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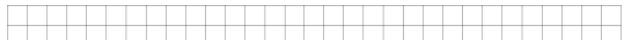
## A PARENT'S GUIDE TO CURRICULA IN ABU DHABI

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# How to Use this Guide

This Guide has three sections:



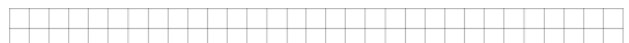
**Section 1** answers some frequently asked questions about selecting a curriculum and an appropriate school



**Section 2** comprises snapshots of the 14 curricula offered across Abu Dhabi schools



**Section 3** is a short introduction to an online search tool that can help you find private schools that offer your chosen curriculum







# SECTION 1

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ON CURRICULA

This section will answer some common questions you may have about selecting a curriculum



# | Curriculum Overview

## What is a Curriculum:

Curriculum typically refers to the knowledge and skills students are expected to learn, which includes the learning standards or objectives they are expected to meet; the units and lessons that teachers teach; the assignments and projects given to students; the books, materials, presentations and readings used in a course; and the assessments and other methods used to evaluate student learning.

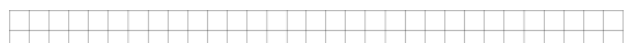
Most private schools in Abu Dhabi offer one curriculum. However, some schools may have different “sections” within the same school where they offer two curricula. For example, you may find a school that has a “British” section which teaches the British curriculum and an “MoE” section which follows the UAE Ministry of Education curriculum.

## Why Curricula Matter:

Knowing the different curricula is an important step in making an informed decision regarding school selection for your child. The curriculum will set the tone of your child’s learning experience, assessment and associated qualifications, as well as the day-to-day academic and co-curricular activities they will be expected to engage in. Moreover, it will also help in mapping and preparing them for their future academic and professional career.

## All Schools that Teach a Particular Curriculum are not the Same:

While the overall academic structure is similar, schools offering the same curriculum may also differ in a range of ways, such as co-curricular activities, facilities, fees, teaching methods, etc.



# | Curricula in Abu Dhabi Private Schools

The 14 curricula available to students in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi are:

- \* American
- \* Bangladeshi
- \* British
- \* Canadian
- \* French
- \* German
- \* Indian
- \* International Baccalaureate (IB)\*
- \* Japanese
- \* Pakistani
- \* Philippine
- \* SABIS®
- \* Spanish
- \* UAE Ministry of Education (MoE)

Schools may choose to offer one or more of these curricula either concurrently, or a stream within the school. For details on each curriculum, see Section 2 of this guide.

\*Note: The IB framework serves as a curriculum organizer and offers a guide to achieve inquiry-based learning.





# Mandatory Subjects your Child will Study:

In addition to the subjects that your child will study at school as part of their curriculum, the following subjects will also be taught depending on their nationality and faith.

These subjects promote the development of your child as a mindful individual who is aware and appreciative of the cultural and social diversity of the UAE.



## ISLAMIC EDUCATION

Mandatory for all Muslim students of all nationalities.  
Optional for non-Muslim students.

Arab students study Islamic Education in Arabic.  
Non-Arab students study Islamic Education in English.  
Some schools may offer Islamic Education in the language of instruction from Grades 1-11.



## UAE SOCIAL STUDIES

Mandatory for all students in Grades 1-9.

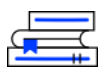
Language of instruction depends on the school.



## UAE MORAL EDUCATION

Mandatory for all students in Grades 1-12.

Language of instruction depends on the school.



## ARABIC

Mandatory for all students.

Arab students study Arabic as a first language.<sup>1</sup>

Non-Arab students study Arabic as an additional language until Grade 9. Non-Arab students in Grades 10-12 may choose to study Arabic as an optional subject.

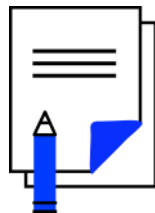


1: Arab Students of Determination may apply to study Arabic as an additional language (i.e. Arabic for non-native/non-Arab speakers) provided they submit a physician's note and supporting documents with the request.

## Assessments your Child has to Take:

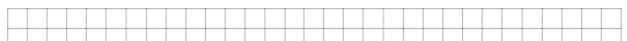
Assessments are an important part of the teaching and learning process, as they help your child’s teacher determine the most appropriate support your child needs to succeed. Throughout your children’s learning journey, they will be given a range of assessments to evaluate their performance. Broadly, these include:

- ◉ Internal assessments conducted by the school to assess learning, such as mid-term tests or quizzes.
- ◉ Board Exams: Assessments developed by recognized awarding bodies, such as GCSE, A-Level, BTEC, IB Dip., HSSC, Abitur, usually taken at the end of secondary/high school. See Glossary for a description of these exams.
- ◉ College/University Entrance Exams: assessments developed by recognized awarding bodies only for university entrance, such as SAT, ACT, BMAT, etc.
- ◉ EmSAT: The Emirates Standardized Test is a national system of standardized computer-based tests, based on United Arab Emirates national standards. These are administered to students in Grades 4, 6, 8 and 10 to track student achievement, and at the end of Grade 12 as the primary admission criteria for public and some private universities in the UAE.
- ◉ Standardized curriculum assessments: Assessments mandated by ADEK for each curriculum. You can find out more about the standardized assessment mandated for each curriculum in the next section.<sup>2</sup>



2. Students studying in the Bangladeshi, Canadian, Pakistani, and Philippine curriculum in Grades 3-9 must take any of the following standardized tests each year: NWEA-MAP®, GL-PT test series, ACER-ISA, ACER-IBT or EI-ASSET.

For students studying other curriculum, please refer to the relevant curriculum snapshot in Section 2.









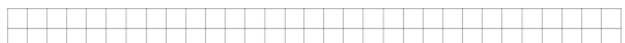
# I Know which Curriculum I Want my Child to Study. What's Next?

Great! You're one step closer to making a decision.

- You can use the tool explained in Section 3 to shortlist schools that offer your desired curriculum.
- Next, you should make a list of questions you want to ask schools to make an informed choice, and reach out to schools to book an in-person or virtual meeting.
- Here's a list of some questions that you may wish to ask the school:



- 1. What is your school's approach to teaching and learning?**
- 2. What are the relative benefits of the school's curriculum over other curricula?**
- 3. What is the school's inspection rating (Irtiq'a) as determined by ADEK?**
- 4. If your school offers multiple curricula, how are they similar and different? How can I choose between the two?**
- 5. Which Grade will my child be placed in?**
- 6. How frequently and how will my child be assessed?**
- 7. What will my child's school day look like?**
- 8. How many students do you have per class?**
- 9. How can I register my child to attend the school? Are there any important documents I need or requirements I must meet to admit my child to the school of my choice?**





# The Parent Decision Tool for Curriculum Selection

To help you work through this guide, we've put together a helpful tool for you to use to make a decision for your child.

Key preferences/considerations for my child:

Example: My child wants to explore different subjects at school, such as Foreign Languages, Art History and Politics

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

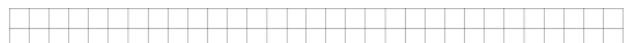
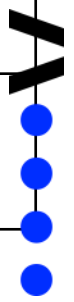
	Pros	Cons	Questions/ Clarifications
Curriculum 1: .....			
Curriculum 2: .....			
Curriculum 3: .....			

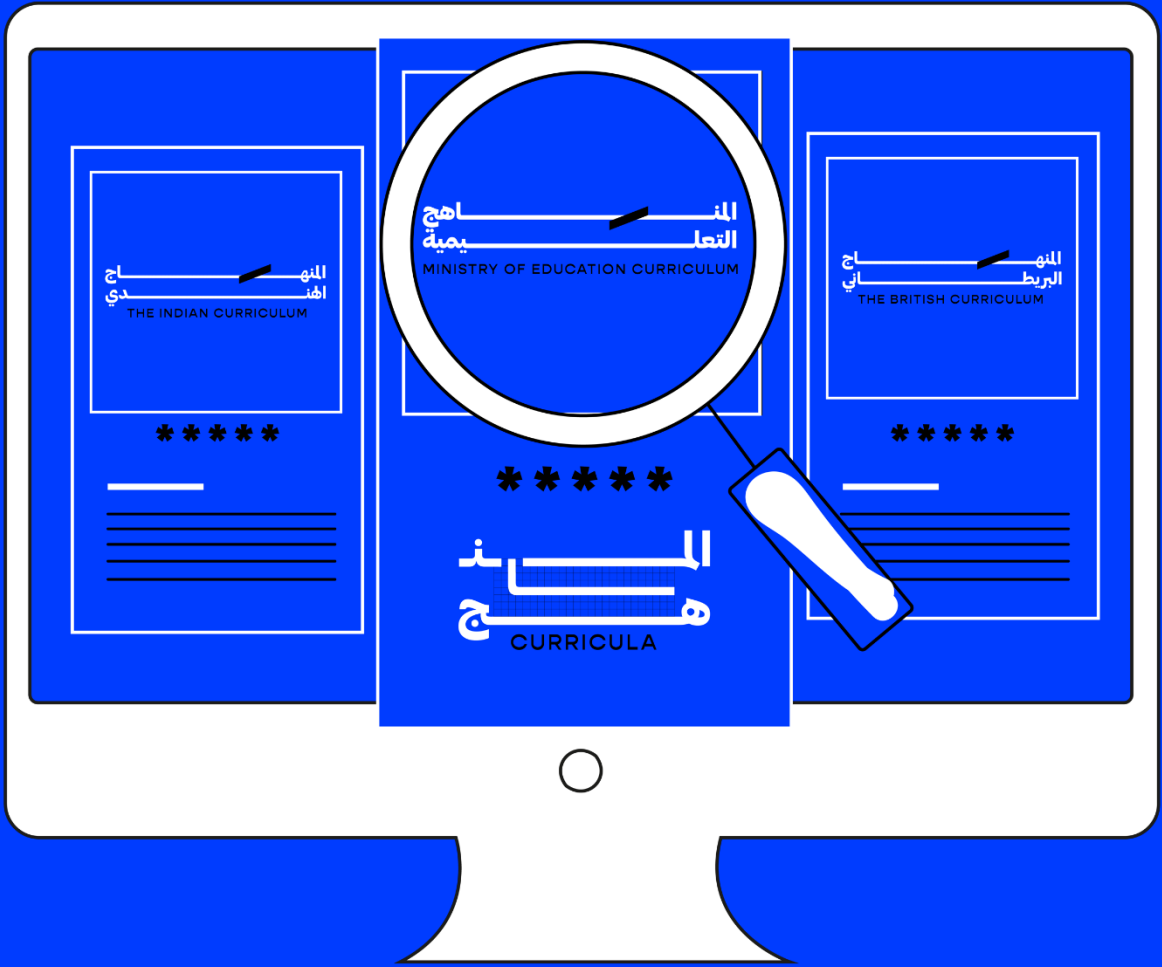
Shortlisted schools:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Next steps:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_





