SAFAL Report FAQs

FAQs on Proficiency Scales and Scaled Scores

Below-Basic [100-249.19]	Basic [249.2-299.99]	Proficient [300-358.64]	Advanced [358.65-500]

An Illustrative example of the SAFAL proficiency scale

1. What is a proficiency scale?

A proficiency scale in assessments is a structured system to measure the students' skill levels. It helps to understand how well students have mastered certain skills or knowledge. It is like a ladder with different steps, where each step represents a progression from basic to more advanced understanding of the skills. A position on the scale indicates the level of mastery of specific skills/knowledge.

For SAFAL, school reports are generated for the grade – subject combinations. For example, if the average scaled score for the school is 377.61 for Grade 8 Science, it implies that the school's performance (based on the performance of all participating students) is at the Proficient level (refer to scale above).

2. Why is a proficiency scale used for reporting assessment results?

Reporting student assessment results using a proficiency scale makes it easier to understand the overall skill level and progress. It helps teachers to identify areas that the students need to work on and to adjust their teaching instructions to help them improve. Like SAFAL, proficiency scales are adopted by various international assessments to ensure reliable and actionable insights into student learning.

3. What is the SAFAL proficiency scale?

SAFAL proficiency scales group students' achievements into four clear levels. Each level shows what skills and knowledge the students should have at that level (including skills of the levels below). For example, if the proficiency level is Advanced on the proficiency scale, the students would have the skills expected at the Advanced level, as well as the Proficient, Basic and Below Basic levels. Similarly, for the Proficient level students would have the skills expected at the *Proficient* level, as well as *Basic* and *Below Basic* levels.

There are a total of 6 scales, one for each subject and grade combination. The subjects are Grade 5 Mathematics, Grade 5 EVS (Environmental Studies), Grade 5 Language, Grade 8 Mathematics, Grade 8 Science, and Grade 8 Language.

Each scale has a range from 100 to 500. Each subject scale has different cut scores dividing the scale into four proficiency levels. Hence, it is not possible to calculate a combined scaled score by adding and averaging the scaled scores of different subjects. Please note the differing scales for the three subjects tested under Grade 5, depicted in the example below.

Subject (G5)	Illustrative Scale only			
Language	Below Basic [100 - 276.43]	Basic [276.44 - 299.99]	Proficient [300.00 - 343.56]	Advanced [343.57 - 500]
Mathematics	Below Basic [100 - 245.35]	Basic [245.36 - 299.99]	Proficient [300.00 - 375.42]	Advanced [375.43 - 500]
EVS	Below Basic [100 - 236.76]	Basic [236.77 - 299.99]	Proficient [300.00 - 355.12]	Advanced [355.13 - 500]

4. What do the four levels in the SAFAL proficiency scale indicate?

The levels under the SAFAL proficiency scales indicate a specific range of skill and understanding. Each level represents a set of competencies or knowledge that students are expected to achieve at that level. These levels help us know where the students collectively stand in their learning and what areas they might need to work on more. These are the four levels (the explanation below uses Grade 5 as an example):

a. *Below Basic:* Students here show skills and knowledge that are from two grades lower. For example, Grade 5 students in this category show knowledge at a Grade 3 level.
b. *Basic*: Students here show skills and knowledge from one grade below. So, Grade 5 students in this category show knowledge at a Grade 4 level.
c. *Proficient:* Students at this level show skills appropriate for their current grade. So, Grade 5 students in this category show Grade 5 competency.
d. *Advanced*: Students here show more advanced skills than their current grade.

5. What are the numbers in brackets within each level of the proficiency scale?

The proficiency scale for a specific grade and subject in SAFAL ranges from 100 to 500 and has four levels - *Below Basic, Basic, Proficient,* and *Advanced*. The numbers in the brackets show the scaled score ranges for each level. Hence, a scaled score of the school can be mapped to one of the four proficiency levels.

