

About AKU-EB

The Aga Khan University Examination Board (AKU-EB) is a private Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education established by the Federal Government of Pakistan to offer examination services for both Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) throughout Pakistan and abroad. AKU-EB was founded in August 2003 in response to demand from schools for more appropriate school examinations. The Board's primary purpose is to improve the quality of education by making examinations of reputable standard more accessible to Pakistani students and to have these qualifications increasingly valued by leading higher education institutions within and outside the country.

Our Mission

Our mission is to:

- Provide high-quality SSC and HSSC examinations for both English and Urdu medium schools;
- Contribute to the professional development of teachers and develop supplementary learning materials in support of the National Curriculum for secondary and higher secondary education;
- Develop expertise in educational assessment and testing in Pakistan.



Affordability

AKU-EB examinations are accessible to candidates of diverse backgrounds through a reasonable fee structure making our high quality qualifications available to a broader constituency.

Unique Features

- Strong emphasis on conceptual understanding over rote memorization
- First in Asia to use e-Marking
- No equivalency required
- Statistical feedback support provided to schools
- Listening skills tested in all language examinations
- Comprehensive Teachers' Development Programme
- Supplementary learning materials available
- Results announced within six weeks
- Recognition by all colleges and universities
- High quality examinations at a reasonable fee

Customer Service

AKU-EB provides schools with all of the support they need to deliver its qualifications. Our examination processing system provides affiliated schools with an electronic registration system and the advantage of being able to access and view examination results online within only six weeks of the end of the examination session.

Our e-mail based Teachers' Discussion Forum enables teachers from affiliated schools throughout Pakistan to connect with each other, as well as with AKU-EB's subject specialists through a common platform leading to effective peer sharing and learning.



Online support

Our comprehensive website offers online support for students, teachers, and parents with detailed information 24 hours a day. Visitors can access updated timetables and registration forms, syllabuses and scheme of studies, news and events, answers to Frequently Asked Questions, and other valuable resources and information. To find out more about our services, please visit **www.aku.edu/akueb**, or write to us at examination.board@aku.edu.

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Qualifications You Can Trust



Our Qualifications

Our SSC and HSSC qualifications are designed to better prepare students for success in their adult lives. Available to schools across Pakistan in both English and Urdu medium, their purpose is to promote active learning processes with a focus on thinking, investigation and application of knowledge.

Muhammad Hasnain Mamdani
Karachi

The curriculum of AKU-EB and its style of examination improved my ways of learning. I learned great skills of reasoning analysis and application. I could feel my physical and mental limits being stretched.



At the SSC level, five compulsory and three elective subjects are offered in both the Science and Humanities Groups. At the HSSC level, the Science Group is further specified into the categories of Pre-Medicine, Pre-Engineering, and General Science, in addition to the Humanities and Commerce Groups. Both certificates also offer diverse options for additional subjects such as English Literature, Art & Model Drawing, Sociology, Psychology and many more.

Hafsa Uzair
Karachi

I had a great experience with AKU-EB. It has enhanced my conceptual understanding, writing, listening, speaking and reading skills, and has provided me with a stronger base for higher education.

Recognition

Certificates awarded by AKU-EB for educational achievement up to the higher secondary level are accorded full credit and recognition in Pakistan. No equivalency is required, as AKU-EB certificates are treated at par with those of all other Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education in Pakistan.

International Linkages

AKU-EB is a member of the International Association for Educational Assessment (IAEA) and the Association of Commonwealth Examination and Accreditation Bodies (ACEAB).

Dr Peter H. Armacost
Rector, Forman Christian College, Lahore

I strongly endorse the very good work that you are doing. We will be pleased to accept students on the basis of their performance on the AKU-EB standards.



