

Austin Marathi Shala – Exam Related Information

This document will provide you with necessary information about Marathi language Examination at Austin Marathi Shala (AMS). AMS has total 3 exams per year. Exam consists of oral exam (60 marks) & written exam (40 marks): Total 100 marks. All exams are mandatory for students registered with AMS. These exams are administered by AMS Exam Coordinator with the help from AMS teachers & parent volunteers.

Exam Calendar: Please check Austin Marathi Shala calendar for exact exam date

Exam	Time
(1) Fall Semester Final Exam	Week before X-mass holiday
(2) Spring Semester Mid-Term	Week before Spring break
(3) Spring Semester Final Exam <u>or</u> BMM Exam	Week before Memorial Day holiday

Bal Mitra Grade Exams

Please note that there is no automatic upgrade to next grade per semester/year and like Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal (BMM), Austin Marathi Shala also emphasize more on oral fluency than writing. To better prepare our students, we conduct oral exam according to BMM oral exam format for all Bal Mitra grades that includes Marathi listening & reading comprehension.

Student will advance to next grade only after:

- Successfully completing the course work
- Meeting the course requirements
- Getting Teacher's recommendation**
- Passing the exam with min 50% in oral exam (min 30/60) and written exam (min 20/40)

(In order to pass the exam, the student must pass both sections. Overall $\geq 50\%$ is not equivalent to passing grade)

** That means the student might remain in same grade for more than one semester or one year. We want to make sure that the student's fundamentals are clear before advancing to next grade, that way the student can enjoy Marathi learning and it will be a pleasant experience for everyone - students, parents & teachers!

(Note: There is only oral exam for 'Shishu Mitra' grade and no written exam for this grade)

BMM Exams

Exam Fee structure (All students from Kishore Mitra & Praveen Mitra grades are eligible to take BMM Exam):

Student Type	What you get from AMS	BMM Fee	AMS Fee	Total Fee
AMS Regular student	Exam Preparation Material	\$ 20	\$ 0	\$ 20
AMS Marathi Home school student	Exam Preparation Material	\$ 20	\$ 10	\$ 30
AMM Member - External student*	Past 4 BMM Exam papers	\$ 30	\$ 20	\$ 50

* External Student per BMM guidelines is high school student (grade 9th and above), who is past student of Marathi Shala and no longer attending it now. AMS requires that external student must have attended Marathi Shala for at least 3 years anywhere in the USA/Canada. (Exception: Student who has studied Marathi for at least 3 years and recently migrated from India or any country, other than USA/Canada). AMM membership is mandatory for AMS student.

Questions: Please send all your questions/concerns to AMS Exam coordinator & AMS Principal

Please note that:

- BMM Exam is offered only once a year (during Spring semester in month of May/Jun)
- BMM Exam is optional (Student not taking BMM exam will need to take AMS exam)
- BMM Exam fee is non refundable (if paying by check, please make it payable to AMM)
- BMM Exam form must be submitted along with Exam fee on or before the due date
- BMM Exam rescheduling fee: \$10 (Non-illness related reschedules must be done one week before the Exam and illness related reschedule must be done within one week after the Exam)
- If student is upgraded to any Kishore/Pravin Mitra grade after Fall semester, then teacher & parent should decide if that student is ready to take BMM Exam in May
- In exceptional scenario, an eligible student can take two exams if student in higher grade covered both syllabuses (current higher grade and lower grade) as per BMM study guidelines or previously schooled in Marathi from India. AMS will provide past 4 BMM Exam papers (lower grade). AMS will NOT test Shala student for lower grade exam prior to BMM exam. Lower grade BMM exam date/venue might be different, as regular grade BMM exam will get preference.

There will be additional \$10 fee on top of 'Total Fee', to cover additional exam admin expenses.

Minimum age requirement for taking BMM Exam: Given below is just the minimum age requirement.

The decision of whether the student is ready to take the BMM Exam is based on 3 other criteria: (i) The mid-term or qualifier exam results, (ii) Teacher's recommendation and (iii) Parent-Teacher communication

BMM Exam	BMM 1	BMM 2	BMM 3	BMM 4	BMM 5
AMS Recommended Minimum Age (yrs)	7	8	9	10	11
BMM Recommended Age bracket (yrs)	7-8	9-10	11-12	13-14	15-16

Note: BMM Shala would like to recommend two years gap between two level exams. This helps student to better prepare for the exam and overall studentship retains.

BMM Exam Timing: (Oral Exam Time: 15-20 min and no more than 30 min per student)

BMM Exam	BMM 1	BMM 2	BMM 3	BMM 4	BMM 5
Written Exam Time (Min)	60	60	60	90	90

Teachers are allowed to give 15 minutes grace time to student if needed.

Final Grades: (Passing grade is 50% for written exam and 50% for oral exam)

Exam	Oral	Written	Grade	A	B	C
Passing Marks (50%)	30/60	20/40	Marks	85-100	65-84	50-64

(In order to pass the exam, the student must pass both sections. Overall $\geq 50\%$ is not equivalent to passing grade)

Grade Reporting:

- Exam coordinator will notify Exam results within 2-3 weeks of AMS Exams
- BMM Exam results are kept confidential and will be disclosed but not to be discussed with parents (teachers and parent volunteers not to show oral exam marks to students during exam)
- Teachers cannot show corrected BMM Exam paper as well as Oral exam grade sheet to the parents or discuss who was involved in the grading. Exam coordinator should keep this material confidential till AMS receives BMM certificates from Bharati Vidyapeeth (BV)
- AMS will distribute BMM-BV certificates to successful students during Ganeshotsav event