

EXTERNAL EXAM POLICY (GL / TIMSS / PIRLS)

Aim:

To provide a standardized, data-driven evaluation framework through external assessments (GL, TIMSS, PIRLS) that supports evidence-based improvements in teaching, learning, and leadership. This policy ensures consistency in measuring student achievement across grades and curricula, and informs strategic decision-making to enhance school performance.

Objectives:

- ✓ To obtain a reliable, external measure of the school's overall academic performance.
- ✓ To benchmark student achievement and cognitive ability against international standards.
- ✓ To ensure consistency in assessments across school locations, curricula, and student cohorts.
- ✓ To analyze individual student profiles for targeted interventions and academic support.
- ✓ To identify disengagement or risk of underachievement through student attitude surveys.
- ✓ To support school self-evaluation, improvement planning, and accreditation processes.

Target Group:

- ✓ Students from Year 3 to Year 6

Justification (as per QNSA Recommendations – February 2020):

According to the Qatar National School Accreditation (QNSA), external standardized testing (such as GL assessments) should be strategically administered at critical transition stages.

- Year 3 represents the end of Key Stage 1, providing an early benchmark of foundational knowledge and skills.
 - Year 6 represents the end of Key Stage 2, allowing the school to evaluate academic readiness for the next educational phase.
- This targeted implementation ensures meaningful tracking of student attainment and progress, while maintaining cost-effectiveness, data reliability, and consistency across schools.

Subjects Covered:

- Core subjects (such as English, Mathematics, and Science, depending on the exam framework)

Assessment Tools & Features:

Assessment	Purpose	Features
GL Assessments	Measures cognitive ability and academic progress	Curriculum-independent; provides a student learning profile
TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study)	Evaluates knowledge and skills in Math and Science	Benchmarks performance internationally
PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study)	Assesses reading comprehension and literacy skills	Tracks reading trends and teaching effectiveness

Data Use and Analysis:

- ✓ Student performance is analyzed at individual, class, and school level.
- ✓ Results help in identifying high-achieving students and those needing additional support.
- ✓ Data supports the development of personalized learning plans.
- ✓ Leadership uses the results to plan teacher training and allocate resources effectively.

Exam Duration & Administration:

- ✓ Duration and format of exams are based on the official guidelines of each external assessment provider.
- ✓ Exams are conducted in a secure, monitored environment to ensure fairness and integrity.
- ✓ Students and parents are informed in advance about the exam schedule and preparation expectations.
- ✓ Review sessions are conducted for each class prior to the exams to reinforce key concepts and help students prepare effectively.

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Policy Date	April 2010	
Review Date	August 2024	
Next Review Date	August 2025	
Reviewed/ Approved by	School Principal/ AVP	