## SECTION 2

# SNAPSHOTS OF THE 14 CURRICULA

We suggest using this section to gather more information on the 2 or 3 curricula of your interest



## Progression

- Entry to Pre-Kindergarten typically begins at age 3.
- Students complete 12 years of schooling beyond Kindergarten.
- Typically, in high school, courses are expressed as “Credits”, representing the number of hours of study the student engages in.
- Students graduate with a High School Diploma, a school-leaving qualification that reflects their academic work from Grades 9-12.
- The table below shows the academic journey that a student studying an American curriculum is expected to take:

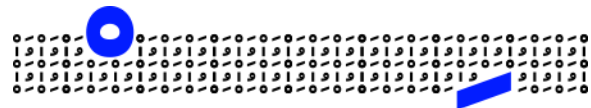
Age	Grade
3-4	Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K)
4-5	KG1
5-6	KG2
6-7	1
7-8	2
8-9	3
9-10	4
10-11	5
11-12	6
12-13	7
13-14	8
14-15	9 (Freshman)
15-16	10 (Sophomore)
16-17	11 (Junior)
17-18	12 (Senior)







Age	Grade/Class
4-5	Junior KG/KG1
5-6	Senior KG/KG2
6-7	1 (Class I)
7-8	2 (Class II)
8-9	3 (Class III)
9-10	4 (Class IV)
10-11	5 (Class V)
11-12	6 (Class VI)
12-13	7 (Class VII)
13-14	8 (Class VIII)
14-15	9 (Class IX)
15-16	10 (Class X)
16-17	11 (Class XI)
17-18	12 (Class XII)



## Assessments

The Bangladeshi curriculum school in Abu Dhabi offers the following examinations from Dhaka Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education:

- Primary School Certificate (PSC), a national exam at the end of Grade 5.
- Junior School Certificate (JSC), a national exam at the end of Grade 8.
- Secondary School Certificate (SSC), a national exam at the end of Grade 10.
- Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC), a national exam at the end of Grade 12.

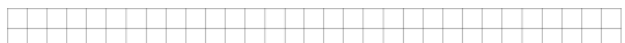
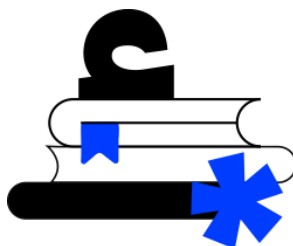
# Accreditation

Many Bangladeshi schools participate in affiliation schemes developed by the various curriculum and school education boards in Bangladesh e.g., Dhaka Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE).

- By participating in affiliation, schools establish a recognized association or ‘partnership’ with a board of their choice.
- Without affiliation, schools cannot deliver courses nor administer board examinations.
- Schools are granted affiliation (renewed every 4 years) upon the adherence to the Board’s terms and conditions.

# Further Details

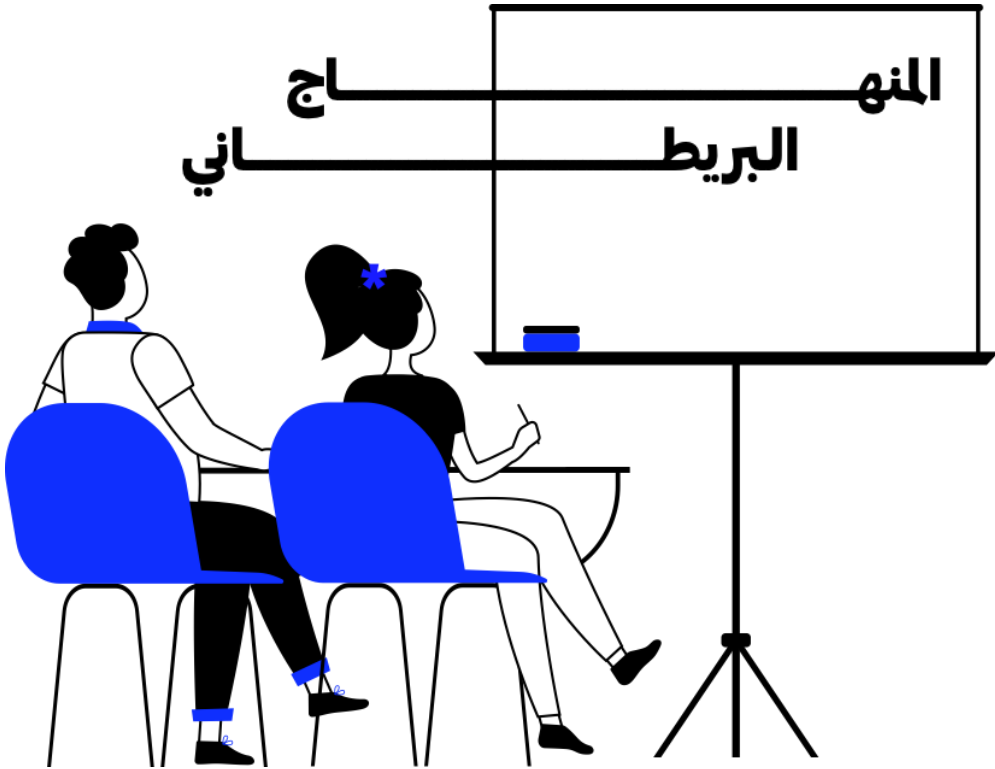
- More details regarding various exam boards and the education system can be found on the websites of [Ministry of Education, Bangladesh](#), [Department of Primary Education](#) [Department of Secondary and Higher Education](#), [Dhaka Education Board](#) and [Board of Secondary and Higher Education](#).

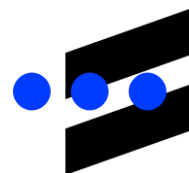


# | The BRITISH Curriculum

## Overview

- While the UK has a national curriculum, independent (non-state funded) schools may choose to use it or implement a curriculum of their choice. Therefore, expect variation in the learning outcomes among British curriculum schools.
- The British National curriculum has the following compulsory subjects for students: Mathematics, English, Science, Design and Technology, History, Geography, Art and Design, Music, Physical Education, Computing and Ancient and Modern Foreign languages.
- British secondary school qualifications, such as GCSEs, IGCSEs and A-Levels are widely recognized for admission to universities in the UAE and abroad.





## Progression

The UK National Curriculum framework details what subjects are taught, and the standards children should reach in each subject. It is organized into blocks referred to as ‘Key Stages’ (KS), ranging from KS1 to KS4.

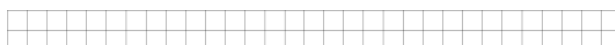
Foundation:

- While education is only compulsory from age 5, most schools structure their pre-school programs on the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFSA).
- Early years usually comprise Early Years Foundation Stage 1 (EYFSA1) and Foundation Stage 2 (EYFSA2).
- Your child must be 3 years old by 1<sup>st</sup> of September of the year of admission in order to be enrolled in EYFSA1.

Key Stages:

- Beyond the Foundation years, the different levels of education are referred to as Key Stages. See the table below to understand the age to year mapping.
- Please note that the British system uses “Years” rather than Grades to place children.
- Year 2 corresponds to Grade 1, Year 3 corresponds to Grade 2 and so on.

Key Stage	Age	Year
Early Years Foundation Stage	3-4	Nursery (EYFSA1)
	4-5	Reception (EYFSA2)
Key Stage 1	5-6	Year 1
	6-7	Year 2
Key Stage 2	7-8	Year 3
	8-9	Year 4
	9-10	Year 5
	10-11	Year 6
Key Stage 3	11-12	Year 7
	12-13	Year 8
	13-14	Year 9
Key Stage 4	14-15	Year 10
	15-16	Year 11
Key Stage 5 (post-16)	16-17	Year 12
	17-18	Year 13

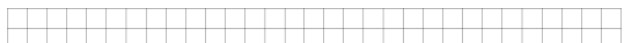


## Assessments

The following assessments are administered over the child's education journey in a British system:

- ◉ FS2: An Early Years Foundation Stage Profile is completed for each child by the teacher. This profile may be developed by the teacher through observation, generating a portfolio, or administering low stakes formative assessments.
- ◉ Year 1: A statutory phonics screening assessment, administered by the teacher. If the child does not do well enough, they have to take the test again in Year 2.
- ◉ Year 2 : Statutory National Assessments delivered in English Reading, Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling and Mathematics. Whereas Science, writing, speaking and listening are teacher assessed.
- ◉ Year 6: National tests and teacher assessments in English & Mathematics; Teacher Assessments in Science.
- ◉ Year 10: Some students may take the GCSEs or IGCSE subject exams.
- ◉ Year 11: Students take the GCSEs/IGCSE or other national exam.
- ◉ Year 13: Students take the A-Level exams, an essential qualification for university entrance.