6. What are scaled scores and how are they different from raw scores or percent correct scores?

Scaled scores are scores that have been adjusted from the original raw score to fit a consistent scale. Think of it like converting temperatures between Celsius and Fahrenheit.

Raw scores are the simple count of how many questions someone got right. For example, if there are 50 questions and a student answers 40 correctly, their raw score is 40.

Percent correct is just the raw score converted into percentage, like 40 out of 50 questions would be 80%.

Scaled scores, however, take the raw scores and adjust them, often to account for differences in test difficulty or to make scores from different tests comparable. This approach ensures fairness and consistency across tests or test versions.

7. Why does SAFAL use scaled scores to report results?

SAFAL is a competency-based assessment, which uses scaled scores with proficiency levels to offer detailed information about a school's performance to educators. This helps to identify what competencies students have mastered and where they can improve. SAFAL also uses scaled scores to report results in a fair and consistent way across different test times. These adjusted scores make it possible to compare results even when tests are different across different years of testing.

To illustrate the significance of scaled scores, imagine two students, Shantanu and Priya. While Priya takes the test in year 1 with a relatively simpler Test A, Shantanu attempts the test in year 2 with the more challenging Test B. If Priya's raw score on Test A is higher, it doesn't automatically mean she's more skilled than Shantanu, especially considering the varying difficulty levels of the tests. While raw scores might position Priya as the better performer, the scaled score could portray Shantanu in a more favourable light due to the test's rigour.

Scaled scores provide a genuine measure of students' capability by adjusting for test difficulty. This method ensures consistent student progress tracking regardless of test alterations or the specific group of students being assessed.

	Raw Score (RS)	Scaled Score (SS)
Performance of students of a school in the session 2023-24 on test A (Easy)	80/100 RS	250 SS
Performance of students of a school in the session 2024-25 performance on test B (Difficult)	60/100 RS	300 SS

8. Can scaled scores be depicted in percentages?

No, they cannot be shown as percentages. A scaled score of 400 on a scale of 100 to 500 means the performance is at the *Advanced* level for that grade and subject. But it does not mean they scored 400 out of 500 or 80%.

Converting scaled scores into percentages is incorrect. Instead, it's best to understand scaled scores as they are along with their proficiency level descriptions without trying to turn them into percentages.

FAQs on Proficiency Distribution

Proficiency Distribution

Below-Basic | Basic | Proficient | Advanced

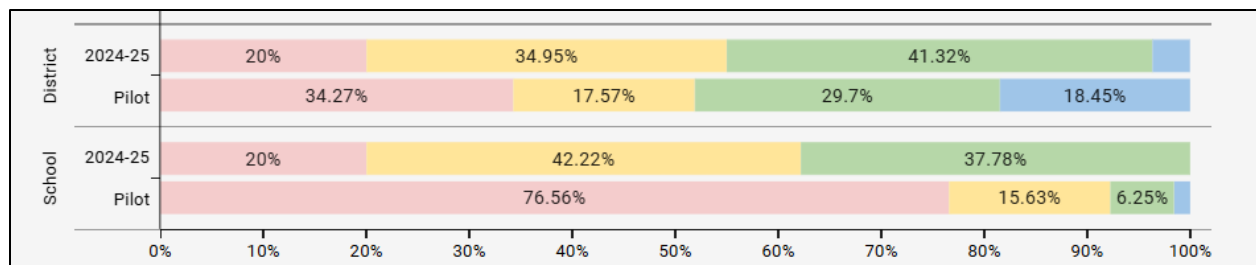|		Below-Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
All CBSE Schools	2024-25	15.02%	26.46%	43.77%	14.75%
	Pilot	34.49%	18.13%	28.72%	18.66%
Region	2024-25	17.53%	29.23%	41.94%	11.3%
	Pilot	40.1%	18.37%	26.07%	15.46%
State	2024-25	17.21%	29.09%	42.34%	11.35%
	Pilot	39.73%	18.72%	26.57%	14.97%
District	2024-25	11.99%	25.21%	47.37%	15.42%
	Pilot	31.75%	20.99%	28.31%	18.95%
School	2024-25	18.46%		56.67%	22.31%
	Pilot	31.25%	20.19%	31.73%	16.83%

An illustrative example of the Proficiency Distribution

9. What does the proficiency distribution indicate?

The proficiency distribution divides student achievement into four levels. It shows the percentage of students in your school/district/state/region/all participating schools in each proficiency level.

