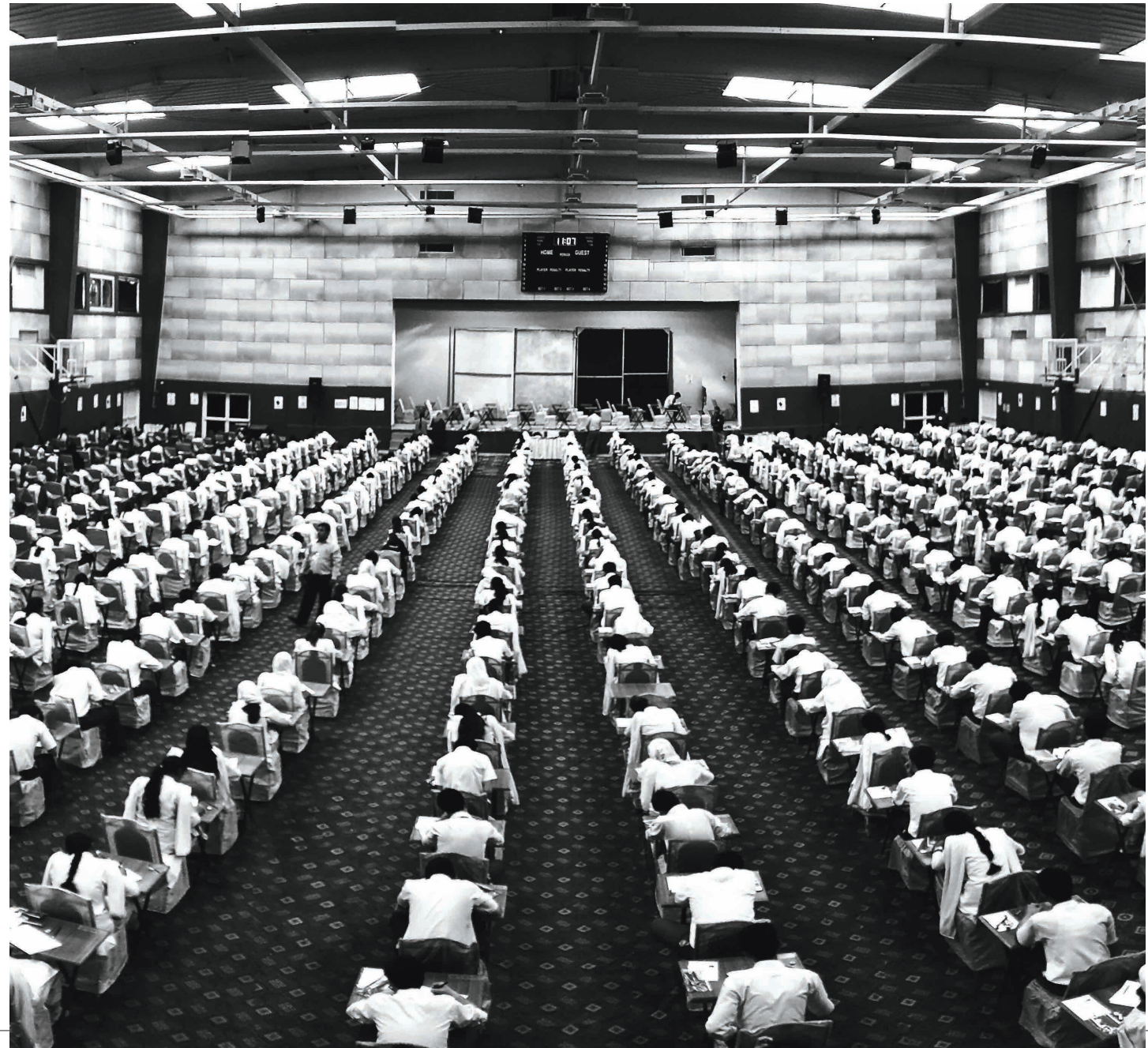





آغا خان یونیورسٹی ایگزامینیشن بورڈ

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

# QUALIFICATIONS YOU CAN TRUST







*“I am delighted to note that an increasing number of students clearing HSSC from the Aga Khan University Examination Board are doing well in the IBA admission test. Students from AKU-EB go beyond the conventional textbook, which is essential for the practical application of knowledge.”*

