



## National Assessments (NAFS)

Your Tool to Discover Your Children's Educational Achievement Level:

Parents' Guide



## Dear Parents - Partners of Children's Success

### Acknowledgement

The achievements of our children throughout their educational journey is a source of celebration and pride for both parents and our beloved country.

In recognition of the invaluable role parents play in their children's learning journey, the Education and Training Evaluation Commission (ETEC), in partnership with the Ministry of Education, is committed to providing support and resources to enhance the quality of education for your sons and daughters. This includes the national assessments that evaluate the educational achievement level of schools in key skills related to core subjects (Reading, Science, and Mathematics).

In this guide for mothers and fathers, we aim to provide you with valuable information about the national assessments (NAFS).





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## What are the National Assessments for Schools (NAFS)?

NAFS are assessments that have been developed based on targeted learning outcomes for the main courses (Reading, Mathematics, and Science). These assessment are administered annually in both Arabic and English languages, across all schools within the same time frame.

## What is the purpose of the National Assessments (NAFS)?

Students vary in their proficiency of basic knowledge and skills in:

Reading

Science

Mathematics

National assessments help educators and parents in assessing the educational achievement level of our son's and daughter's schools in these skills while monitoring changes in their proficiency year after year.



## What is the impact of (NAFS) on your child's educational journey?



### Facts

- There is a percentage of our dear children at the age of ten who are unable to read and comprehend a short text written in simple language appropriate for their age.
- There is also a percentage of students, at the age of 15, who lack the essential reading, science, and mathematics skills necessary for their educational achievement.



### Challenges

Lack of proficiency in essential skills (reading, numeral) at an early age has an impact on:

- Their skills;
- Their future employment opportunities;
- Their income levels;
- The quality of their lives; and
- Meeting the needs of the job market.



### Early Intervention

In the right time during students' educational journey helps in:

- Assessing the extent of proficiency in basic knowledge and skills.
- Providing school-based remedial programs.
- Assisting parents in supporting their sons and daughters.



### Impact of NAFS

NAFS serves as an illuminating tool that:

- Reinforces strengths and areas for improvement in educational achievement.
- Provides insights into the knowledge and skills being delivered by schools, in comparison with desired outcomes; and
- Contributes to achieving equity in the provision of quality education for all.



## What information does NAFS provide to parents about their children's schools?



Measure school outcomes in the essential skills of the subjects of reading, science and mathematics.



Identify the distinguished schools.



Determine the ranking of your children's school compared to other schools.



Inform parents about the performance level of their children's schools.

## What subjects are our children tested in as part of the National Assessments (NAFS)?

In the current academic year (1445 AH - 2023-2024), our students are assessed in three subjects:



Reading



Mathematics



Science

## How will schools and students be selected for the National Assessments (NAFS) for the current year 2024?

NAFS for the year (2024) is to be administered as follows:

- **All third-grade:** classrooms in a sample of schools.
- **All sixth-grade:** classrooms in all elementary schools.
- **All ninth-grade:** classrooms in all intermediate schools.

## Why specifically these grades?

NAFS aims to assess the level of students' learning and what they can accomplish at the end of each educational stage.

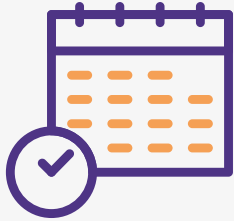
These particular grades represent the end of different educational stages. The third grade represents the end of early childhood education, the sixth grade represents the end of elementary education, and the ninth grade (third year of intermediate school) represents the end of the intermediate school stage.

Additionally, selecting these grades helps measure the educational achievement level within the specific grade itself and the two preceding grades.





## When will the National Assessments (NAFS) be administered?



Assessments will be administered from  
May 12th to May 28th, 2024.

Grade	Day	Date	assessment language
Ninth Grade	Sunday	12/05/2024	Arabic
	Monday	13/05/2024	Arabic
	Tuesday	14/05/2024	Arabic + English
	Wednesday	15/05/2024	Arabic
Sixth Grade	Thursday	16/05/2024	Arabic
	Sunday	19/05/2024	Arabic
	Monday	20/05/2024	Arabic + English
	Tuesday	21/05/2024	Arabic
	Wednesday	22/05/2024	Arabic
Third Grade	Thursday	23/05/2024	Arabic
	Sunday	26/05/2024	Arabic + English
	Monday	27/05/2024	Arabic





# Where do we start?

This booklet guides you to the starting point.







## What knowledge and skills do the National Assessments (NAFS) measure?

The national assessments measure the knowledge and skills that our sons and daughters should learn, understand, and be able to demonstrate in reading, science, and mathematics. They also assess their ability to solve problems they encounter in their lives using this knowledge and these skills.