All students in Years 4-10 studying the British curriculum must take GL-PT test series (PTE, PTM, PTS) in English, Mathematics and Science.



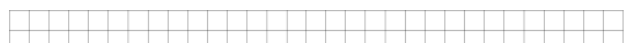
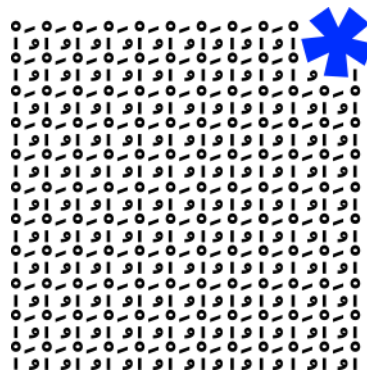
## Accreditation

- ⦿ Schools may voluntarily participate in accreditation schemes, such as inspection through the British Schools Overseas (BSO), endorsed by the Department for Education (DfE), UK.
- ⦿ Such accreditation ensures that the school provides students with the skills and qualifications required to enter/re-enter the British education system.



## Further Details

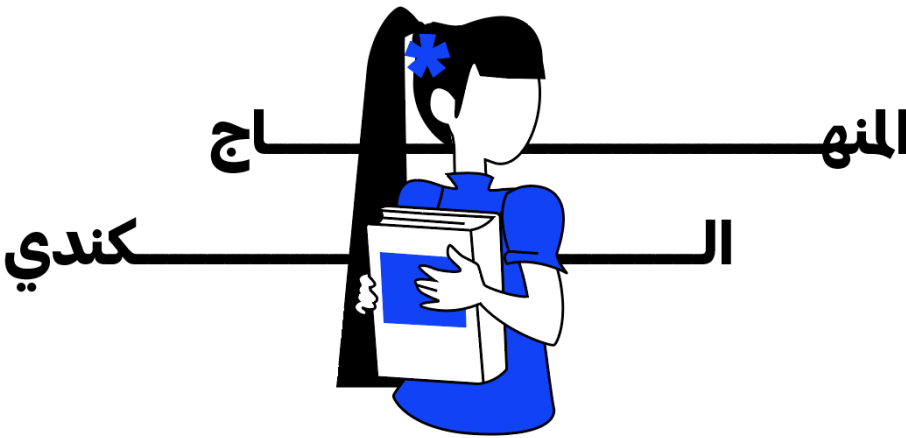
- ⦿ More details about the British National curriculum can be found [here](#).
- ⦿ Details about the early Years Foundation stage is available [here](#).
- ⦿ Details about Key Stages 1-4 are available [here](#).
- ⦿ Details about GCSEs and A-Level exams are available [here](#).



# | The CANADIAN Curriculum

## Overview

- Public education in Canada is decentralized. This implies that each province can develop its own curriculum and standardized assessments.
- Canadian curriculum schools in Abu Dhabi follow either the Alberta or Nova Scotia curriculum framework.
- Apart from statutory subjects, such as English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, curricula from Canada have specific subjects to build a range of competencies:
  - Alberta: Career and Life Management, Physical Education, Career and Technology Studies and a range of elective subjects to suit the students' interests.
  - Nova Scotia: Healthy Living, Personal Development and Society, Global Studies and a range of electives to suit the students' interests.



## Progression

- Entry to Kindergarten begins at age 4-5.
- Students complete 12 years of education to receive a High School Diploma if they complete the credits required by their respective province.

Age	Grade/Level Nova Scotia	Grade/Level Alberta
4-5	KG1	KG1
5-6	KG2 (Primary)	KG2
6-7	1	1
7-8	2	2
8-9	3	3
9-10	4	4
10-11	5	5
11-12	6	6
12-13	7	7
13-14	8	8
14-15	9	9
15-16	10	10 (level-10)
16-17	11	11 (level-20)
17-18	12	12 (level-30)

## Assessments

Alberta:

- Annual Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) for Grades 3, 6 and 9.
- Internal assessments (coursework) and external assessment (exams) are used to award students a High School Diploma at the end of Grade 12.
- Alternatively, students can opt to obtain a Certificate of High School Achievement by completing lesser coursework. However, this Certificate does not meet the minimum requirements for university admission in Canada.

Nova Scotia:

- Nova Scotia Assessments for Grades 2, 6 and 8.
- Nova Scotia Examinations in English and Mathematics in Grade 10.
- The High School Diploma is awarded on the basis of internal assessment and the result of the Nova Scotia Examinations.



# Accreditation

Alberta:

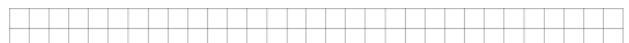
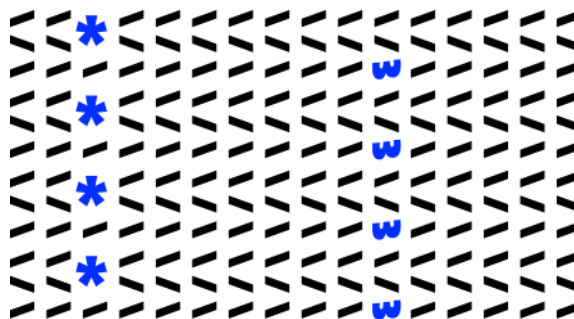
- ◉ Alberta Education works with international schools to enable them to offer the Alberta curriculum and its associated qualification, the Alberta High School Diploma, to students.
- ◉ To become an Alberta Accredited International School (AAIS), schools must undergo a process of school inspection and continuous monitoring of the school's compliance with the requirements of accreditation.

Nova Scotia:

- ◉ An international school (public or private) may be approved to offer a Nova Scotia program, giving their students the opportunity to graduate with a Nova Scotia High School Diploma.
- ◉ To be accredited, schools undergo an annual cycle of inspection, undertaken by inspectors from the Nova Scotia Department of Education, against recognized standards and expectations.

# Further Details

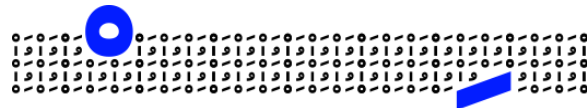
- ◉ More details regarding the Alberta curriculum are available [here](#) and [here](#).
- ◉ Details on the Nova Scotia curriculum are available [here](#).



# | The FRENCH Curriculum

## Overview

- The French Department of Education has developed a national curriculum, called the Common Foundation of Knowledge, Skills and Culture.
- This national curriculum identifies the knowledge, skills and attitudes essential for a student to be successful in his educational and personal life and as a future active citizen.
- French schools in Abu Dhabi adopt the generic system classification used in schools within France. They do not include Saturday schooling or half days on Wednesdays as still practiced in some schools in France.



## Progression

- The schooling system is divided into 5 distinct stages, cycles 1 to 5, starting from the Kindergarten till Grade 12.
- Cycle 5, the final cycle, contains the last year of compulsory education (Seconde). Students typically extend study into Première if they intend to go to university and pursue an academic route.
- When extending into Première, three baccalaureat streams are available: professionnel, technologique and général, with Abu Dhabi French schools offering only the general. This track prepares students for higher education.
- The Baccalaureat Général has recently been revised in order to introduce more flexibility for students and to provide a more personalized educational experience. The Baccalaureat Général however, still includes compulsory and non-compulsory subjects.





## Assessments

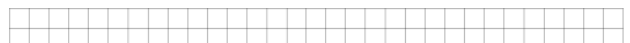
- ⦿ Statutory assessments are held at the start of the academic year, and are conducted in Grade 1 (Cours Préparatoire), Grade 2 (Cours Elementaire), Grade 4 (Cours Moyen 1), Grade 6 (Sixieme), and Grade 10 (Seconde).
- ⦿ At the end of Grade 9 (Troisieme), students take four written assessments in French, Mathematics, History and Sciences, a presentation project and an interview. Students must meet the statutory requirements; however, student outcomes do not determine future educational options. Successful students are awarded the Diplome National du Brevet (DNB).
- ⦿ At the end of Grade 12 (Terminale), students take the Baccalaureat Général, a national standardized assessment required to pursue higher education. Upon graduating, students are presented with one Baccalaureat certificate, detailing all subjects studied and their attainment in each.

## Accreditation

- ⦿ In order to be accredited as a French educational institution, schools outside of France are subject to inspection by the Agency for French Education Abroad (AEFE). This ensures compliance to the standards and expectations of the French educational system.
- ⦿ Certification is granted for the whole school and is regularly updated through self-evaluation and inspection, as part of a five-year cycle. This is additional to the statutory inspection of all schools in Abu Dhabi.

## Further Details

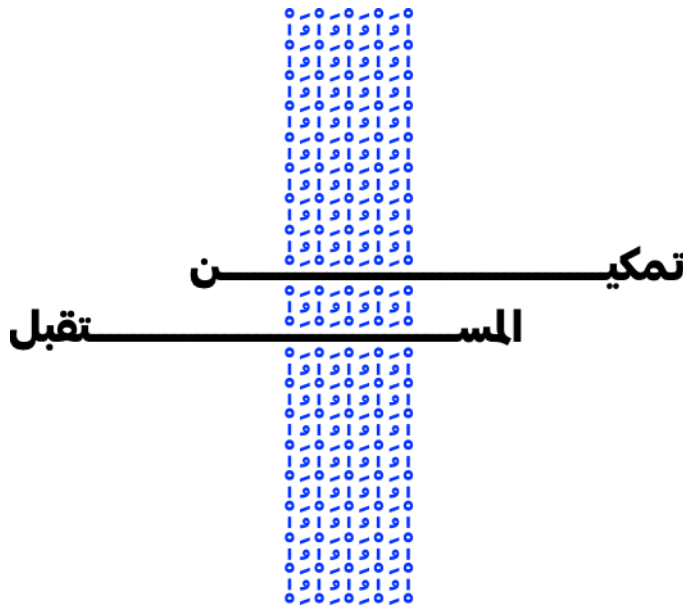
- ⦿ More details on the French schooling system is available [here](#).



