



Frequently Asked Questions

about the AKU-EB Middle School Assessment Framework

Q. Does our school have to follow the AKU-EB middle school teaching schemes of work to use the AKU-EB progress tests?

A. No. A school does have to be registered with AKU-EB to offer the progress tests but does not have to rigidly follow the schemes of work. The tests are designed to measure the development of literacy and numeracy skills and can be used alongside any syllabus, whether subject or topic-based, provided the learning objectives are sufficiently close to those listed in the AKU-EB middle school schemes of work.

Q. What resources will AKU-EB provide to support the teaching and implementation of the Middle School Assessment Framework?

A. AKU-EB will make available schemes of work, lists of recommended reference materials and teacher professional development workshops to registered schools.

Q. What are the key benefits of the AKU-EB Middle School Assessment Framework?

A. AKU-EB's Middle School Assessment Framework is an excellent preparation for the next phase in a student's education. It helps in identifying student strengths and weaknesses and can be used to support learning and development at an early age.

Q. Do schools opting for the Middle School Assessment Framework have to offer AKU-EB's Secondary School Certificate and Higher Secondary School Certificate qualifications?

A. AKU-EB's Middle School Assessment Framework is self-contained and can be taken either independently or as part of a continuum to other AKU-EB qualifications at the secondary and higher secondary level.

How to Register

So now that you have been introduced to a new and progressive system for providing your students with a holistic learning experience during their crucial growing years, take the next step and find out how you can register your school for AKU-EB's Middle School Assessment Framework.

Call or write to us with your queries and expression of interest. Our school support representatives will provide you with complete details about the programme and guide you through the registration process.

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Middle School Assessment Framework

Building Blocks of Tomorrow



Middle school is a time when students are finding out about the world but, more so, about how they stand in relation to the world. In Grades VI-VIII they are engaged in a wide range of subject study which lays the foundations for later specialisation. Aga Khan University Examination Board (AKU-EB) has developed a Middle School Assessment Framework to support the efforts of schools to lay a broadly based foundation of learning experience in these critical years and pave a smooth transition to secondary school studies.

Recommended Schemes of Work



The schemes of work place an emphasis on the fundamentals needed to succeed at and beyond the school level, particularly in the areas of literacy, numeracy, scientific investigation and cultural understanding. Among other skills these schemes of work will enable students to develop logical reasoning by making meaning and learning cooperatively as well as individually.

Subject	Branches of Learning
English Urdu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Listening■ Reading■ Writing■ Speaking
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Data Handling■ Logical Reasoning■ Algebra■ Geometry
General Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Science Investigation■ Science Concepts■ Science Reasoning
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Social Understanding■ Civic Efficacy■ Genuine Questioning■ Whole Learning■ Integration of Points of View



Assessment

AKU-EB offers an objective standards related assessment of students’ academic performance through progress tests and project portfolios. Schools can choose to opt for either or both of these assessment options.

This expert assessment will locate each child on a learning progression, enabling both teachers and parents to encourage future subject and career choices that best cater to his or her interests.

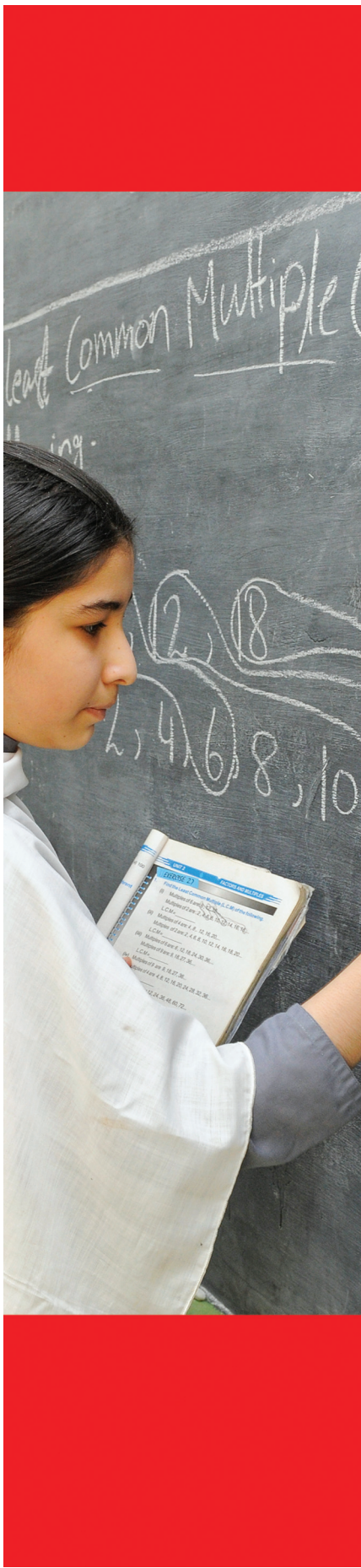
Project Portfolio

A student's ability to adapt and succeed in the long-run depends on more than just numerical marks. He or she has to be able to demonstrate a diverse range of skills, which AKU-EB will assess in the form of an annual Personal Accomplishment Record. It will be based on a portfolio of project work drawing upon a set of eight extended tasks in each grade that emphasise on the interconnectedness of subjects, an early approach to interdisciplinary studies. Students will normally complete up to six tasks to earn a Personal Accomplishment Record, however they may choose to include only their four best tasks.

Students will work individually and in groups to fulfill task requirements. Teachers will rate not only the academic quality of students' performance, but also their social skills in task completion. These teacher judgments can be further reinforced by details of community service and artistic or sporting achievements authenticated by the school.

The tasks set over the year will enable students to demonstrate up to ten key competencies:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Social skills
- Problem-solving
- Critical and innovative thinking
- Observational skills
- Self-confidence and independent learning
- Ethical awareness
- ICT research and presentation skills
- Project preparation and management.



Progress Test

To monitor your students' progress from Grade VI through Grade VIII, AKU-EB will make available progress tests in three subjects: General Science, Mathematics and English. These tests will be tailored to the syllabus coverage in individual schools.

The English progress test will include an assessment of students’ speaking skills to ensure that they build good proficiency in oral communication and are able to express themselves adequately. This is a growing requirement for future success in both university and professional careers.

Schools can order tests whenever ready and may use multiple occasions of testing to evaluate the rate of learning being achieved. Feedback will be given in terms of the actual versus expected rate of progression. The results of the tests can be used to inform further teaching, support learning and/or to report to parents.

The tests are topic-based and keyed into grade standards. In addition each test will assess a set of generic skills to determine and report on a student's performance on one of the following levels:

- a) Thinking is two grades above the current grade level.
- b) Thinking is one grade above the current grade level.
- c) Thinking is characteristic of the current grade level.
- d) Needs support in thinking at the current grade level.
- e) Needs special support to reach the current grade level.



Teacher Professional Development

AKU-EB encourages teachers to make the classroom experience an unforgettable one for students during their middle school years. Children spend half of each day at school, so this goal entails supporting students in all aspects of their growth.

To facilitate the implementation of the Middle School Assessment Framework in the classroom, AKU-EB will make available teacher professional development programmes in dynamic assessment techniques including:

- How to support the social and emotional development of children at this stage of schooling.
- The management and assessment of working in groups.
- Peer and self-assessment for formative purposes.
- The use of information technology in student research and in oral presentation of findings.