Imagine this, students sitting examining in a large room all crowded up with their breath becoming faster from anxiety, their hands shaking from hours of tiring writing and struggling to write anymore with their heads clouded. This is the reality for all students doing traditional exams. But in today’s world, schools need to do more than just teach facts to students, they must prepare them for real-life situations. That’s why I believe schools should replace traditional exams with project-based assessments. Projects allow students to show what they’ve learned in creative and practical ways. It encourages deeper understanding, helps develop useful life skills and reduces the pressure that comes with traditional exams.

Initially, project-based assessments lead to deeper learning. Traditional exams usually focus on remembering facts that students would forget soon after. On the other hand, project-based assessments actually apply real-life situations for the students to learn, which they will use in their futures. For example, instead of writing an essay on climate change, students could research their local area issues and design a solution to help. This is more efficient because students are actively thinking and solving problems, not just writing facts onto a piece of paper.

Secondly, projects help students build important life skills that exams simply can’t teach. When actually working, adults rarely sit alone and write timed tests like students. Instead, they collaborate with each other, think and solve problems. These are the skills that projects encourage. With project-based assessments, students practise time management, research, teamwork, and communication. These crucial skills do far more than just school work.

Another important reason to use projects is that they reduce stress. Many students feel very anxious before exams, and some even panic during the test. This can affect their performances in the test, even if they know the content well. Exams also don’t give students a chance to improve or show growth. With projects, students can receive feedback, and make improvements. This creates a fairer and more supportive way to learn and grow.

Another important reason to use projects is that they reduce stress. Would you want to be sitting there with your stomach twisted into knots and be struggling during a test? Many students feel anxious before exams, and some even have panic attacks during the test. This can affect their performance, even if they know the content well. Exams also don’t give students a chance to improve or show growth. With projects, students can work over time, receive feedback, and make improvements. This creates a fairer and more supportive way to assess learning.

Finally, projects make learning more enjoyable and meaningful. When students are given the chance to explore topics in depth, they often become more interested and engaged in it. Instead of cramming for a test and forgetting everything after, students remember what they’ve learned because they’ve got involved in something real like solving an actual issue. School is a place where everything should be fun and enjoyable, not stressful.

Some argue that exams provide measurement of student progress equally. However replacing traditional exams with project-based assessments allows for a fairer evaluation of skills like creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. Projects reflect real-world tasks and give students time to fully demonstrate their understanding, making it a more accurate way to see students' progress

In conclusion, schools should replace traditional exams with project-based assessments. Projects encourage deeper learning, help students gain valuable skills, and reduce the anxiety caused by traditional tests. And most importantly, they prepare students for the real world, where teamwork and creativity matters way more than remembering facts. If we want students to succeed both in and out of school, it’s time to make the exams project-based.