM PATTERN — 2026

National Institute of Open Schooling • Secondary Level Course

Compiled with reference to the official NIOS portal (nios.ac.in) and published board updates

Important: The official NIOS 10th (Secondary) syllabus and exam pattern for the 2026 sessions are published by the National Institute of Open Schooling on its official website, nios.ac.in (Student Information Section → Syllabus & Sample Question Paper – Secondary). This document is a well-researched study companion summarising that structure — always cross-check subject-wise chapter lists and sample papers on the official site before your exam.

ABOUT THE NIOS SECONDARY (CLASS 10) COURSE

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) offers the Secondary (Class 10) course under an open and flexible learning system. The NIOS 10th syllabus 2026 is common for both the Public Examination and the On-Demand Examination (ODE), and covers Languages, Sciences, Humanities, Commerce and vocational/skill subjects. Learners can appear twice a year — one session around April/May and another around October/November — apart from On-Demand exams offered through most of the year (excluding the April/May and October/November public-exam windows).

Since 2023–24 (Notification No. F-76-2/2023/NIOS/Acad.), the NIOS curriculum for every subject is bifurcated into two parts: a **Tutor-Marked Assignment (TMA)** portion, completed as internal assessment, and a **Public Examination** portion, which is the reduced, focused syllabus students must prepare for the final theory paper. This change was first applied from the April 2024 exams and continues to apply going forward.

Key Fact	Detail
Subjects offered	35 subjects in total, including 18 languages, at the Secondary level
Subjects to be taken	Minimum 5, maximum 7 — at least 1 language, not more than 2 languages
Medium of instruction	English, Hindi, Urdu, Marathi, Odia, Telugu, Gujarati, Tamil, Malayalam, Punjabi (choose one)
Exam sessions	Public exams held twice a year (April/May & October/November); On-Demand Exams (ODE) available through most of the year
Passing marks	Minimum 33% in each subject (theory + practical/TMA combined) to pass
Syllabus alignment	Broadly aligned with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), comparable in scope to CBSE/state boards

Note: On-demand exams are typically not conducted in the peak public-exam months (April, May, October, November) — check the current ODE calendar on nios.ac.in.

NIOS CLASS 10 SUBJECTS — GROUP A & GROUP B

Subjects at the Secondary level are organised into two broad groups. **Group A** consists of language subjects (a learner must choose one as compulsory and may take a second as an optional language). **Group B** consists of academic, commerce and skill/vocational subjects, some of which include a practical component.

Code	Group A — Languages
201 / 202 / 203	Hindi / English / Sanskrit
204–208, 233–238	Bengali, Odia, Marathi, Telugu, Gujarati, Kannada, Punjabi, Assamese, Urdu, Nepali, Sindhi, Persian, Arabic, and other regional languages
209 / 210	Sanskrit / Sanskrit Vyakaran & Sahitya
—	Malayalam, Tamil and other languages as notified for the current session

Code	Group B — Academic, Commerce & Skill Subjects
211	Mathematics
212	Science and Technology (Theory + Practical)
213	Social Science
214	Economics
215	Business Studies
216	Home Science (Theory + Practical)
222	Psychology
223	Indian Culture and Heritage
224	Accountancy
225	Painting (Theory + Practical)
229	Data Entry Operations (Theory + Practical)
242 / 243	Hindustani Music / Carnatic Music (Theory + Practical)
245–248	■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ — Veda Adhyayan and related subjects

Subject codes and the exact list of languages/subjects offered may be updated each session — verify current codes on the official NIOS admission form / prospectus.

NIOS CLASS 10 EXAM PATTERN 2026 — OVERVIEW

The NIOS 10th examination blends a written theory paper with internal Tutor-Marked Assignments (TMA) and, for select subjects, a practical examination. Question papers combine objective (MCQ), very-short-answer, short-answer and long-answer / competency-based questions, with an increasing emphasis on MCQs in recent sessions.

Parameter	Details
Mode of exam	Offline, pen-and-paper theory examination
Medium	Question papers set in English and Hindi (and other approved mediums)
Duration	3 hours per subject (theory paper)
Total marks per subject	100 marks (combination of Theory + TMA, or Theory + Practical, depending on subject)
TMA weightage	Up to 20% of total marks for most theory-only subjects (Tutor-Marked Assignments)
Practical weightage	15–30 marks for subjects with a practical component (e.g. Science, Home Science, Painting, Data Entry Operations, Music)
Question types	Objective/MCQ, Very Short Answer, Short Answer, Long Answer, Competency-based questions
Passing marks	Minimum 33% marks in each subject, and in aggregate, to pass / qualify for certification

Illustrative Marks Split — Theory vs Practical/TMA (subject-dependent)

Subject Type	Theory Marks	Practical / TMA Marks	Total
Language subjects (e.g. Hindi, English)	80	20 (TMA)	100
Science and Technology	85	15 (Practical)	100
Social Science / Economics / Mathematics	80–100	0–20 (TMA)	100
Home Science / Painting / Data Entry Operations / Music	70–80	20–30 (Practical)	100

Exact splits vary slightly by subject and session — refer to the subject-wise sample paper / syllabus PDF on nios.ac.in for the confirmed breakdown.