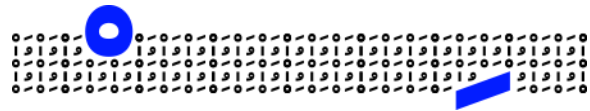


# Progression

- ◉ Kindergarten begins at the age of 3 and lasts 3 years.
- ◉ Primary school (Grundschule) is from Grades 1-4.
- ◉ For the German School in Abu Dhabi, students are placed in one of the following tracks at the end of Grade 5:
  - Hauptschule - prepares students for vocational education;
  - Realschule - an intermediate level of education, with a broad range of educational options;
  - Gymnasium - for study at higher education institutions;
  - Gesamtschule - a combination of the Hauptschule, Realschule and Gymnasium.
- ◉ The German school in Abu Dhabi offers all tracks. Typically, a majority of students undertake the Gymnasium track to attend university.
- ◉ Students have the option of transitioning from one track to another until Grade 8.
- ◉ Students following the Realschule track have the option of leaving school and transferring into vocational training at the end of Grade 10, or alternatively, with sufficiently good grades, transferring to Gymnasium in order to complete the Abitur (university entrance exam) in Grade 12.



School Level				Age	Grade
Kindergarten				3-4	KG 1
				4-5	KG 2
				5-6	KG 3
Grundschule				6-7	1
				7-8	2
				8-9	3
				9-10	4
Hauptschule	Realschule	Gymnasium	Gesamtschule	10-11	5
				11-12	6
				12-13	7
				13-14	8
				14-15	9
				15-16	10
				16-17	11
				17-18	12



## Assessments

- ⦿ In the Kindergarten years, students are assessed by means of teacher observation and assessment of emotional and cognitive development, language, social behavior, artistic and gross and fine motor skills.
- ⦿ In primary Grades, teachers assess students against standards provided by the respective curriculum framework.
- ⦿ Students in the Abu Dhabi German school take competency tests at the end of Grades 3, 6 and 8 in German, English and Mathematics.

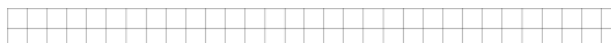
- At the end of Grade 6, students obtain the German Language certificate by taking an exam.
- Students in the Realschule track are given the opportunity to take the Realschulabschluss exam at the end of Grade 10. It usually consists of both written and oral assessments. With this qualification, students may choose to enroll in a vocational training institute, or transfer to a Gymnasium, provided they have sufficiently good grades.
- The German International Abitur Examination (Deutsches Internationales Abitur/DIA) is the more prestigious version of the German Abitur (school leaving exam) at the end of Grade 12. Part of the written and oral exams for this diploma are taken in an international language, which is English in the case of Abu Dhabi.

## Accreditation

- The German Schools Abroad program ensures that the international schools offer an education standard equivalent to that of local schools in Germany. Schools are externally inspected by the German government authorities once every 3 years for quality assurance.
- The German school in Abu Dhabi is sponsored by the German Embassy and recognized officially as a “German School Abroad”, meaning that all report cards and certificates are the same as those issued in Germany.

## Further Details

- More details about the Thuringia Education system, see [here](#).
- Details about the Central Office for Schools abroad are available [here](#).

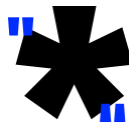




# | The INDIAN Curriculum

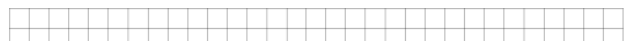
## Overview

- In India, several curriculum and school education boards govern the education system. These bodies develop syllabi, resources and standardized examinations against the National Curriculum Framework for Grades 9-12.
- Such bodies include the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) and the Kerala State Education Board (KSEB).
- Indian schools within Abu Dhabi affiliate to either the CBSE or KSEB.

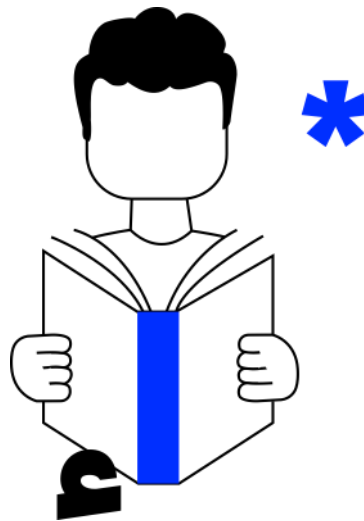


## Progression

- While compulsory education begins from age 6, most Indian schools offer two to four years of pre-school education to prepare children for entry to formal schooling at age 6.
- The Academic year for Indian schools runs from April to March.
- Students complete 10 years of schooling to obtain a Secondary School Certificate (SSC) or 12 years of schooling to obtain a Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC).
- Students in the KSEB-affiliated schools may choose between Science or Commerce streams for Grade 11 and 12.
- Grade 9-10 students in the CBSE-affiliated schools study 2 languages, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Art, Health and Physical Education and 2 electives of their choice. A skill subject and an academic subject.
- For Grades 11-12, CBSE students must study Hindi, English and choose from a wide range of skill-based or academic subjects.



Stage	Age	Grade/Class
Pre- Kindergarten	2-3	Playgroup
	3-4	Nursery
Kindergarten	4-5	Lower KG
	5-6	Upper KG
Lower Primary	6-7	1
	7-8	2
	8-9	3
	9-10	4
Upper Primary	10-11	5
	11-12	6
	12-13	7
High School	13-14	8
	14-15	9
	15-16	10
Higher Secondary	16-17	11
	17-18	12

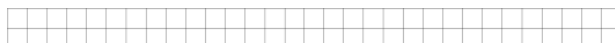






- The Diploma Program consists of three core elements:
  - Theory of Knowledge in which students reflect on the nature of knowledge
  - Extended Essay which is an independent, self-directed piece of research culminating in an essay
  - Creativity, Activity, Service in which students complete a project
- In addition to these core elements, students may choose courses from various subject groups. Students must choose six subjects in total: A subject from each of the subject groups, Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Science, Mathematics and either one from the Arts or a second from one of the other groups.

Stage	Age	Grade
Primary Years Program (PYP)	4-5	KG1/EY1
	5-6	KG2/EY2
	6-7	1
	7-8	2
	8-9	3
	9-10	4
	10-11	5
Middle Years Program (MYP)	11-12	6
	12-13	7
	13-14	8
	14-15	9
	15-16	10
Diploma Program (DP)	16-17	11
	17-18	12

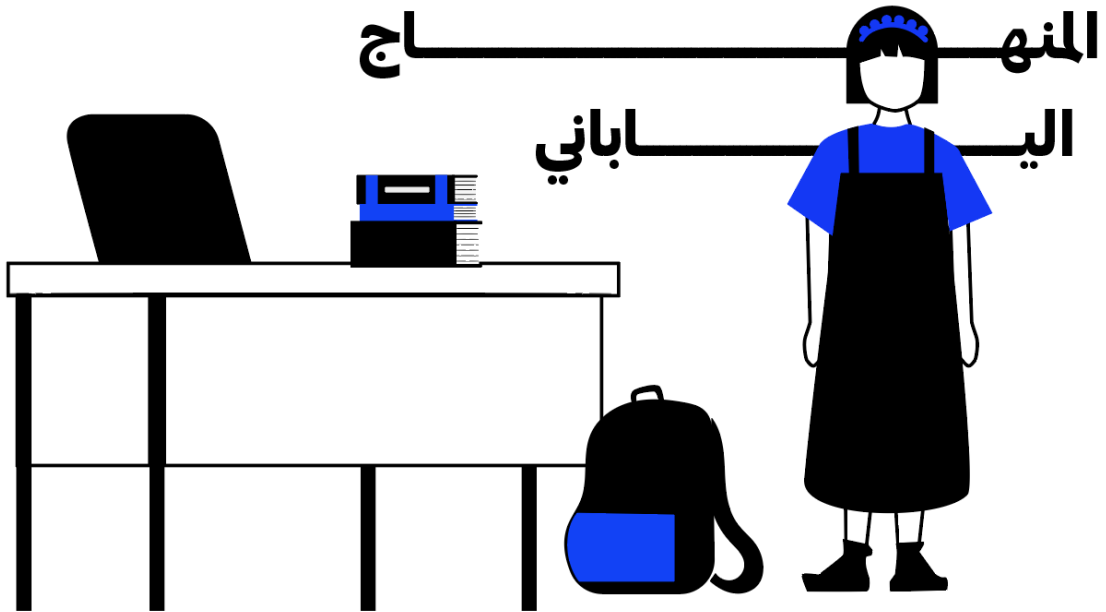




# | The JAPANESE Curriculum

## Overview

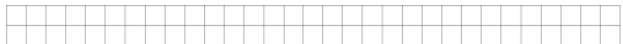
- ◉ The Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) develops a national curriculum and supports the many local boards of education.
- ◉ The Japanese school in Abu Dhabi predominantly offers admissions to Japanese national children, or children of Japanese women.
- ◉ The language of instruction in the school is Japanese for all subjects except Arabic, English, Social Studies and Moral Education.
- ◉ From Elementary to the end of Lower Secondary schools, a compulsory program of Mathematics, Science, Arts, English, Islamic Studies and Japanese is taught to all students in mixed ability classes.
- ◉ Students usually travel to Japan to pursue secondary education.