*Dr Ishrat Hussain, Director,  
Institute of Business  
Administration, Karachi*

## OUR VISION

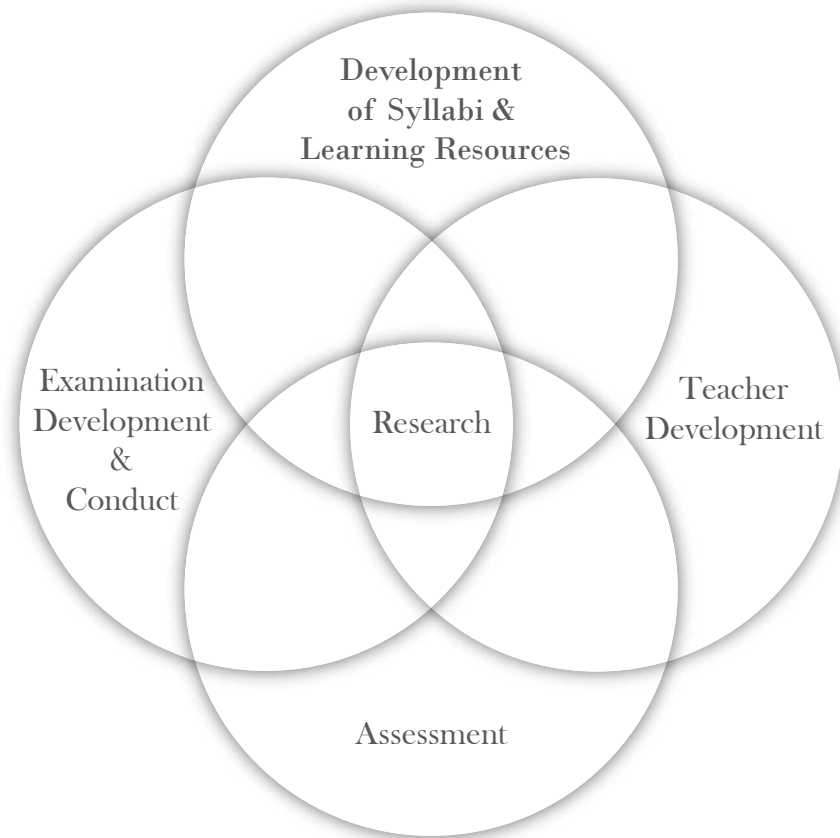
To be a model of excellence and innovation in education for Pakistan and the developing world.

## OUR MISSION

To increase access to quality education for lower and middle income students at a secondary and higher secondary school level.

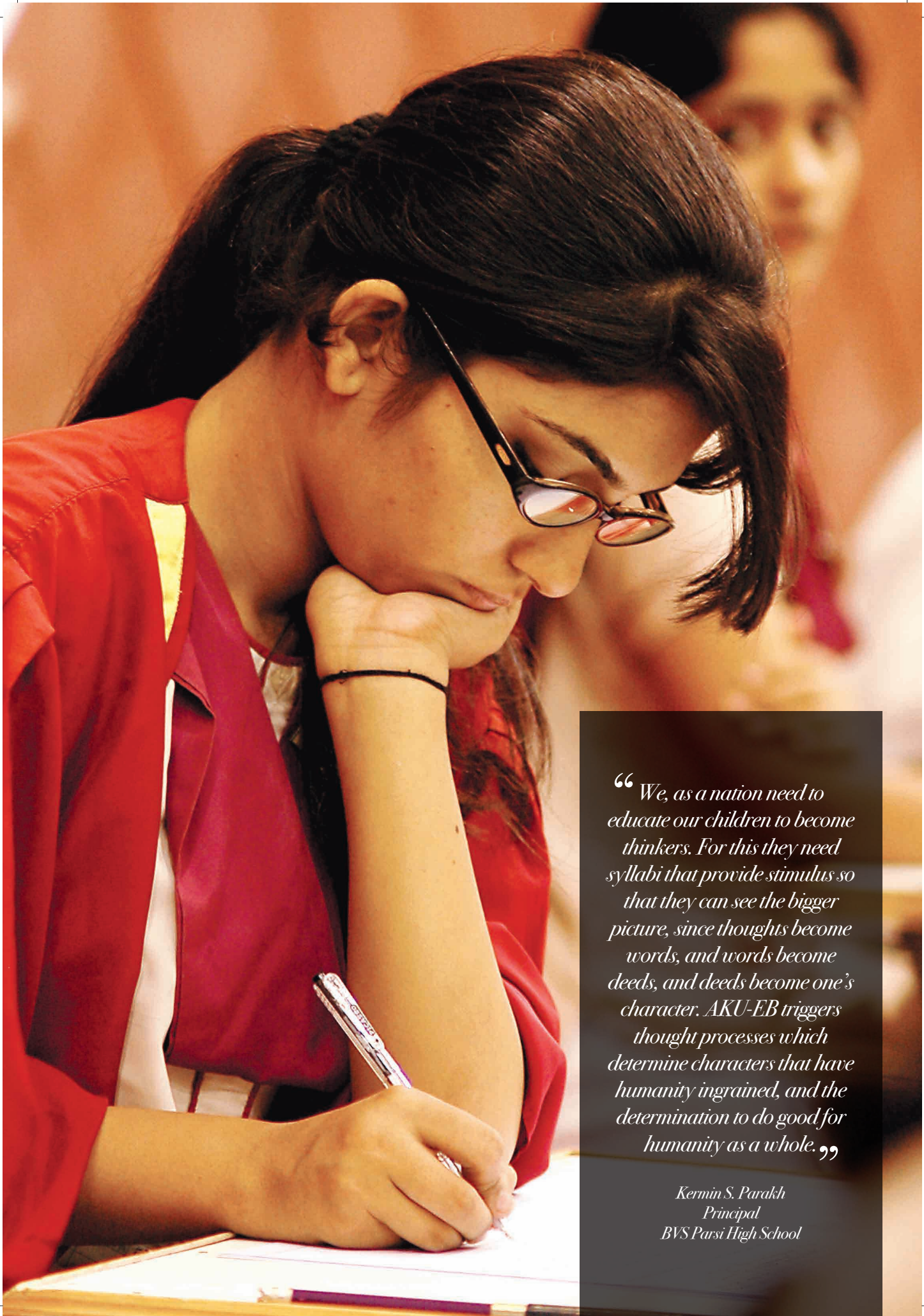
To inculcate a culture of higher order thinking in the youth through indigenous educational development and assessment programmes.

