

Wednesday, July 01, 2020

Dear Principal,

Subject: International Benchmark Tests (IBT) - Letter of Invitation and Registration

Greetings from the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), Dubai. We hope and trust that the students and staff are well and safe during this unprecedented global crises due to Covid-19.

Teaching and learning from home has no doubt been one of the challenges of Covid 19 and despite being in the midst of a crises, with limited resources and restricted movement, the overall effort and accomplishment in providing online learning for the students has indeed been commendable. The extended school closure have no doubt encouraged and allowed us more time to plan for sustainable, quality, flexible learning options but also prompted us to plan for flexible assessment of learning. To this effect, all ACER assessments including Arabic are now available online with customized delivery options.

We are happy to extend an invitation to your school to participate in the International Benchmark Tests for 2020 as an online or a paper based assessments. Based on feedback received from schools and in consideration of various options for return to school, the IBT for this cycle will be offered as a test window over three weeks, schools can choose a suitable test date for each of the Grades and subjects.

In light of the current situation ACER is also happy to advise that we have reviewed and further reduced the pricing of the IBT assessments for the tests to be more accessible to all and help assist with providing a measure of the impact that Covid 19 has had on the learning outcomes for the students.

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.**

Registration Fee: Please refer below for the revised fee for the IBT assessments for 2020:

English, Math, Science & Reasoning Skills Assessment: **AED 30/- for 1 subject; AED 50/- for 2 subjects, AED 65/- for 3 subjects and AED 80/- for all 4 Subjects.**

Language Assessments:

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

b. Hindi Language:

AED 45/- per student

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 2020 assessments:

16th November 2020- 10th December 2020 (paper based /online version)	Arabic Language A	Grades 3 to 10
	Arabic Language B	Grades 3 to 10 (Level 1, 2 or 3)
	Hindi Language	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

The Tests offer students and schools the opportunity to participate in a standardized Assessment which would provide 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 Arabic Standards to your curriculum outcomes.
- Provide clear indications of the skills being assessed and 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.

Please find attached the Registration Forms, Circular for Parents 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, Dubai at **+971 4 2830120/2830124** or ibt-me@acer.org.

Please send us the Registration Form and Student List on or before Thursday, October 15, 2020.

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

With Kind Regards,



Alan Egbert
Manager - Middle East
ACER, Dubai