# Progression

- Japan categorizes the schooling system in a 6-3-3 pattern, with 6 years of 'Elementary' schooling after Kindergarten, 3 years of 'Lower Secondary', and finally, 3 years of 'Upper Secondary' schooling.
- In Abu Dhabi, students graduate at the end of 'Lower Secondary' (Grade 9) and typically, continue education by taking the general or specialized streams at other institutions appropriate to their requirements and needs.
- The table below provides a breakdown of the different Grade levels and corresponding ages of students according to the Japanese system:

School	Age	Grade
Kindergarten	3-4	KG1
	4-5	KG2
	5-6	KG3
Elementary	6-7	1
	7-8	2
	8-9	3
	9-10	4
	10-11	5
	11-12	6
Lower Secondary (Junior High School <sup>L</sup> <sub>SEP</sub> Or Middle School)	12-13	1 (7)
	13-14	2 (8)
	14-15	3 (9)
Upper Secondary (Senior High School)	15-16	1 (10)
	16-17	2 (11)
	17-18	3 (12)



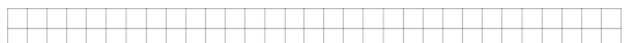
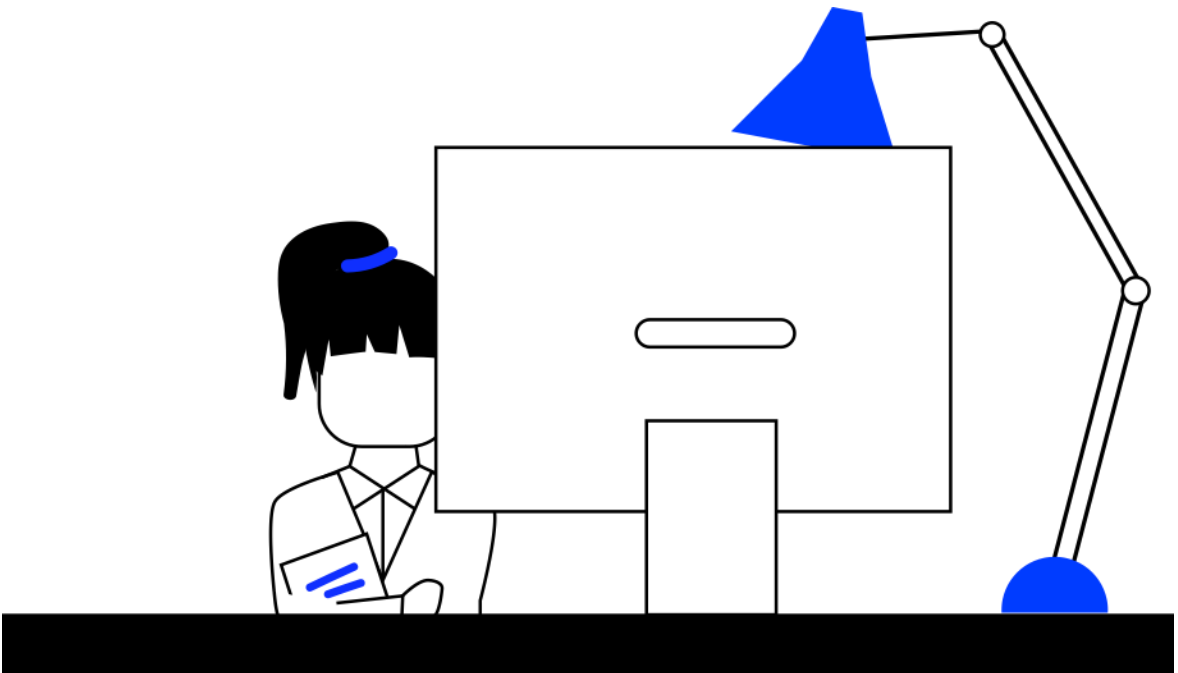




# | The PAKISTANI Curriculum

## Overview

- ◉ Pakistan has a national curriculum for early years to Grade 12, which is followed by all schools in the country and abroad.
- ◉ At the secondary level, education is also regulated by exam boards, that are responsible for administering exams and issuing end-of-school certificates based on results from those exams. There are multiple boards in Pakistan, e.g., the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE), Lahore Board, Board of Secondary Education, Karachi, etc.
- ◉ In Pakistan, the language of instruction is Urdu, however in Abu Dhabi Pakistani private schools, the language of instruction tends to include both Urdu and English, dependent on the school and the individual subject.





# Progression

- Schools are commonly divided into Kindergarten, Primary (1-5), Middle (6-8), Secondary (9-10) and Higher Secondary (11-12).
- The academic year for most Grades in the Pakistani system is from April to March, however for Grades 11 and 12 (Higher Secondary), the academic year is September to June.
- In Terminal Grades in secondary school (Grade 9 and 10), students may choose a combination of three subjects to study in addition to English, Urdu, Mathematics, Pakistan Studies and Islamic Studies.
- In Higher Secondary Grades (11-12), students must study four core subjects: English, Urdu, Pakistan Studies and Islamic Studies and three electives grouped into Pre-Medical, Pre-Engineering, General Science, Commerce and Humanities streams.

Stage	Age	Grade
Kindergarten	4-5	KG1
	5-6	KG2
Primary	6-7	1
	7-8	2
	8-9	3
	9-10	4
	10-11	5
Middle	11-12	6
	12-13	7
	13-14	8
Secondary	14-15	9
	15-16	10
Higher Secondary	16-17	11
	17-18	12

## Assessments

Secondary School Certificate (SSC) (Grades 9 and 10):

- The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) is a qualification acknowledging the skills and knowledge of students up to Grade 10. The SSC examinations are comprised of two parts, one administered at the end of Grade 9 (part 1), and the other at the end of Grade 10 (part 2).
- For Pakistani private schools in Abu Dhabi, the SSC examinations are developed and provided by the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE).

Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) (Grades 11 and 12):

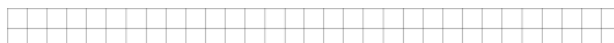
- The Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) is a qualification implemented in the last two years of school. As with the SSC, the examinations are comprised of two parts, one administered at the end of Grade 11 (part 1), and the other at the end of Grade 12 (part 2) by the FBISE.

## Accreditation

- Pakistani schools participate in affiliation schemes developed by the various curriculum and school education boards in Pakistan. For international Pakistani private schools, they must be affiliated with the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE).
- By participating in affiliation, schools establish a recognized association or 'partnership' with the board. Without affiliation, schools cannot deliver courses nor administer board examinations.

## Further Details

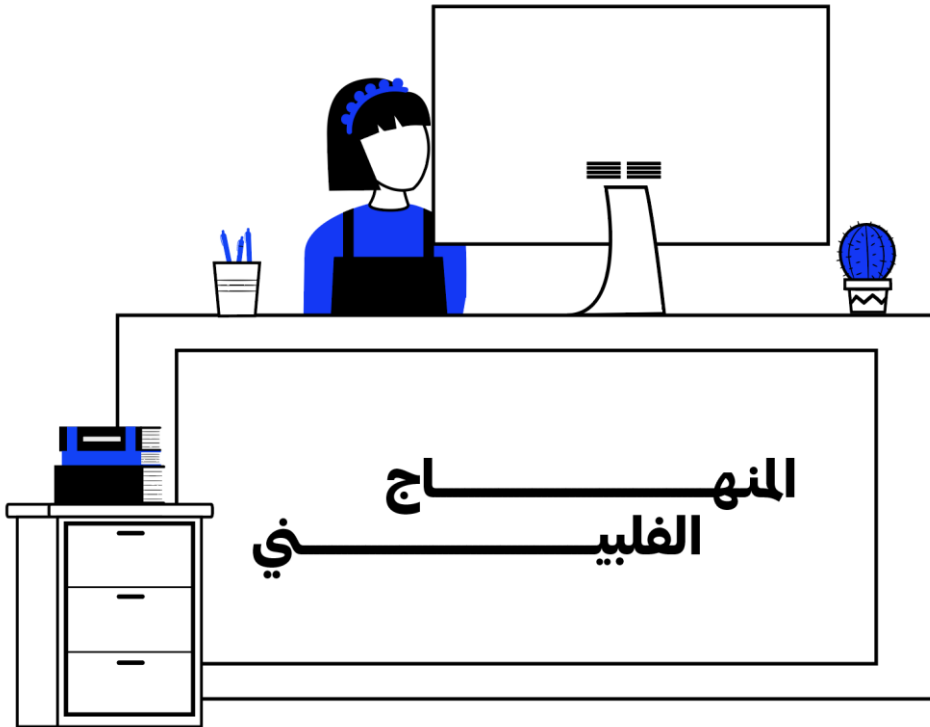
- For more information on the Pakistan National Curriculum, see the website [here](#).
- For information regarding the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, see [here](#).

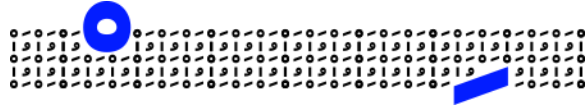


# | The PHILIPPINE Curriculum

## Overview

- ◉ The Philippines has a national curriculum developed by the Department of Education.
- ◉ Schools in the Philippines are divided into Kindergarten, Elementary, Secondary and Senior High, as also implemented in Abu Dhabi Philippine schools.
- ◉ Compulsory core subjects in both Elementary and Secondary schools include languages, Mathematics, Sciences, ICT, Physical Education and the Arts. However, in Grades 7 and 8, Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) subjects are also introduced.
- ◉ In Senior High schools, the choice of career track defines content of subjects; typical tracks include Academic, Technical-Vocational-Livelihood, Sports, and Arts and Design. Students select a specialization track based on their aptitude, interests and school provision.