Examples of knowledge and skills measured:

### Example:

**By the end of the third grade in reading, our children should be able to:**

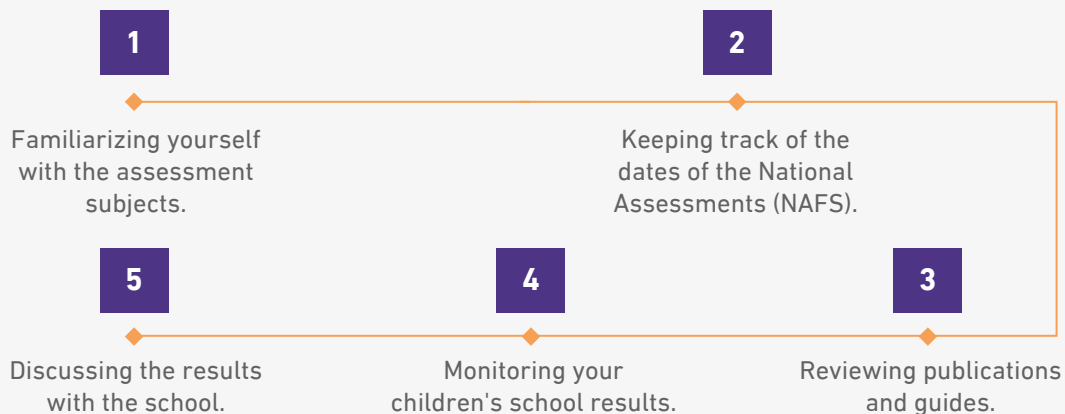
Infer ideas and meanings from the texts, analyze them, and evaluate them.

**And by the end of the third grade in mathematics, our children should be able to:**

Describing the place value, distinguishing it from a number in a whole number within four places, using it in counting, representing numbers with models, drawings and number lines, reading and writing them in standard, verbal and analytical forms, comparing them, arranging them in ascending and descending order, and rounding them to the nearest ten or hundred.

## What is the role of parents in the success of the National Assessments (NAFS)?

**Our valued partners, parents, we are pleased to inform you that your participation and cooperation contribute to the success of the National Assessments (NAFS) in the following ways:**





Your role is vital in ensuring that your children do not miss out the opportunity to acquire and enhance their skills. NAFS can assist you in utilizing this opportunity by engaging in the following:



**Discuss** the importance of the assessments with your children.



**Explain clearly** the subjects of the assessments to your children.



**Review** relevant topics in their textbooks with them.



**Share** examples from the guidance materials with them.



**Describe** to your children the assessment booklet.



**Ensure** that your children are not absent during assessment times.



**Encourage** your children to take their time and carefully complete the assessment booklet.



**Emphasize** the importance of reading all the questions.

## We value parents' opinions

### How do parents participate in the National Assessments (NAFS)?

Parents' opinions are valuable sources of information about their children's learning. We have made sure to involve parents in the National Assessments through the completion of the parent survey accompanying the assessment. The assessment is accompanied by several questionnaires to understand the factors that affect students' academic achievement. These questionnaires include:

1

#### Student questionnaire:

This questionnaire is provided to the student along with the assessment paper, both in "paper-based" and "computer-based" formats. It is filled out immediately after completing the assessment.

2

#### Parent questionnaire:

This is an electronic questionnaire that is completed by the student's parent through ETEC's platform

3

#### School Principal questionnaire:

This is an electronic questionnaire that is completed by the school principal through ETEC's platform

4

#### Reading Teacher, Mathematics Teacher, and Science Teacher questionnaires:

These are electronic questionnaires completed by the respective teachers through ETEC's platform





## How to easily and correctly respond to a parent questionnaire?



**Read** the questionnaire instructions thoroughly.



**Express** your honest opinion.



**Adhere** to the specified deadline for submitting the questionnaire.



**Ask** about any part of the questionnaire, whenever you need.



**Answer** all the sections of the questionnaire.



**Share** your feedback about the questionnaire if possible.

## What are the components of the National Assessments (NAFS) booklets?

Dear parents, the assessment is prepared in a paper booklet that includes questions from the three sections (Reading, Mathematics, and Science) for the sixth-grade elementary and ninth-grade intermediate levels. However, for the third-grade elementary level, the booklet contains only two sections: Reading and Mathematics. Additionally, there is a student questionnaire.

