

Dear Principal,

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

Greetings from the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), Dubai. We are very happy to extend an invitation to your school to participate in ACER Assessment Tests.

ACER is one of the worlds leading Research and Assessment Services organization and has been instrumental in implementation, management and reporting of large scale assessment programs such as PISA, TIMSS and PIRLS in Australia and the UAE. ACER has also developed and administered the UAE National Assessment Program for the Ministry of Education for the last 7 years and much of the experience and expertise for developing the Arabic Language assessment is drawn from the teams that developed the UAENAP.

The **International Benchmark Tests (IBT)** are designed to measure generic skills and concepts underlying the core subjects and build on higher order thinking skills associated with these subjects. The Tests provide comprehensive feedback in the form of electronic and paper based Student & School Reports that highlight student 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 what they know and can do and the next level of achievement that they need to strive towards and also enable teachers to use results to more effectively target their teaching.

In addition to the core Subjects of English, Mathematics and Science of the IBT, it is our ongoing commitment to support schools and students with high quality data to help improve learning outcomes, to this effect; ACER is pleased to introduce **Reasoning Skills Assessment (RSA)**. These are a series of tests designed to assess students' reasoning skills in three core areas of verbal, numerical and abstract reasoning and provide a comprehensive reports on the students' problem solving skills and attributes for reasoning. The skills assessed require students to think critically, make logical deductions, and identify connections and spot patterns. The questions do not require any prior knowledge from any particular subject/content area. Instead, students must demonstrate their abilities to use their higher – order thinking skills and logically make outside the box conclusions and judgements to solve problems. They are designed to help identify students who may be performing below their ability and enable teachers to support the better, they also help identify high ability students and highlight areas where they can be further challenged and advance their learning beyond the regular classroom contexts.

We are also happy to advise the launch of **Hindi Language Assessment**. These tests are designed specifically for students opting to study Hindi as a second language within the school community. Please find attached a Brief with detailed information related to these Tests.

The **Arabic Language Assessment** introduced last year 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**. Please find attached more detailed information on the tests for your reference.

Please see below details of the assessment:

Test Dates:

Monday	12 November 2018	English	Grades 3 to 10
Tuesday	13 November 2018	Mathematics	Grades 3 to 10
Wednesday	14 November 2018	Science	Grades 3 to 10
Thursday	15 November 2018	Reasoning Skills Assessment	Grades 3 to 10
Thursday	15 November 2018	Arabic Language (Arabic A, Arabic B)	Grades 3 to 9
Monday	19 November 2018	Hindi Language	Grades 3 to 9

Registration Fee:**International Benchmark Tests (IBT):**

English, Math & Science: **AED 35/- for 1 subject; AED 60/- for 2 subjects & AED 75/- for all 3 subjects.**
(10% of the total fee may be retained by the school for administration of the test.)

Reasoning Skills Assessment: AED 45/- per student
(10% of the total fee may be retained by the school for administration of the test.)

Language Assessments:

a. Arabic Language: **AED 45/- per student**
(Arabic A, Arabic B) (10% of the total fee may be retained by the school for administration of the test.)

b. Hindi Language: **AED 45/- per student**
(10% of the total fee may be retained by the school for administration of the test.)

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 hence improve the ability to monitor achievement and progress over time
- Give students a clear indication of the next level of achievement that they need to strive towards and help them set clear goals for themselves
- Enable teachers to use results to differentiate and target their teaching more effectively.
- Track students and monitor growth 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 Pack' 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 4341904** or **ibt-me@acer.org**. Please send us the Registration Form and Student List on or before **Thursday, October 11, 2018**.

The attached Circular for Parents provides a brief description of the tests, the schedule and fee for each subject. Please use this as required (as an information sheet or consent form) to send to parents.

English, Math & Science (IBT) and Reasoning Skills Assessment are also offered online as a state of the art online assessment. Schools can choose to administer these tests online or as the standard paper and pencil test. Please contact us for further details.

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