

Sunday, 23 May, 2021

Dear Principal,

**Subject: International Benchmark Tests (IBT) – Invitation Letter and Registration**

Greetings from the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), UAE. We hope and trust that the students and staff are well and safe as we look with optimism to a degree of normalcy with the return of students to school.

However, the multiple modes of blended and face to face options to ensure continuity of learning are likely to continue at least in part or possibly through to the next academic year which has prompted us to us to plan for flexible assessment of learning, hence all ACER assessments including Arabic are now available online with customized delivery options.

Based on feedback received from schools and successful implementation of the IBT 2020 online assessment and also in consideration of various options for return to school, the IBT will be offered as a flexible test window over three weeks. Schools can choose suitable test dates for each of the Grades and subjects and create a personalized pre-agreed schedule for the assessments.

The **International Benchmark Tests (IBT)** are designed to measure skills and concepts underlying the core subjects and build on higher-order thinking skills associated with these domains. The Tests provide comprehensive feedback in the form of electronic and paper-based Student & School Reports that highlight performance in local, regional and international contexts. With more than 50,000 students participating in the assessments across the Middle East, they include a large and rich diversity of schools and students for benchmarking and validating individual and school performance. ACER has developed Proficiency Statements, similar to those in TIMSS, PIRLS and PISA that describe proficiency and achievement levels for all subjects. These give students a clear indication of what they know and can do and the next level of achievement that they need to strive towards and also enable teachers to use the results to more effectively target their teaching.

As part of our ongoing commitment to support schools and students with high quality tests and data to help improve learning outcomes, the **Reasoning Skills Assessment (RSA)** assesses key strands of **Verbal, Numerical, Abstract, Spatial and Kinetic Reasoning** and provides a comprehensive report on problem solving and critical thinking skills and assesses students abilities to make logical deductions, identify connections and spot patterns.

The **Arabic Language Assessments** were very well received and are designed to assess proficiency in Arabic and is based on the Arabic Curriculum provided by the Ministry of Education. In order to cater for the two distinct populations in Private English Schools based on native and non-native speakers of the language, the Assessments are divided into two categories: **Arabic A and Arabic B respectively.**

The Tests offer schools the opportunity to participate in a standardized Assessment that provides comprehensive diagnostic feedback and benchmark performance against other schools in the region and internationally.

- Provide clear descriptions of levels of achievement that will help map the IBT Standards to your curriculum.
- Provide clear indications of the skills being assessed, which Level the students are at and what they need to do to progress to the next level.
- Give students clear descriptions of the next level of achievement and help them set clear goals.
- Enable teachers to use the data to differentiate and target their teaching more effectively.
- Track students and monitor achievement and progress over time.
- Reports include Individual Student Reports, School and Class Reports, Interactive Report, Benchmark Report and Described Proficiency Reports, Individual Student Certificates.

- Students receive Certificates of Honor, High Distinction, Distinction and Participation as per their achievement on the assessments.

**Registration Fee:** Please refer below for the fee for the IBT assessments for 2021:

**English, Math, Science & Reasoning Skills Assessment: AED 35/- for 1 subject; AED 60/- for 2 subjects, AED 75/- for 3 subjects and AED 90/- for all 4 Subjects.**

**Language Assessments:**

a. Arabic Language: **AED 45/- per student**  
(Arabic A, Arabic B)

**Note:** 10% of the total fee to be retained by the school for administration of the test.

**Test Schedule:** Please see below the Test Schedule for the IBT 2021 assessments:

<b>07<sup>th</sup> November 2021- 30th November 2021</b>  <b>(online version)</b>	Arabic Language A Arabic Language B	Grades 3 to 10 Grades 3 to 10 (Level 1, 2 or 3)
	English	Grades 3 to 10
	Mathematics	Grades 3 to 10
	Science	Grades 3 to 10
	Reasoning	Grades 3 to 10

**NB: All fees are inclusive of VAT charges**

**Please find attached the Registration Forms, Circular for Parents, Test Schedule Form and Student List template for registering your students.** For assistance in completing the Registration Process or for any related inquiries regarding the Tests for your school, please contact us at ACER, UAE at **+971 4 2830120/2830124** or [ibt-me@acer.org](mailto:ibt-me@acer.org).

**Please send us the Registration Form, Test Schedule Form and Student List on or before Thursday, October 21, 2021.**

Given the extent of the disruption to learning and the extended period that students have been away from school, it is now even more important to estimate the learning loss and understand to what extent the students have been impacted by the pandemic. The IBT would give a good indication of this as all the tests are on the same scale and student achievement levels can be compared with previous test administrations. ACER would like to extend our support during this time and is committed to ensuring efficient and reliable monitoring of student learning and providing schools with flexible access to the assessments and workshops to assist Teachers and schools.

We look forward to your school's participation and enthusiastic support in making Assessments available to the students.

With Kind Regards,

Alan Egbert  
CEO  
ACER, UAE