Thursday, June 13, 2019

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 International Benchmark Tests for 2019.

ACER is one of the global leaders in Research and Assessment Services 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 helped develop and administer the PISA based Test for Schools in the UAE and works closely with schools on using the data from these assessments to plan their school improvement journey.

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.

As part of our ongoing commitment to support schools and students with high quality tests and data to help improve learning outcomes, a new version of the Reasoning Skills Assessment (RSA) now assesses skills in the key strands of Verbal, Numerical, Abstract, Spatial and Kinetic Reasoning and provides a comprehensive report on the students’ problem solving skills and attributes for reasoning. The skills assessed require students to think critically, make logical deductions, identify connections and spot patterns.

The Arabic Language Assessment 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 the Test Schedule for the 2019 assessments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17 November 2019</td>
<td>Arabic Language A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arabic Language B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>18 November 2019</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>19 November 2019</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>20 November 2019</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>21 November 2019</td>
<td>Reasoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hindi Language</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades 4 to 9
Grades 3 to 9
Grades 3 to 10
Grades 3 to 10
Grades 3 to 9
Grades 3 to 10
Grades 3 to 9

Registration Fee:
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.)

**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 hence improve the ability to monitor achievement and progress over time.
- Give students clear descriptions 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 2 2830120/2830124 or ibt-me@acer.org. Please send us the Registration Form and Student List on or before Thursday, October 10, 2019.

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