SUBJECT-WISE SYLLABUS HIGHLIGHTS 2026

Below is a topic-level snapshot of the core NIOS Class 10 subjects. Each subject's full syllabus is divided into TMA lessons (internal assessment) and Public Examination lessons (final theory paper) — always confirm the current lesson-wise breakup from the official syllabus PDF.

Mathematics (Code 211)

Modules: Algebra, Commercial Mathematics, Geometry, Mensuration, Trigonometry, Statistics (six modules)

Focus areas: Number systems, linear/quadratic equations, ratio-proportion & GST/banking-related commercial maths, triangles & circles, areas/volumes, trigonometric ratios, and data handling & probability basics

Skills tested: Problem-solving, analytical reasoning and application-based questions

Science and Technology (Code 212)

Core themes: Matter and its behaviour, Energy, Life Processes and their regulation, Our Environment, Natural Resources

Practical component: Lab-based experiments and skill demonstration carrying 15 marks

Social Science (Code 213)

Core themes: India's Freedom Struggle, Development of the Indian Political System, Democracy and Diversity, Contemporary Challenges (environment, resources, globalisation)

Approach: History, Geography, Political Science and Economics-linked contemporary issues integrated into thematic units

Economics (Code 214)

Core themes: Production, consumption, saving and investment, money and banking, the Indian and world economy

Focus: Basic economic concepts with everyday, real-life financial application

English (Code 202)

Core themes: Reading comprehension (prose & poetry), writing skills (letters, essays, notices), grammar and usage, literature-based questions

Home Science (Code 216)

Core themes: Food and nutrition, textiles and fabric care, family resource management, health and child care

Practical component: Hands-on demonstration of food/textile-related skills

Business Studies / Psychology / Data Entry Operations (Code 215 / 222 / 229)

Business Studies: Fundamentals of business, trade, commerce and entrepreneurship

Psychology: Human behaviour, cognition, learning, and social-psychological concepts

Data Entry Operations: Computer fundamentals, keyboarding and data-entry skills with a practical component

Component	What It Covers	Typical Weightage
Tutor-Marked Assignment (TMA)	Internal assessment submitted via the NIOS student portal; covers roughly 40% of the full lesson set but is graded separately from the public exam	~20% of theory marks (subject-dependent)
Public / On-Demand Theory Exam	Written exam covering the notified public-exam syllabus for each subject	70–100 marks
Practical Examination	Applicable to Science, Home Science, Painting, Data Entry Operations, Music and similar skill subjects	15–30 marks

For most Class 10 subjects, the syllabus notification (F-76-2/2023/NIOS/Acad., effective from the April 2024 session onward) reduced the portion students must study for the public exam, while retaining the remaining lessons under TMA. This means students preparing purely for the theory paper do not need to study the TMA-only chapters in full depth, easing exam pressure while keeping continuous assessment intact.

Frequently Asked

Q: What is the minimum passing percentage?

33% marks in each subject, and in aggregate, are required to pass and qualify for the certificate.

Q: Can I choose any combination of subjects?

Yes — pick 5 to 7 subjects, including at least one language (maximum two languages) from Group A.

Q: Is the syllabus the same for Public and On-Demand exams?

Yes, the NIOS Class 10 syllabus 2026 is identical for both the Public Examination and On-Demand Examination (ODE).

Q: Where can I get the official, subject-wise PDF?

Visit nios.ac.in → Student Information Section → "Syllabus & Sample Question Paper (Secondary)" → select the Secondary course and your subject.

HOW TO DOWNLOAD THE OFFICIAL SYLLABUS PDF

- 1 Visit the official NIOS website: nios.ac.in
- 2 Go to the "Student Information Section" in the top menu
- 3 Click "Syllabus & Sample Question Paper (Secondary)"
- 4 Select **Secondary (Class 10)** course
- 5 Choose your subject to view/download the bifurcated syllabus (TMA + Public Exam) PDF

Disclaimer: This PDF is an independently compiled study reference based on publicly available board-related coverage and general knowledge of the NIOS Secondary curriculum. Marks, weightages, codes and dates can be revised by NIOS at any time. Always verify against the official notifications, syllabus PDFs and date sheet published on nios.ac.in before finalising your preparation.