## Progression

- ◉ Entry to Kindergarten begins at age 4-5.
- ◉ Students complete 12 years of education to receive a Senior High School Diploma upon completion of academic and non-academic requirements.

Age	Grade
4-5	KG 1
5-6	KG 2
6-7	1
7-8	2
8-9	3
9-10	4
10-11	5
11-12	6
12-13	7
13-14	8
14-15	9
15-16	10
16-17	11
17-18	12



## Assessments

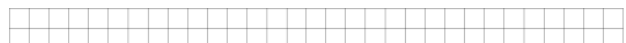
- Assessments at the Kindergarten level are conducted through regular teacher observations. SREYA (School Readiness Early Years Assessment), ECCD (Early Childhood Care Development) checklist and other forms of assessment are utilized for this purpose.
- Statutory national curriculum assessments are administered at the end of elementary and junior phases of education, in Grades 6 and 10 respectively. Other reliable external assessments are administered to measure students' learning.
- In Grade 12, student achievement is measured through internal assessments as well as the Department of Education Basic Education Exit Assessment (BEEA). Following successful completion of academic and non-academic requirements, Grade 12 students receive a Senior High School Diploma and Secondary Leaving Certificate.

## Accreditation

- Schools overseas are accredited and registered by the Commission of Philippine Schools Overseas (CFO).
- Inspectors from the Philippines conduct annual school inspections, using defined standards to measure the school quality. Successful schools are granted annual licenses.
- The Embassy of the Philippines may also depute a representative, commonly a cultural attaché, to visit schools and assist with quality assurance and accreditation.

## Further Details

- More details regarding the Philippine overseas schools is available [here](#).



# | The SABIS® Curriculum

## Overview

- SABIS® is a global education network that has a presence in 20 countries. Originally from Lebanon, SABIS® runs non-selective, co-educational schools providing English-medium instruction to students through a rigorous academic program with regular testing.
- SABIS® schools are most commonly divided into Infant (K to Grade 2), Primary (Grades 3-6), Intermediate (Grades 7-9) and Secondary (Grades 10-12).

مكن العقول



تألق

## Progression

- In Kindergarten, the focus is on literacy and numeracy with a mixture of classroom and specialist teachers.
- At the primary and intermediate levels, students are taught a range of subjects with English, Science and Mathematics as core subjects.
- In the secondary level, students stay with core courses but can choose other courses that help them to prepare better towards their future interests.
- SABIS® schools in Abu Dhabi offer one of two models:
  - Trilingual schools with Arabic, English and French.
  - A model, where students study Arabic and French as second and third languages depending on their passport/nationality.



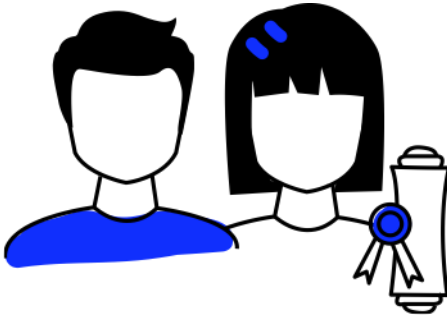




# Accreditation

All schools in the SABIS® network, are accredited by the following international agencies:

- National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA).
- Accreditation International (AI), which requires schools to complete a self evaluation, submit a plan for continuous school improvement, and participate in on-site evaluations by peers every five years to maintain their accreditation status.
- Middle States Association - Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS).



# Further Details

- For more information on SABIS®, see the website [here](#).



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# | The SPANISH Curriculum

## Overview

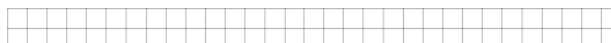
- ⦿ The Spanish government sets out a national curriculum for all schools to follow. There are three key stages: Primary Education, Compulsory Secondary Education and Baccalaureate curricula.
- ⦿ Spanish is the language of instruction and the medium for the delivery of the curriculum.
- ⦿ Non-Spanish speaking students can enter directly into the Spanish immersion program for the needed linguistic support.
- ⦿ The curriculum is enriched through an English language program, blended into the weekly schedule at all levels of education.
- ⦿ At present, there is only one Spanish school in Abu Dhabi, which offers the Early and Primary Years Programs.

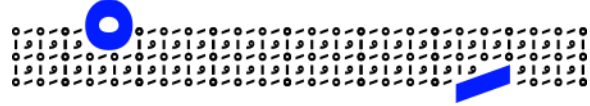


# Progression

- Children are eligible to enroll in the Early Years Program from ages 3-5, and the Primary Years Program from ages 6-11.
- The curriculum is made of two subject categories: Core subjects and specific subjects.
- Core subjects consist of:
  - Natural Sciences
  - Social Sciences
  - Spanish Language and Literature
  - Mathematics
  - First Foreign Language
- Specific subjects consist of:
  - Physical Education
  - Religion, or Social and Civic values as chosen by the parent/guardian
  - Artistic Education
  - Second Foreign Language

Stage	Age	Grade
Early Years Program	3-4	Preschool Y1
	4-5	Preschool Y2
	5-6	Preschool Y3
Primary Program	6-7	1
	7-8	2
	8-9	3
	9-10	4
	10-11	5
	11-12	6





## Assessments

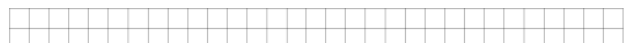
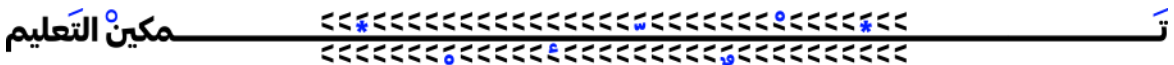
- At the end of the third year of primary education, an assessment is administered to all students to evaluate their mastery of the skills and abilities in oral and written expression and comprehension, calculation and problem solving. This assessment is primarily used to indicate how the student can achieve their learning goals by the end of primary education and if any adjustments are necessary.
- At the end of the sixth year of primary education, a final evaluation will be carried out for all students to assess their mastery of Mathematics, communication and basic skills in science and technology according to the standards laid out in the Spanish National Curriculum. At the end of this evaluation, students are provided grades ranging from Insufficient (IN), Sufficient (SU), Good (B), Notable (NT), or Outstanding (SB).

## Accreditation

- The Spanish School in Abu Dhabi is accredited by the Ministry of Education in Spain.

## Further Details

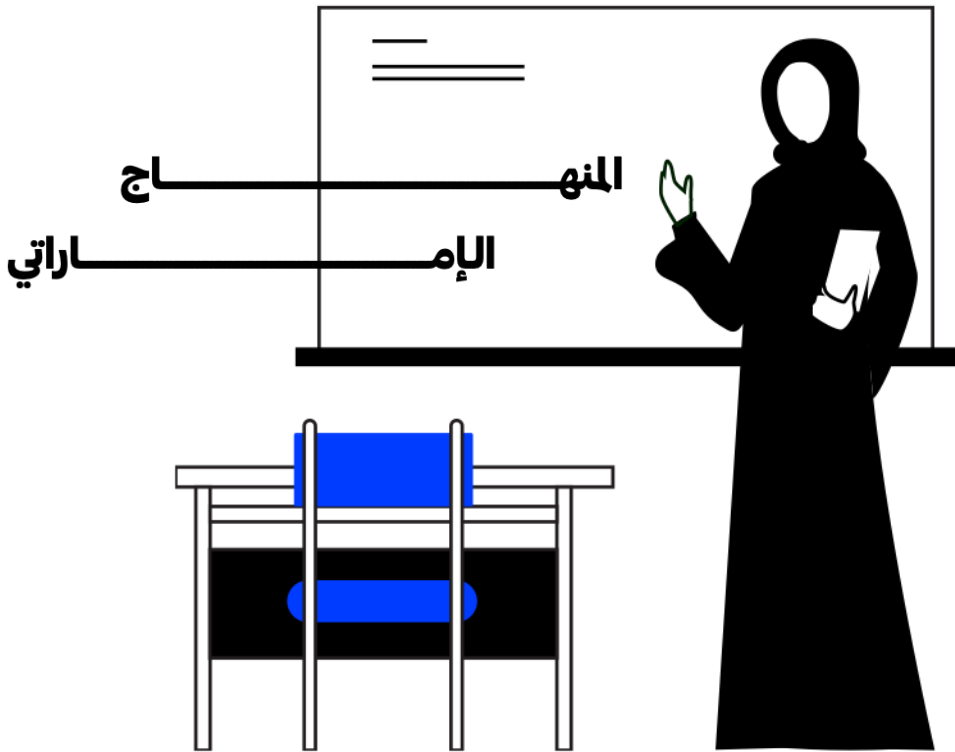
- For more information on Spanish curriculum offered in Abu Dhabi, see [here](#).

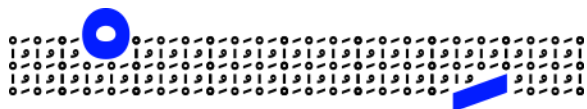


# | UAE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION Curriculum

## Overview

- ◉ The Ministry of Education (MoE) is the UAE federal entity responsible for education in all public schools.
- ◉ It has developed a national curriculum framework for a broad range of subjects, based on a set of standards and learning outcomes. This curriculum is also taught in some private schools in Abu Dhabi.
- ◉ This curriculum has been designed with a special emphasis on UAE values and culture.
- ◉ Arabic is the medium of instruction for all subjects except English.
- ◉ The MoE curriculum is offered across all emirates in the UAE is recognized by colleges and universities in the UAE.