The components of the student booklet are as follows:

- 1. Booklet Cover:** It includes the name of the assessment, grade level, and test day.
- 2. Section 1 Page:** It indicates the number of questions in this section and provides instructional guidance for the test takers.
- 3. Section 1 Questions:** (multiple pages).
- 4. Break Page.**
- 5. Section 2 Page:** It indicates the number of questions in this section and provides instructional guidance for the test takers.
- 6. Section 2 Questions.**
- 7. Break Page.**
- 8. Section 3 Page:** It indicates the number of questions in this section and provides instructional guidance for the test takers.
- 9. Answer Sheet and instructions for shading.**
- 10. Multiple** sheets dedicated to the student questionnaire.
- 11. Back Cover.**





## Was the student booklet presented to your son/daughter before the National Assessment (NAFS)?

**Dear parents,** we would like to inform you that blank copies of the student booklet were provided to the participating students before the assessments in each school. The components, sections, and how to use the answer sheet were explained to them.

## How does the school assist third-grade elementary students during the National Assessments (NAFS)?

**Our sons and daughters in third grade** are our top priority, and we will provide all the necessary assistance during the assessments.

## How are our sons and daughters being prepared on the day of the assessment?

**There are (15 minutes) at the beginning of the assessment** to prepare our dear sons and daughters, welcome them, reassure them, and clarify the assessment instructions.



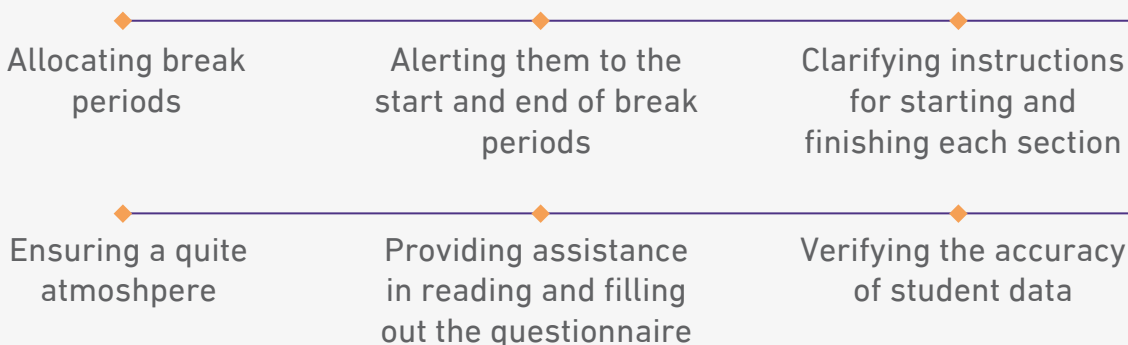


## How is the assessment time distributed? What is its duration? And how many questions are there?

Grade	Setting Up	Section 1	Break	Section 2	Break	Section 3	Student questionnaire	No. of Questions	Subject
Third Grade	15 mins.	30 mins.	5 mins.	30 mins.	5 mins.	N/A	40 mins.	15	Reading
								16	Mathematics
Sixth Grade	15 mins.	35 mins.	5 mins.	35 mins.	5 mins.	35 mins.	40 mins.	15	Reading
								20	Mathematics
								20	Science
Ninth Grade	15 mins.	35 mins.	5 mins.	35 mins.	5 mins.	35 mins.	40 mins.	15	Reading
								20	Mathematics
								20	Science

The well-being of our sons and daughters, and ensuring their smooth and proper execution of the exam are among our top priorities.

### Examples of this include:





## What are some illustrative examples of National Assessments (NAFS) questions?

We are delighted to share with you a few examples of the National Assessment questions.

Here's an example from the third-grade reading test:

### Examples of NAFS Assessment Questions

Example from the Sixth Grade (Reading) Questions:

Friendship is one of the most precious things in existence, and it is among the noblest human relationships. It builds bridges of love between hearts and gives life beauty and a desired purpose. Friendship is not just fleeting words; it is a pledge and a sacrificial act. As the proverb goes, "A friend in need is a friend indeed." It is a pillar and support that we must choose carefully and attentively. Not every companion - whether in school, work, or your neighborhood - can be considered a friend and a dependable support.

Friendship has etiquettes that should be adhered to. It requires safeguarding your friend's back, defending and supporting them in truth, assisting them in doing good, and correcting them when they are not. Friendship is measured by actions and situations, not by mere words. Therefore, Islam has given special attention to friendship and made friendships built on goodness extend to the abodes of paradise and its blessings. Beware of companionship based on personal interest, as it is inevitably transient. When the interest ends, the companionship that was built around it also ends.



#### Subdomain

vocabulary

#### Learning Outcome

The ability to infer synonyms and antonyms of the vocabulary words in the given text, as well as distinguishing words with similar meanings.

◆ What is a synonym for the word "fleeting"?

A. Fixed

B. Transitory

C. Disturbed

D. Authentic





Example of the Ninth Grade (Reading) Questions:

Volunteer work is the act of extending a helping hand to others, exerting effort for the society, and spreading it without expecting any reward or compensation. It is called volunteering because individuals engage in it willingly, without compulsion. It stems from an emotional will driven by a love for doing good, which makes a person an integral part of their surroundings and community. The prevalence of volunteer work in communities indicates the openness and active participation of individuals towards progress and advancement.