If your school participated in the SAFAL Pilot conducted in February 2023 and SAFAL 2024-25, the proficiency distribution will present your school's scores for the two years.

10. What does the % on the proficiency scale mean?

|		Below-Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
District	2024-25	20%	34.95%	41.32%	
	Pilot	34.27%	17.57%	29.7%	18.45%
School	2024-25	20%	42.22%	37.78%	
	Pilot	76.56%	15.63%	6.25%	

An illustrative example for showing meaning of % on the scale

The percentages in the proficiency distribution represent the proportion of students who fall into each performance level based on their SAFAL test results. For example, in the illustration above, for

a given grade and subject, 20% of the students who took the test from that school are in the *Below Basic* level, 42.22% are in the basic level and so on. When we look at the performance of all students in that CBSE District who took the test, only 20% are at the *Below Basic* level and 34.95% are at the *Basic* level.

11. What does it mean if there is no numerical marking on the proficiency level?
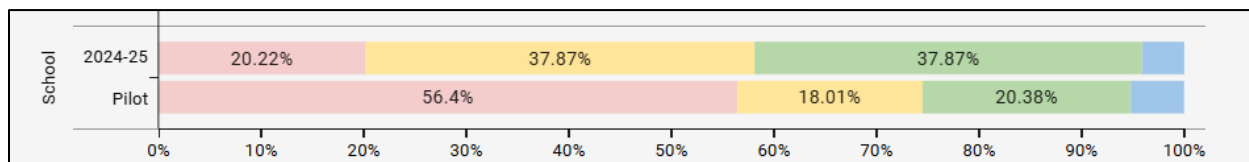
Sometimes, the proficiency levels might not have numbers on them, as illustrated in the image above. This happens when there is no student in that proficiency level or the level's colour band is too small to accommodate numbers. Likewise, this also happens when a very small percentage of students fall in a particular proficiency level.

In that case, you will see the numbers/percentages by moving your cursor over the level (please refer to the illustration below).
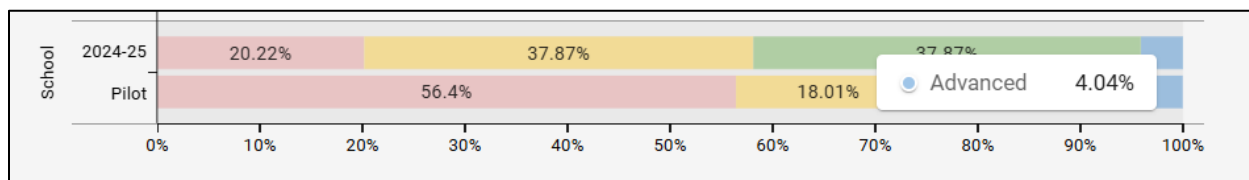
12. Why might the percentages in the proficiency distribution add up to more than 100%? (eg. 100.01, 100.1)

Sometimes, when you add up the percentages in the proficiency distribution, the total might not be exactly 100%. It could be a bit more than 100%. This is because the percentages are rounded to the nearest hundredth and then added. This is also observed in other large-scale assessments. The table below shows an instance when the total might exceed 100%.