## Progression

- Private schools administering MoE curriculum are divided into Kindergarten (KG1 to KG2), Cycle 1 (Grades 1-4), Cycle 2 (Grades 5-8) and Cycle 3 (Grades 9-12).
- The focus in the Kindergarten years is to develop social skills and provide opportunities for students to build their self-confidence.
- Throughout Grades 1-8, students study the following subjects: Islamic Education, Arabic, Social Studies, Moral Education, English, Mathematics, Sciences, Arts, Health and Physical Education, and Design and Technology.
- In cycle 3, students are allocated into one of two tracks: General or advanced. Within each track, all subjects are compulsory. While both tracks include Arts and Science subjects, the advanced track has more emphasis on high-level Mathematics and Sciences. Students can choose their track based on their capabilities and interests.

Stage	Age	Grade
Kindergarten	4-5	KG1
	5-6	KG2
Cycle 1	6-7	1
	7-8	2
	8-9	3
	9-10	4
Cycle 2	10-11	5
	11-12	6
	12-13	7
	13-14	8
Cycle 3	14-15	9
	15-16	10
	16-17	11
	17-18	12

## Assessments

- ◉ A diagnostic assessment for English and Mathematics is administered to all students in Grades 1-4. The assessment is developed externally by the MoE and provided to schools prior to administration. For the Arabic subject, a diagnostic assessment is administered to all students in Grades 1-12.
- ◉ Summative assessments for Grades 4-12 include formal externally-developed examinations for English, Mathematics, Arabic, Science, Islamic Education and Social Studies at the end of terms 1, 2 and 3.
- ◉ In Grade 12, students are required to sit Thanawiya al Amma examinations, dependent on the track they are enrolled in. Successful completion of the Grade 12 Thanawiya al Amma examinations allows students to apply for admission to federal universities within the UAE.
- ◉ All students in Grades 3-9 studying MOE curriculum must take ACER-IBT assessment in Arabic, Mathematics and Science (Arabic versions).

## Accreditation

- ◉ The MoE is the highest educational authority for General Education in Abu Dhabi.

## Further Details

- ◉ Further information about the MoE is available [here](#) and [here](#).

مكن المستقبل



مستقبل

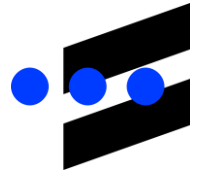




## SECTION 3

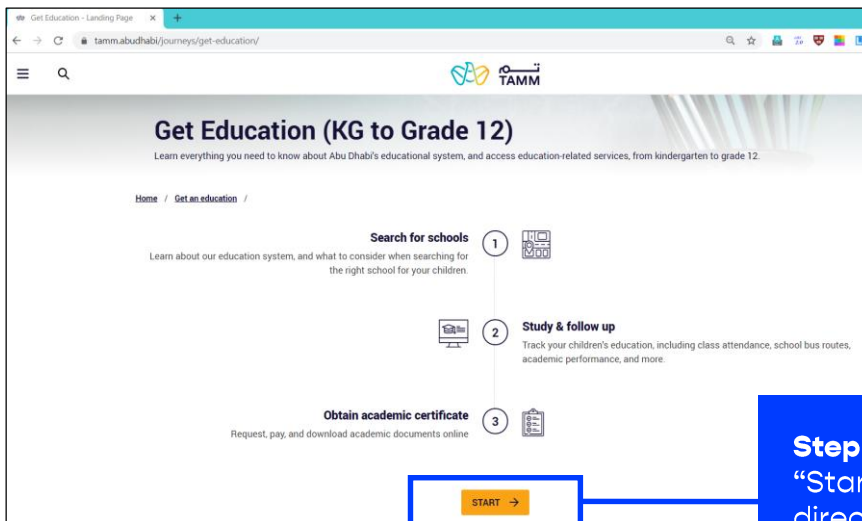
# SHORTLISTING A SCHOOL

This section will give you an overview of how to use an online search tool developed by the Abu Dhabi government to identify schools for your child

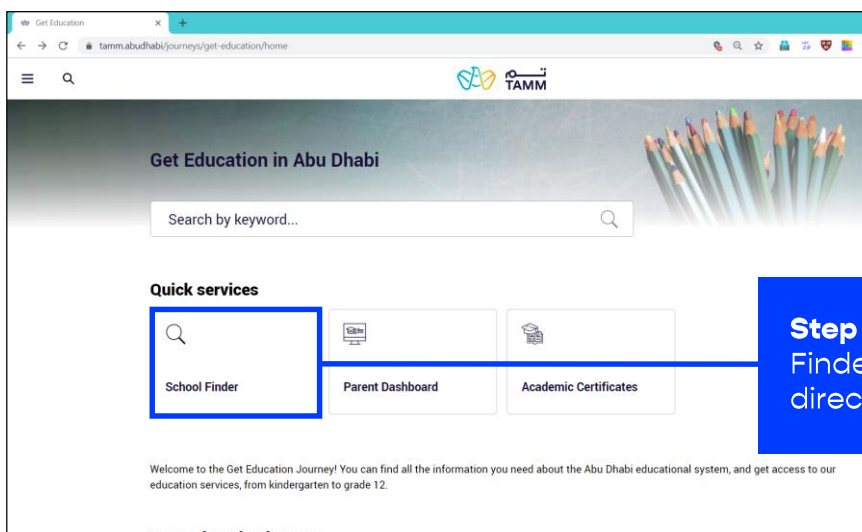


# Using TAMM to Identify and Shortlist Schools

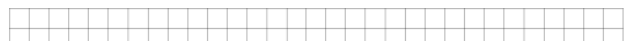
**Step 1:** Visit <https://www.tamm.abudhabi/journeys/get-education/>



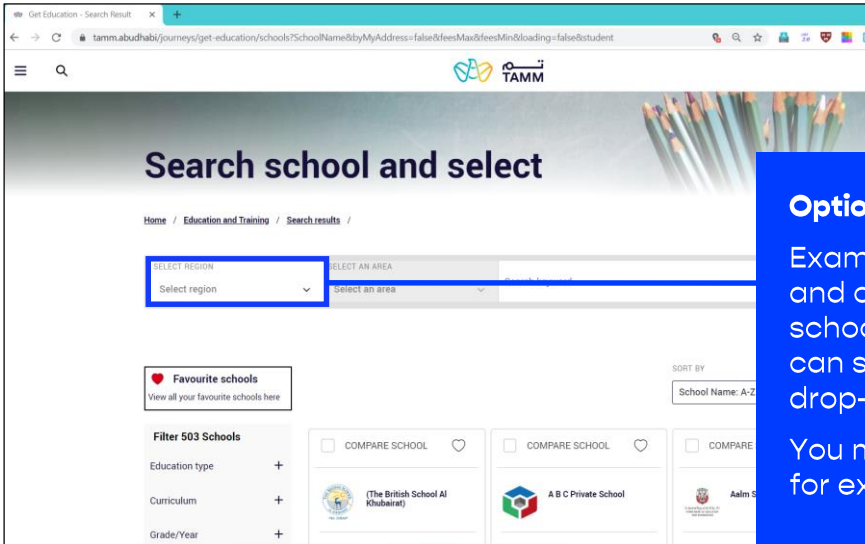
**Step 2:** Click on the orange “Start” button. You will be directed to the page shown below.



**Step 3:** Click on the “School Finder” button. You will be directed to a new page.



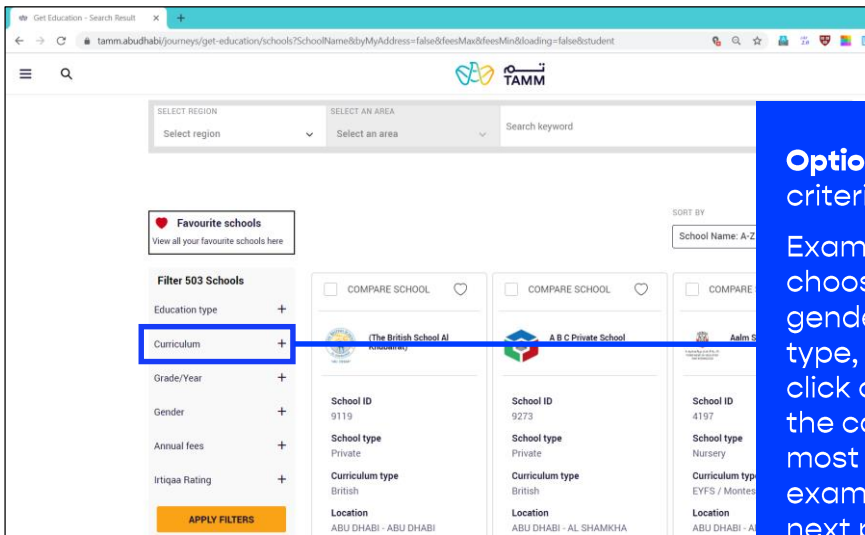
There are multiple ways to search for schools. You can search for schools based on their location, curriculum, fees and rating by ADEK. See the images below for some examples.



**Option 1:** Filter by region

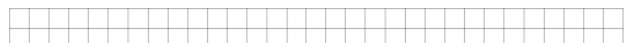
Example: If you live in Al Ain, and only want to know about schools near your home, you can select Al Ain from the drop-down menu here.

You may also select an area, for example Al Yahar.