The fields of volunteer work are unlimited, and anyone can create a simple endeavor that seeks reward and becomes a building block for their community. In fact, it brings happiness to the person and instills self-confidence. It provides a broad scope for acquiring new knowledge, getting to know people from diverse cultures, strengthening the bonds between community members, and fostering national unity.

**Subdomain**

Reading  
Comprehension

**Learning Outcome**

The ability to extract the main, sub, and implied ideas from the given text.

◆ According to the text, the force that drives a person to engage in volunteer work is:

- A. Physical
- B. Psychological
- C. National
- D. Social

Example from the Third Grade (Mathematics) Questions:

**Subdomain**

Numbers and  
calculations

**Learning Outcome**

Describing the operations of multiplication and division, representing them, establishing their properties, finding their results, and using them to solve mathematical problems.

◆ Hind wishes to help her mother distribute and arrange the flowers around their home. If she had 35 flowers to distribute them in 5 vases, then how many flowers would be in each vase?

- A. 6
- B. 7
- C. 8
- D. 9





Example from the Sixth Grade (Mathematics) Questions:

**Subdomain**

Numbers and calculations

**Learning Outcome**

Adding and subtracting whole numbers within seven digits, multiplying numbers up to three digits, dividing numbers with up to four digits by numbers with at least two digits, and using them to solve mathematical problems.

- ◆ The number of visitors to the university library in September was 1221, and in October, it was 1625 visitors. November was the busiest month. If the total number of visitors over the three months was 5012, how many visitors were there in November?

- A. 3223
- B. 3018
- C. 2334
- D. 2166



Example from the Ninth Grade (Mathematics) Questions:

**Subdomain**

Probability and Statistics

**Learning Outcome**

Analyzing data using central tendency and dispersion measures, interpreting, and comparing them.

- ◆ A group of students planted a variety of flowers in the school garden over a period of 10 days. They recorded the number of flowers each day as shown in the table below:

Day	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth	Tenth
No. of Flowers	8	10	9	7	8	13	10	9	14	12

What is the arithmetic mean of the flowers?

- A. 14
- B. 13
- C. 11
- D. 10







Example of the Sixth Grade (Science) Questions:

**Subdomain**

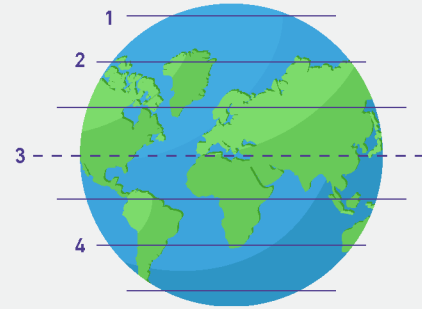
Life Science

**Learning Outcome**

Identifying and representing the ecosystem and determining the biological communities that exist within it. Explaining the impact of changes in the ecosystem on its survival and continuity.

- ◆ Look at the figure, and identify the location of the tropical rainforests:

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4



Example from the Ninth Grade (Science) Questions:

**Subdomain**

Earth and Space  
Science

**Learning Outcome**

Tracking some of the changes that have occurred on Earth due to human activity, identifying the natural hazards that can occur on Earth, and understanding how to predict them.

- ◆ A number of cities apply engineering standards in building construction to withstand earthquakes to varying degrees as shown in the table. If these cities were exposed to earthquakes of the same strength, which of these cities would have less damage?

City	Percentage of compliance with building construction standards
1	40%
2	50%
3	60%
4	70%

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4





## What is the availability of a computer-based version of the National Exams?

Nafs 2024 is to be administered in paper-format to over than 20,000 schools, and computer-based to over than 500 schools.

The implementation of computer based assessments will be expanded in the coming years based on the technological readiness of schools.

## How can you find out the results of your children's schools in the National Assessments (NAFS)?

### Through the Tarteeb Index.

Tarteeb Index was launched by ETEC in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to provide information and indicators about school performance, and to illustrate its level compared to other schools.

You can follow the Tarteeb Index and find out the ranking of your children's school [from here](#).



## How can I contact and be updated with the National Assessments? (NAFS)?

Please visit our [ETEC website](#) and follow us on our social media accounts.



**We appreciate your time in completing this short questionnaire.**

### Survey QR Code



## Conclusion

Dear parents, at ETEC, we share with you the hope for a future of education that reaches new heights for your sons and daughters. We deeply value your partnership in supporting opportunities for your children towards a prosperous future.



Thank you for your cooperation



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Education & Training Evaluation Commission