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced	Totals
Original %s	23.9767556188 %	46.086649607 %	21.397688167 %	8.538906606 %	99.99999 % = ~100%
Rounded off %s	23.98 %	46.09 %	21.40 %	8.54 %	100.01%

An illustrative example of a case with the total not exactly 100%

FAQs on Consolidated Report

Average Scores						
#	No. of Schools		No. of Students		Avgerage Score	
	2024-25	Pilot	2024-25	Pilot	2024-25	Pilot
All CBSE Schools	8040	1790	607726	158460	309.1	301.68
Region	142	48	14525	6360	315.53	306.24
State	142	88	14525	11754	315.53	302.06
District	7	3	994	569	310.14	288.64
School	--	--	272	211	296.76	277.68

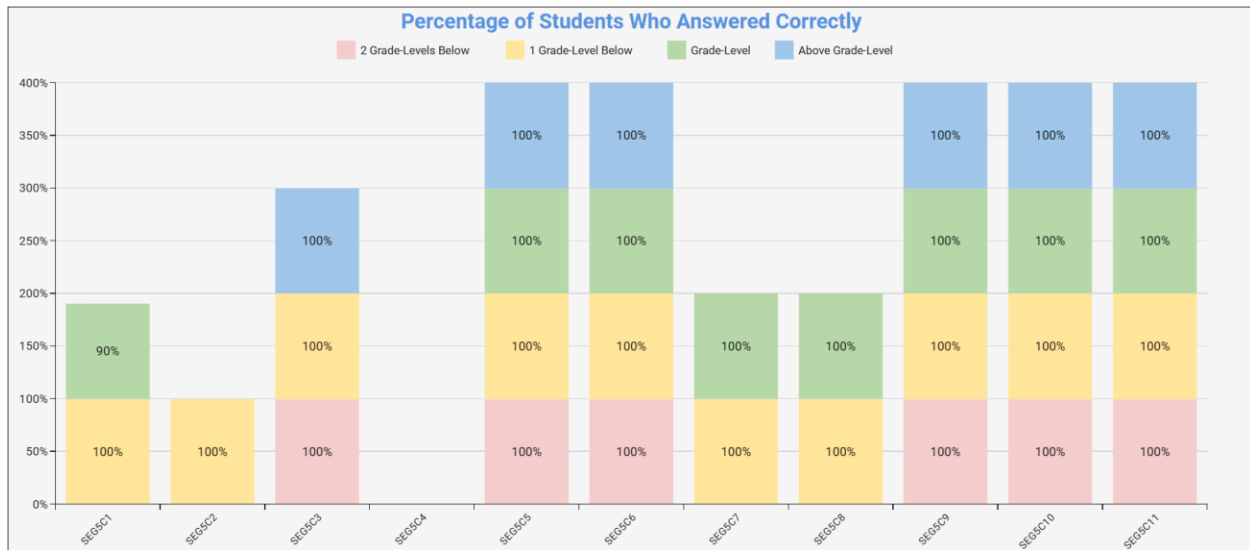*An illustrative example of a Consolidated Report*

13. What is the consolidated report?

The consolidated report is a table that presents the average scaled score of the school. It also provides the average scaled score of participating schools of the district, state, and region to which the school is mapped. This analysis serves as a benchmark to understand the school's performance within the larger educational context.

Additionally, if the school has participated in SAFAL Pilot as well as SAFAL 2024-25, the consolidated report will present the pilot scores as well as the SAFAL 2024-25 scores.

It is important to note that the purpose of the consolidated report is to give an overview of your student's achievements at various levels, with respect to district, state, region and all participating schools. It is NOT for any sort of comparison and should be used only for making strategies for further development of student competencies.

FAQs on Competency Report

An illustrative example of a Competency Report

14. How do I interpret the competency report?

In the SAFAL assessment for each subject, several competencies are assessed. SAFAL tests each competency across different grade levels: two grades lower, one grade lower, at the grade level, and above the grade level. As a result, multiple questions are linked to each competency, targeting these different levels (as indicated by the column headers in the illustration above). The competency report shows the % of students who correctly answered questions of each competency targeted at different grade levels.

For example, as per the illustration given above, for the competency "*SEG5C1*", which is *"Identifies, Analyses the reasons for changes caused by movement and/or additions in family*", 100% of students in the school correctly answered the question testing that competency targeted at 1 grade level below (Basic Level, coloured in yellow). This granular analysis highlights areas of students' strengths and pinpoints areas where additional support might be needed.