To acquire new knowledge through research and share best practices in education.



Impact | Quality | Relevance | Access





*“We, as a nation need to educate our children to become thinkers. For this they need syllabi that provide stimulus so that they can see the bigger picture, since thoughts become words, and words become deeds, and deeds become one’s character. AKU-EB triggers thought processes which determine characters that have humanity ingrained, and the determination to do good for humanity as a whole.”*

*Kermin S. Parakh  
Principal  
BVS Parsi High School*



# Why AKU-EB?



AKU-EB offers quality secondary and higher secondary examinations of international standards, accessible to all, at affordable fees for both English and Urdu medium schools. The syllabi are based on the national curriculum of Pakistan and examinations are aligned with the national scheme of studies. Fair and transparent assessment is ensured through an innovative e-marking system.

Emphasis is placed on concept based learning. Students are assessed on their understanding and application of knowledge. The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) qualifications awarded by AKU-EB are accredited by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC).

Diversity and pluralism are instituted in AKU-EB's core philosophy. Today, the Examination Board strives towards achieving inclusiveness in all of its programmes and aims to deliver an education that can be experienced by all citizens irrespective of their ethnicity, gender, religion or disability.

The Examination Board was established by the Aga Khan University in August 2003 in accordance with 'Ordinance CXIV' of the Government of Pakistan.

## Our Services

- Middle School Programme
- Secondary School Certificate
- Higher Secondary School Certificate
- Development of Assessment Capacity within Schools
- Continuous Professional Development of Teachers
- Master Trainer Programmes for Improving Teacher Capacity within Schools

*\*AKU-EB qualifications are at par with national standards and do not require an equivalence from the IBCC.*



# Our Qualifications



## Middle School Programme (MSP – Grades VI, VII and VIII) Developing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

The AKU-EB Middle School Programme is a project-based, experiential form of learning that recognises learner diversity by offering broad-based interdisciplinary projects.

The programme uses a student centred learning approach that enriches the learning experience through application of knowledge to real world situations. It facilitates the cognitive development and proficiency of students, thus preparing them for a smooth transition to secondary school studies and beyond.

MSP projects specifically focus on developing essential competencies, often referred to as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, in students. These skills are deemed vital to success in both school years and beyond. These competencies include:

- critical thinking and problem solving
- creativity and innovation
- listening, reading and observation skills
- information gathering
- communication skills
- interpersonal skills
- responsibility
- teamwork

Each class opting for MSP receives a set of six interdisciplinary projects. These project tasks are designed by AKU-EB and based on the middle school syllabi drawn from the National Curriculum of Pakistan. The projects are based on key concepts for each grade level across five core subjects: Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Urdu and English.

