



Thursday, May 25, 2023

Subject: International Benchmark Tests (IBT) – Invitation Letter and Registration for IBT 2023

Dear Principal,

Greetings and best wishes from the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), UAE.

We are happy to extend an invitation to your school to register for the IBT 2023 online assessments which will be offered over a personalized test window from **01 - 30 November 2023**.

Instant Reporting for IBT 2023: We are happy to advise exciting new developments to the IBT Online delivery system that will allow schools to generate all IBT Reports instantly, this will include the full suite of new online Reports in attractive and user-friendly formats. We hope this new feature will allow schools to start working with the Reports and data almost immediately and apply interventions much earlier than before.

ACER's International Benchmark Tests (IBT) 2023 are a world-class, skills-based diagnostic assessment program based on the TIMSS framework, to help improve teaching and learning in schools and follows similar processes for developing the IBT Scale, generating the IBT Scale scores and reporting parameters. The IBT will serve as the ideal instrument to help monitor and track student performance over time while providing robust data to inform teaching and learning and school improvement initiatives.

Designed for students from Grades 3 to 10, the IBT is offered in Arabic, English, Mathematics, Science, and Critical Thinking and Reasoning, and has been improving learning **since 2005, with more than 2.4 million global assessments administered to over 1 million students, in over 750 schools worldwide.**

The IBT is designed to measure skills and concepts underlying these core subjects and build on higher-order thinking skills associated with these domains. ACER has developed Proficiency Statements, similar to those in TIMSS, PIRLS and PISA that describe proficiency levels for each subject. The **Described Achievement Bands** give students a clear indication of where they are in their learning journey and what they have to do in the next level and enable teachers to use the results to more effectively target their teaching.

The **Arabic Language Assessments** 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.**

In 2021-22, ACER developed a new suite of **Arabic A2 assessments**, exclusively for English Private/International Schools for Grades 3 – 10, based on feedback from Arabic Teachers and experts from schools and key education stakeholders. This allows the tests to be better suited to student populations in Private English/International Schools and better targeted to assess learning and support teaching of the Arabic curriculum in English Private Schools as per the Ministry of Education Curriculum guidelines.

The IBT offers schools the opportunity to participate in a standardized Assessment that provides comprehensive diagnostic feedback and includes a host of key features which include:

- clear description of levels of achievement that will help map the IBT Standards to your curriculum.
- clear indication of each skill being assessed, which Level the students are at, and what they need to do to progress to the next level.
- benchmarks performance against other students and schools in the region and internationally.

- provides students with a Scale Score, percentile score, percent correct and summary of their performance to help them set clear goals.
- enables teachers to use the data to differentiate and target their teaching more effectively.
- tracks students' progress and monitors achievement over time.
- detailed Reports for each Class which include Interactive, Benchmark and Described Proficiency Reports.
- Certificates of Honor, High Distinction, Distinction and Participation as per students' achievement on the assessments.

The IBT 2023 assessment will be offered Online as a **flexible test window over four weeks**. Schools can select test dates as per their convenience and create a personalized pre-agreed schedule for the assessments.

REGISTRATION FEE FOR IBT ASSESSMENTS 2023:

Subjects	Registration Fee
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.
Arabic Language (Arabic A2, Arabic B)	AED 35/- per student

Note: 10% of the total fee to be retained by the school for administration of the test.
All fees are subject to 5% VAT.

Test Window: 01 - 30 November 2023

Please find attached the Registration Forms, Test Schedule Form and Student List template for registering your students. Also attached for your reference is the Arabic Language Assessments Brief which provides details on the Arabic Language assessments for Arabic A2 and Arabic B. Please contact us on **+971 4 2830120/2830124** or ibt-me@acer.org for any assistance in completing the registration process or inquiries regarding the Tests for your school.

Please send us the Registration Form, Test Schedule Form and Student List on or before Monday, 02 October, 2023.

ACER is committed to ensuring an efficient test administration and monitoring of students by providing schools with reliable data and workshops to assist Teachers in interpreting and using the data to inform their teaching. We look forward to your participation and support in making the IBT available to the students.

With Kind Regards,



Alan Egbert
CEO
ACER, UAE