15. What do the terms "2 Grade Levels below," "1 Grade Level below," "at Grade Level," and "Above Grade Level" signify in the SAFAL competency report?

In SAFAL assessments, students are evaluated at various levels and not just at their current grade. This method, referred to as "scaffolding," helps uncover any learning gaps. For example, a Grade 5 test assesses skills not just at Grade 5 but also at Grade 3, Grade 4, and advanced Grade 5 level. This thorough evaluation helps teachers grasp the complete range of abilities and areas that require attention.

16. What do the percentages in the competency report mean?

The percentage shows the % of students who correctly answered questions linked to a specific competency targeted at a particular grade level.

Please note that the percentage of students correctly answering questions for a specific competency at different grade levels will not sum up to 100% (unlike the Proficiency Distribution presented in the report). This is because the same students are assessed on a particular competency at different grade levels.

17. Why do the percentages for each competency in the report add up to between 0% and 400%?
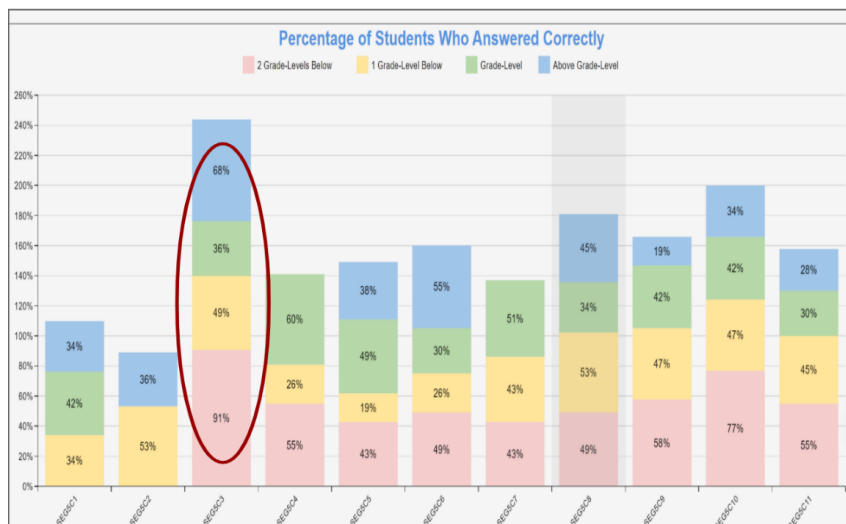
An illustrative example of this case

SAFAL tests each competency across four levels, and students are expected to answer questions from all these levels. Since the percentage represented at each level indicates the percentage of the students who responded to these questions correctly, the sum of all four will go up to 400% for each competency. Hence, the total percentage for each competency can range from 0% to 400%.

18. What does a blank (--) in the competency report mean?
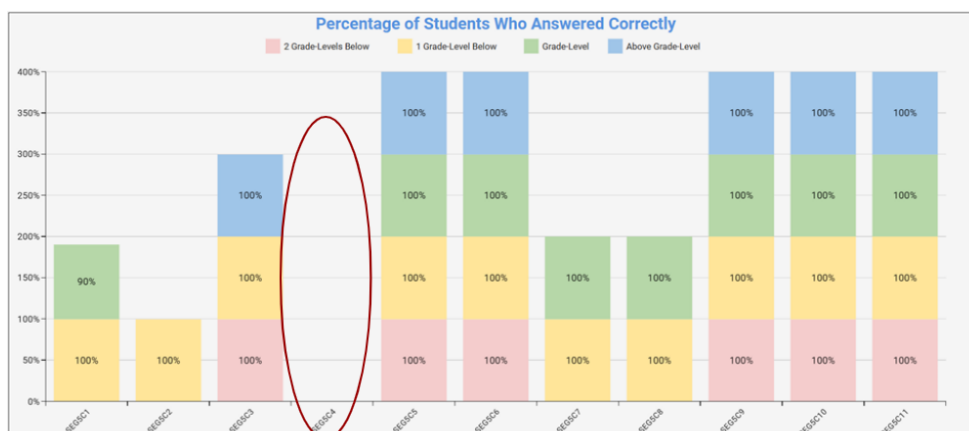
An illustrative example of a case with a blank in a competency report

If you see a blank in the competency report, it means there were no questions from that competency targeted at that grade level in the SAFAL test.