Students work individually and in groups to complete project tasks and compile them as one portfolio. Along with the projects, AKU-EB also provides a set number of Multiple Choice (MCQs) and Constructed Response Questions (CRQs) with each project. Teachers can use these not only to review and reinforce students' understanding of key concepts related to the projects but also train students to effectively respond to questions that assess higher-order cognition.





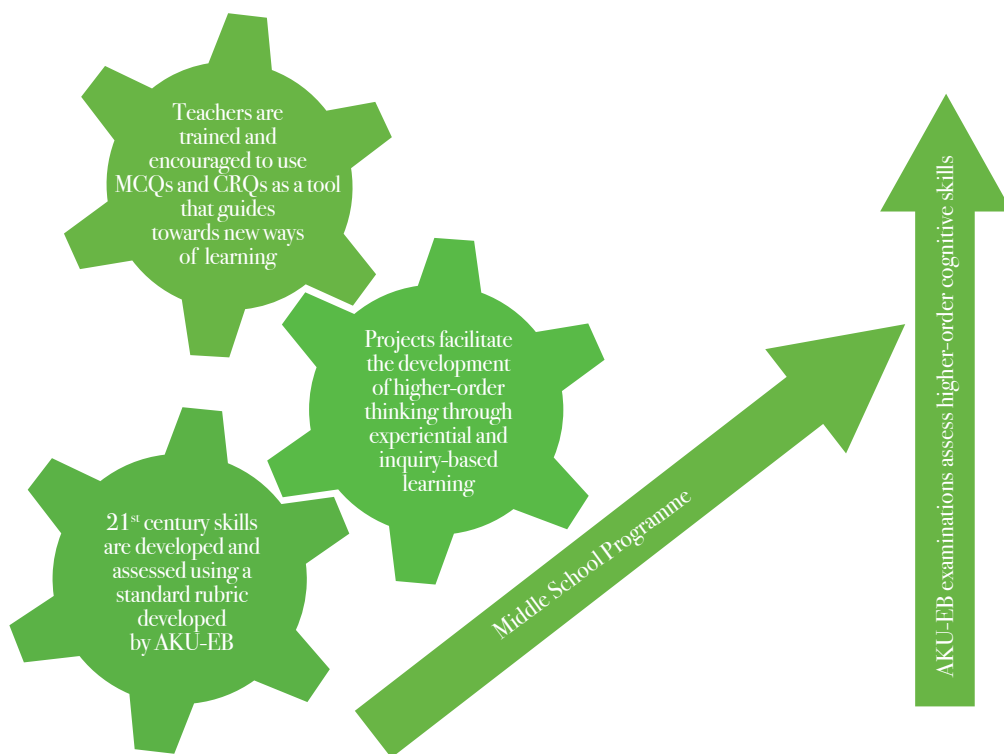
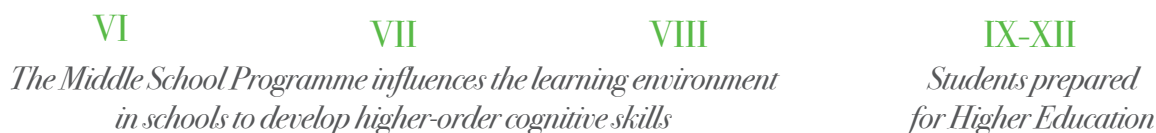
This formative assessment reinforces learning and familiarises students with the examination format of AKU-EB's Secondary School Certificate and Higher Secondary School Certificate qualifications.

Teacher development and support is provided throughout the year in the form of orientation sessions, annual teacher meetings, item (question) writing workshops and on-going consultation with schools to ensure that the projects are implemented in their true spirit.



Teachers assess the academic quality of students' work on projects and the competencies demonstrated by them to complete the task using a standard rubric developed by AKU-EB. The scores are moderated at an Annual Teachers' Meeting. The process is facilitated by AKU-EB and is a training opportunity for teachers to improve their assessment practices.

Based on this assessment, each student receives a Personal Accomplishment Record from AKU-EB which reflects the academic performance of students and a profile of their competencies.







## Secondary School Certificate (SSC - Grades IX and X)

AKU-EB SSC syllabi offer an excellent foundation for higher secondary education and beyond.