**Option 2:** Filter by other criteria

Example: You may also choose to filter your results by gender, fee levels, curriculum type, etc. as you see fit. Just click on the Plus sign next to the category and select the most suitable option. An example is provided on the next page as well.





This search tool also has some other interesting features that allow you to select favorite schools to review later, and compare up to 3 schools with each other.

You can also compare schools by clicking on the checkbox next to Compare School for two or more schools, and then follow instructions on the screen to see an automatic comparison report.

If you have a Tamm account, you can use it to mark schools as your “favorites” by clicking on the heart.

The screenshot displays the Tamm website's search results for schools in Abu Dhabi. The page features a search bar, a filter sidebar on the left, and a list of three school cards. Each card includes a 'COMPARE SCHOOL' checkbox, a heart icon for favorites, and a 'VIEW PROFILE' button. The 'VIEW PROFILE' button for the first school, American Community School, is highlighted with a blue box. The filter sidebar on the left allows filtering by Education type, Curriculum, Grade/Year, Gender, Annual fees, and Irtiqaa Rating. The school cards provide details such as School ID, School type, Curriculum type, Location, School fees, and Irtiqaa Rating.

Click on this button to see a detailed report of the school (See the next page).

A brief overview of the school, including its curriculum type, location, fees and recent rating by ADEK.



School Profile provides you a detailed profile of the school, including its contact number, inspection reports, student demographics and facilities.

**School Profile**

Home / Education and Training / Search Results / School Profile /

**AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL**  
School ID 9097

Irtiqaa Rating (2016 - 2017) ?  
Very Good  
★★★★☆

[View Website](#)

02 681 5115  
9097@adek.gov.ae

[EMAIL SCHOOL](#)

**AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL**  
AL BATEEN

Mileih Street, W39, Al Bateen, Abu Dhabi

02 681 5115

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)

Irtiqaa - Inspection Report (2016 - 2017) ?  
↓ DOWNLOAD 👁️ PREVIEW

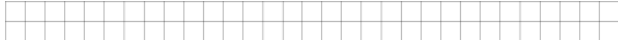
Parent Satisfaction Survey ?  
↓ DOWNLOAD 👁️ PREVIEW

**SCHOOL DETAILS**

School Type	Private
School ID	9097
Curriculum Type	American
Grades	KG1,KG2,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12
Gender	Co-Education

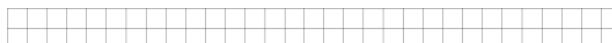
You can also view and download inspection reports and parent satisfaction surveys for the school.

We hope that this tool will help you in shortlisting schools for your child that you can visit virtually or in-person to ask further questions and make a decision.



# | Glossary

Term	Definition/Abbreviation
A-Level	Advanced Level (A-Level) refers to a subject-based qualification conferred as well as a school leaving qualification offered by educational bodies in the UK.
Abitur	Set of examinations taken in the final year of secondary school in Germany.
ACER-IBT	The Australian Council for Educational Research - International Benchmark Tests (ACER-IBT) is an internationally administered program of assessments to compare student performance globally, between grades and over time. The tests cover English, Mathematics, Science, Arabic Language and Reasoning for 9–16-year-olds.
ACER-ISA	The Australian Council for Educational Research - The International Schools' Assessment (ACER-ISA) is an assessment used by international schools and schools with an international focus to monitor student performance over time. The ISA tests core skills in mathematical literacy, reading and writing for Grades 3-10 and scientific literacy for Grades 7-10.
ACS-WASC	Accrediting Commission for Schools-Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS-WASC) is one of the six regional accrediting agencies in the U.S.
ACT	The ACT is an entrance exam used by U.S. colleges and universities to make admission decisions. The ACT tests skills related to English, Math, Reading and Science Reasoning.



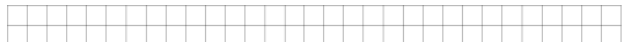


Term	Definition/Abbreviation
AEFE	Agency for French Education Abroad: The AEFE is a government institution supervised by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is responsible for monitoring and managing the network of French schools outside of France.
AIAA	American International Accreditation Association: AIAA provides accreditation for schools outside of the U.S. that offer an international program or an American style curriculum.
AISSCE	All India Senior School Certificate Examination (AISSCE) also called Boards, is an examination conducted every year by the Central Board of Secondary Education on behalf of the Government of India at the end of Grade 12.
AISSE	All India Secondary School Examination (AISSE) are exams administered by the Central Board of Secondary Education on behalf of the Government of India at the end of Grade 10.
AP	Advanced Placement (AP) is a program in the U.S. and Canada created by the College Board which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students.
BMAT	The BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) is an admissions test for applicants to Medicine, Biomedical Sciences and Dentistry courses at a number of higher education institutions around the world.
BTEC	Stands for the Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) is a qualification that's based on practical study rather than academic study. BTECs don't have to be an alternative to A-Levels. In fact, you can do them alongside your GCSEs and/or A-Levels, or you can do a standalone BTEC at college or university.



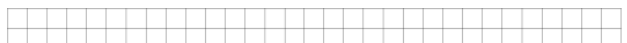


Term	Definition/Abbreviation
CBSE	Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is the primary examining and awarding body for end-of-school qualifications in India and Indian Schools abroad.
Cognia	Previously called AdvancEd, Cognia is a non-governmental organization that accredits primary and secondary schools throughout the U.S. and internationally.
CFO	Commission of Philippine Schools Overseas (CFO) is the government body that ensures that Philippine schools overseas follow the regulations of the government of Philippines and the Philippines Department for Education.
EI-Asset	Educational Initiatives-Asset (ASSET) is a skill-based test that measures student’s conceptual understanding in various curricula taught in India. It tests students in Grades 3-10 in English, Math and Science, and offers tests from Grades 5-10 in Social Studies and Grades 4-8 in Hindi.
EmSAT	The Emirates Standardized Test (EmSAT) is a national system of standardized computer-based tests, based on United Arab Emirates national standards. There are three types of tests: (1) Baseline: Administered to students at the beginning of their education journey, (2) Advantage Test administered to Grades 4, 6, 8 and 10 to track development of students, and (3) Achieve Test administered to Grade 12 as the primary test for admission into universities in the UAE.
FBISE	The Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) is the examining body responsible for administering exams at the end of Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 to students in Pakistan.





Term	Definition/Abbreviation
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) refers to an academic qualification in a particular subject, taken in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
GL-PT	Granada Learning-Progress Test (GL-PT) assessment series measures and tracks progress of students in English (PTE) , Math (PTM) and Science (PTS) for use in Reception (FS2/KG1/Pre-KG) till Year 10 (Grade 9).
GPA	Grade Point Average (GPA) is a number that indicates how well or how high a student scored in their courses on average. It is typically expressed on a scale between 1.0 and 4.0, where 4.0 is high and 1.0 is low.
HSSC	Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) is an exam, and qualification, given to students at the end of 12 years of post-Kindergarten education in Pakistan and Bangladesh.
IB	International Baccalaureate (IB) refers to a category of international education programs. More details at <a href="http://www.ibo.org">www.ibo.org</a> .
IB Dip.	The IB Diploma Program (IB Dip.) is a program of education with final examinations that prepares students, aged 16 to 19, for university and life beyond.
IB PYP, MYP, DP	International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program, Middle Years Program and Diploma Program (IB PYP, MYP and DP) are curriculum frameworks for children aged 3-12, 11-16 and 16-19 respectively.
IGCSE	International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is equivalent to the GCSE qualification, which is taken by students in Year 10–11 in the UK to prepare them for further pre-university level study, such as A-Levels.





Term	Definition/Abbreviation
KBPE	Kerala Board of Public Examinations (KBPE) or the Kerala Board Of Public Examinations is the main education body of Kerala. KBPE conducts all the public exams in Kerala like SSLC, HSC, SSC, etc.
KS	The UK national curriculum is organized into blocks of years called 'Key Stages' (KS). At the end of each Key Stage, the teacher will formally assess a student's performance.
KSEB	Kerala State Education Board (KSEB) is the education board of Kerala, mandated by the Kerala Board of Public Examinations for conducting the class 10 exam for students in the state.
MEXT	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (MEXT) is the Japanese ministry responsible for education in Japan and Japanese schools abroad.
MSA-CESS	Middle States Association - Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS) accredits public and private schools as well as school systems throughout the U.S. and 85 other countries.
MoE	Ministry of Education (MoE) refers to the national Ministry of Education of the United Arab Emirates.
NEASC	New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) is the oldest accrediting body in the U.S. - one of six American regional accrediting bodies.



Term	Definition/Abbreviation
NCPA	National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPA) is a Consortium of Accrediting Associations for the Recognition of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Private Schools. It serves as a national review panel for the standards and review procedures of private school accrediting associations.
NWEA-MAP®	Northwest Evaluation Association-Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA) is a global not-for-profit educational services organization. NWEA's assessments are called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP®). These are computerized adaptive tests in Reading, Math and Science for Grades 2 and above.
PAT	Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) are administered annually to all students for Grades 3, 6 and 9 in Alberta, Canada.
PSAT	Preliminary SAT (PSAT) is a primer/preparatory version of the SAT, and different versions of it are available to be administered to students in Grades 8, 9 and 10.
SABIS®	Global education network More details at <a href="https://www.sabis.net/">https://www.sabis.net/</a> .
SAT	The SAT is an entrance exam used by U.S. colleges and universities to make admission decisions. The SAT tests skills related to Reading, Writing & Language and Math. SAT subject tests also test skills in other subject areas. SATS (Standardized Assessment Tests) can also refer to achievement tests administered at the end of Key Stage 1 and 2 in some British schools.
TLE	Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) is one of the areas of the Secondary Education Curriculum used in Philippine Secondary Schools.