FAQ on Competency Chart

Competency Code:	Competency	Percentage of Students Who Answered Correctly			
		2 Grade-Level Below	1 Grade-Level Below	At the Grade-Level	Above Grade-Level
MEG8C1	Evaluates, models, and computes with expressions	51%	56%	33%	38%
MEG8C2	Solves problems involving variation (ratio, proportion, and percentage)	55%	44%	35%	38%
MEG8C3	Solves linear equations in one variable	--	57%	46%	25%
MEG8C4	Recognises and describes shapes and figures	87%	61%	45%	31%
MEG8C5	Recognises various polyhedrons based on their properties	--	--	41%	--
MEG8C6	Solves problems involving measurement of 2D shapes	48%	43%	30%	--

An illustrative example of a Competency Chart

19. What is a Competency Chart?

The chart lists the targeted grade-level competencies tested for each subject in the respective grade. It also provides the percentage of students who correctly answered the questions asked at each targeted grade level of the competency. Please refer to the example attached above.

FAQ on Recommendations (based on Average Scale Score)

Recommendations (Based on Average Scale Score)

The students are ready to engage in concepts like Plant structure and functions, Understanding fuels, etc. at an advanced level.

- Schools should provide opportunities for these students to work on extended research projects, participate in competitions and present their findings to peers. For example, students can be asked to research different types of fuels, their sources, uses, and environmental impact and present their findings through multiple modes of representation.
- Encourage students to mentor each other, fostering peer learning.
- These learners can also explore interdisciplinary links of EVS with technology and social sciences to deepen their understanding.

An illustrative example of a Recommendation

20. What is a recommendation (based on Average Scale Score)?

Based on the school's average scaled scores for each subject, recommendations are provided to the school to support students' performance. These are recommendations dedicated to each subject which outline exemplar strategies that schools and teachers may adopt to enhance students' learning outcomes. These suggestions can guide educators through the potential areas and approaches to strengthen their instructional practices, helping them support students in improving learning outcomes.

Other Information

21. How do I access the SAFAL report?

The schools can access their report by using their LoC Login IDs and password at the URL: https://cbsesafal.in/

22. Can I print the SAFAL report?

You can use the print option provided on the SAFAL reporting dashboard to either save the SAFAL school reports as a PDF or directly print them.

23. Can schools view individual student reports from SAFAL?

SAFAL is designed as a tool to identify areas where students can improve without creating high-pressure situations. Its main goal is to assist schools in recognising and addressing these gaps using specific strategies. To avoid putting unnecessary pressure on students, **SAFAL doesn't provide individual student-level reports.**

24. Can I add the average scaled scores of different subjects to obtain a single average scale score for the school?

The average scaled scores of different subjects **cannot** be added together and averaged to create a single combined school score. This is because SAFAL has separate proficiency scales for **each subject and grade combination**. Each subject has its own unique scale.

25. Can SAFAL results be compared from one year to the next?

Yes, SAFAL results can be compared from one test administration to another. The use of scaled scores and proficiency levels makes this comparison possible. Even though different groups of students would take the Grade 5/8 SAFAL assessment in 2024-25 and the test in upcoming years, with the tests different from one another, it is still possible to have a fair comparison of school performance between those years.

26. Where can schools access the information on the competencies and learning outcomes mapped to each subject and grade for SAFAL?

The competencies and corresponding learning outcomes for each subject/grade are listed in the SAFAL assessment framework handbooks. These resources are available under the link – [SAFAL microsite](#).