Examination Syllabuses

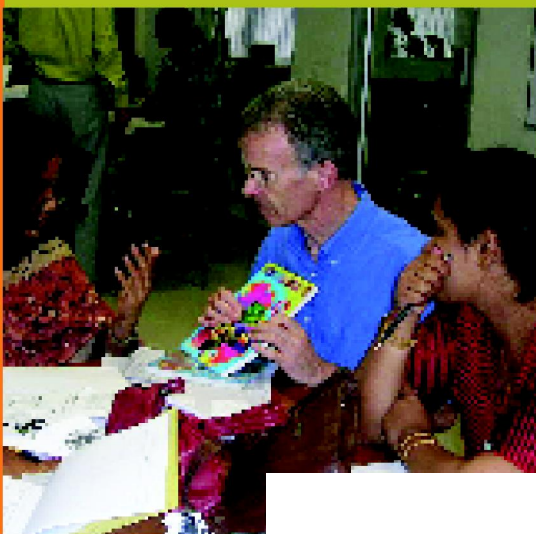
Our examination syllabuses are derived from the National Curriculum of Pakistan. Through these syllabuses, we put the curriculum into the hands of every affiliated teacher as a set of goals to accomplish. The syllabuses are divided into topics with Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that are categorized according to three cognitive levels: knowledge, understanding and application of ideas. They also give guidance on the teaching-learning approaches to be used, including a short list of recommended texts and reference materials.

This approach serves as a means of controlling the content, and by implication, the quality of the test paper, as it defines the content topics to be tested and the cognitive levels at which questions will be set. It also provides teachers and students with a structure for planning the syllabus coverage.



Nausheen Mustafa
Al-Murtaza School

Teaching for AKU-EB has broadened my vision and understanding of the syllabus and the curriculum. It has been a wonderful experience for me. We have also incorporated the assessment of listening skills as part of our primary curriculum so that students' listening skills are enhanced through grade eight. Teaching of AKU-EB qualifications has brought a lot of changes not only in my classroom, but also throughout the whole school.



Extensive Teacher Support

Our education system requires constant demand for active teaching and learning in the classroom. Focusing on this aspect, AKU-EB has developed its own teachers' development program to help schools reevaluate the learning methods required by their teachers and students in preparing for AKU-EB examinations.

School Orientation Workshops

Teachers from affiliated schools are introduced to AKU-EB procedures through a full-day workshop to support them in planning and teaching for AKU-EB's qualifications. Once introduced to the goals and objectives of AKU-EB, teachers are thoroughly familiarized with the structure of the syllabuses. Participants are also exposed to additional learning support materials such as Assessment Units, past exam papers and examiners' reports to get a better grasp of the pattern and quality of resources available for both teaching and learning.

Material Development Workshops

To support the adjustment from a teacher-centered to a learner-centered classroom, AKU-EB brings together key teachers from affiliated schools to develop classroom learning materials, Assessment Units (AU), in subject workshops. Developing the Assessment Units allows the teachers involved to:

- go through the thinking process which they want to develop in their students;
- identify gaps between the curriculum and textbooks;
- and develop insight into both materials production and assessment.

Item Writing Workshops

These workshops assist teachers in learning how to write questions and items of the type set by AKU-EB. Teachers are guided in the techniques of writing quality Multiple Choice, Constructed Response and Extended Response Questions (MCQ's, CRQ's and ERQ's) with question specific marking schemes, as well as in the skills of item and question review. Most participants go on to produce quality items throughout the year.

In the last three years, AKU-EB has provided a one-day orientation to 2632 teachers and 198 school principals. We have also trained 1512 teachers in item writing, 350 teachers in conducting practical examinations, and 965 teachers in developing assessment units.

Developing Assessment through e-Marking

E-marking is the process of checking examination papers electronically. All Constructed Response Answers are scanned into a computer, and an image of each candidate's answer to a specific question is called up to the screen; there is no candidate identifier. This is standard international practice for MCQ's (Multiple Choice Questions), but AKU-EB is one of only four Boards in the world that applies this technique to CRQ's (Constructed Response Questions). This system includes the benefits of:

- promoting marker reliability by limiting the number of questions each marker marks;
- providing markers with marking hints;
- and allowing real time statistical monitoring of each individual marker's standards while giving students the benefit of seven or eight independent expert evaluations of their work in each subject.

Markers are mainly teachers from AKU-EB affiliated schools and colleges. When they return to their workplace, they use the marking pattern and approaches to improve the quality of learning and assessment in their own classrooms.

Annual Feedback Support to Schools

A major aspect which sets AKU-EB apart from other traditional public examination boards is its strong commitment to school improvement. Thinking of new and innovative ways of making schools better while using advances in modern technology, AKU-EB has developed a highly computerized examination processing system, including an e-marking facility that allows AKU-EB to achieve maximum security, accuracy and complete transparency in the processing of examination results.

This examination processing system also generates meaningful feedback on candidate performance student by student, question by question and school by school. An annual *Your School's Performance Report* enables teachers and schools to plan for and see gradual improvement in classroom teaching and learning practices from year to year.