

## AICTE for open exams in engg to stop rote learning

Aditi.Gyanesh  
@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has recommended open book exams for engineering students to prevent rote learning and encourage applied knowledge.

At the same time, affiliating universities and managements have been told to carefully choose courses or curriculum areas best suited for open book exams.

The new examination reforms policy hosted on the AICTE website says traditional written examinations have a significant weakness in that they tend to promote learning by memory.

Open book exams, on the other hand, will be less stressful and promote deeper understanding of concepts.

Similar to time-constrained examinations, open book examinations are designed in a way that allow students to refer to their classnotes, text-books, and

### Internship made mandatory

AICTE has mandated 600-700 hours of internship for BE/Btech students and 450-500 hours for diploma courses. Undergraduate students will earn 14-20 credits and diploma students 10-14 credit points. Students can also earn credits for entrepreneurial activities, project work and seminars. TNN

other approved material while answering questions. They are useful in testing the skills in application, analysis and evaluation, the policy said.

Engineering colleges in Karnataka lauded the guidelines. MK Panduranga Setty, governing body member of RV College of Engineering, said, "It will make students walk to the library and read as much as possible from all approved sources."

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## Hoping to boost digital labs

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They will also pay attention to classroom lectures and it will bring in discipline too. Let us see how our students will respond to this American pattern of examination." He said the move will promote colleges to invest in their libraries and digital labs at engineering colleges.

The AICTE has said that open book examination can emphasize problem solving, application of knowledge and higher order of thinking rather than simple recalling of

### AICTE PROPOSAL

facts. Assessment questions can reflect real life situations that require comprehension, information retrieval and synthesizing skills of students to solve, it added.

"Open book examination or open resource examination is a good assessment tool to improve innovation and promote outcome based education, which is requirement in today's engineering education," Nageswara Guptha, vice principal, Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, Bengaluru, said.

### Mandatory Internships

After a lot of open house discussions over mandatory internships for engineering students, AICTE has finally recommended 600-700 hours of internship for BE/Btech students and 450 to 500 hours for diploma courses.

Undergraduate students will earn 14-20 credits and diploma students 10-14 credit points. Students can also earn credits for entrepreneurial activity, project, work and seminar, stated the internship policy report of AICTE.

The colleges have been asked to have a placement cell to help students arrange the internships. The AICTE has also launched its own portal [www.aicteinternships.in](http://www.aicteinternships.in).

### Teachers training policy

Technical teachers joining new jobs will have to go under go induction courses at the time of joining and will also need to update themselves every year through in-service training programs to be introduced by managements.

Though these suggestions are not mandatory they are expected to help shape the future of engineering education.