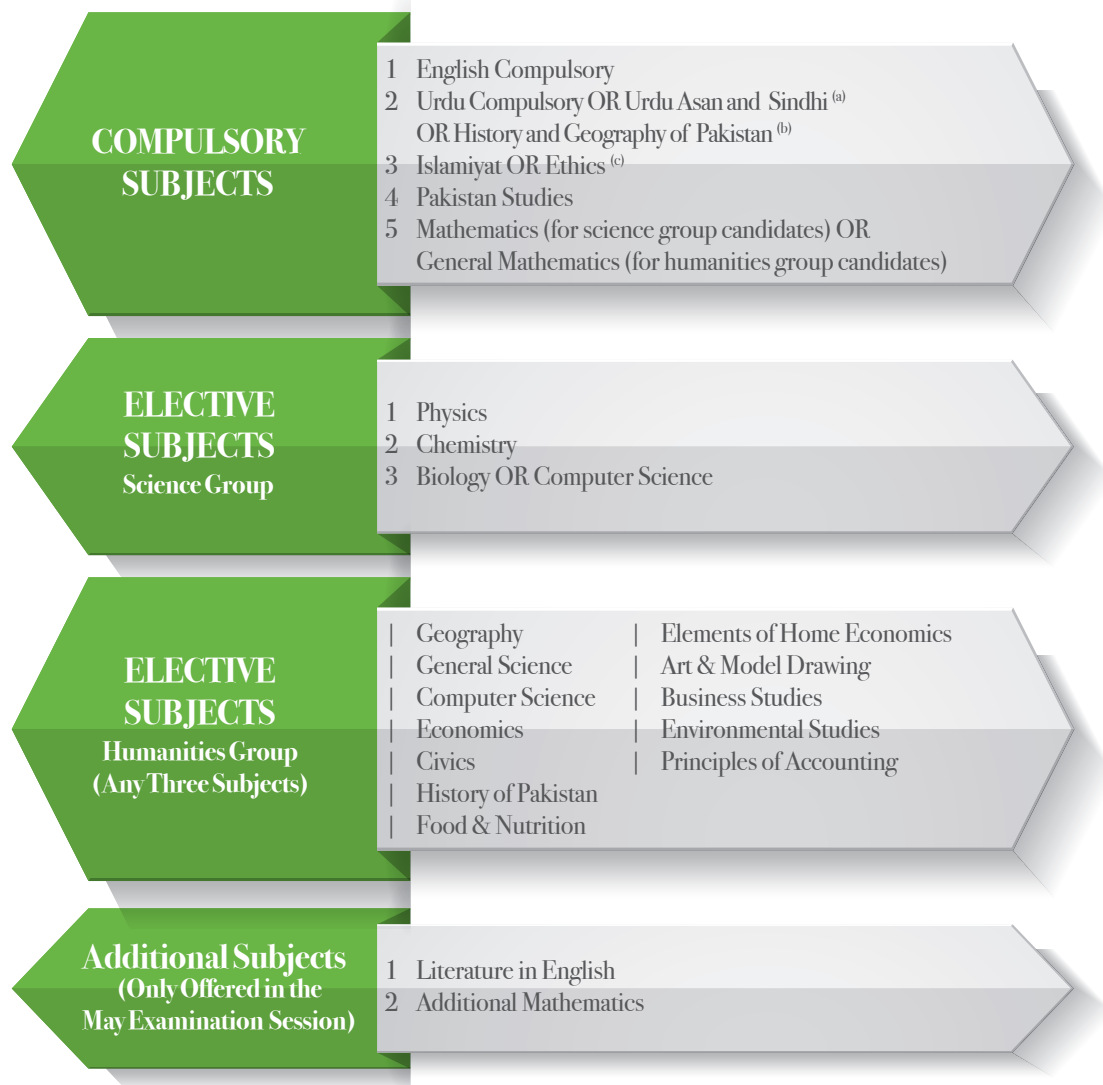
The syllabi are offered in both English and Urdu, comprising of achievable Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that effectively use command words to encourage conceptual learning and develop higher order cognitive skills.

### Choice of Subjects

AKU-EB offers a choice of fifteen elective subjects at the SSC level. Students are required to take examinations for **five compulsory** and **three elective subjects** over a period of two years.

*Note: All subjects are examined twice during the two years of study. Elective subjects are only chosen once during the qualification.*

### Subjects offered for the SSC qualification are:



a. Candidates from the province of Sindh may appear for Urdu Asan in SSC Part I and Sindhi in Part II examinations.

b. Foreign students may opt for History and Geography of Pakistan in lieu of Urdu Compulsory (subject to the Examination Board's approval).

c. For non-Muslim candidates in lieu of Islamiyat.





## Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC - Grades XI and XII)

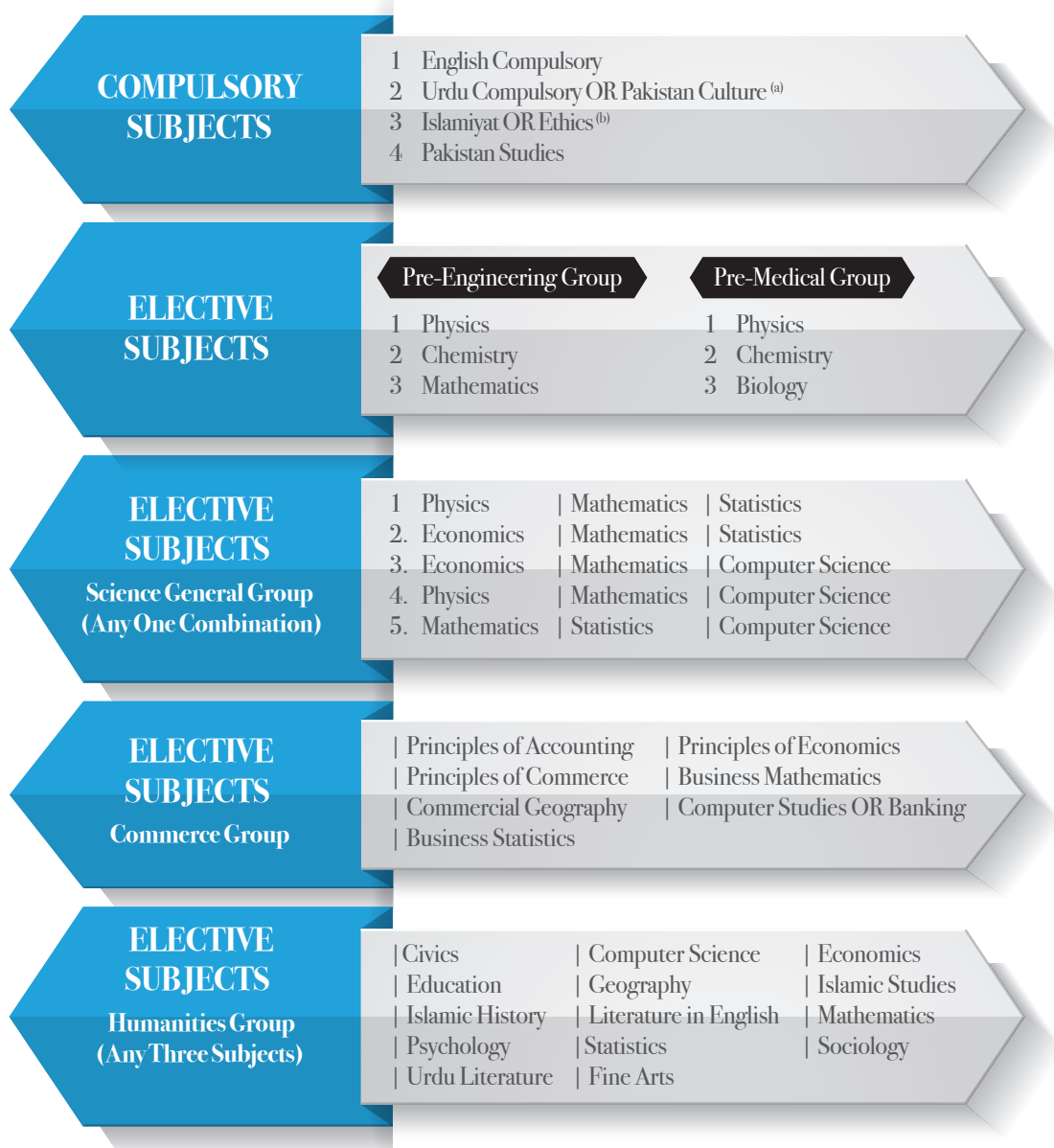
AKU-EB HSSC offers a strong platform to students for success in university education and professional life. It emphasizes on application of conceptual learning and further development of higher order cognitive skills, hence preparing students for success in the 21st century.

### Choice of Subjects

HSSC students are required to undertake examinations for **four compulsory and three elective subjects** over a period of two years.

*Note: All subjects are examined twice during the two years of study. Elective subjects are only chosen once during the qualification.*

**Subjects offered for the HSSC qualification are:**



*a. Foreign students may opt for Pakistan Culture in lieu of Urdu Compulsory (subject to the Examination Board's approval).*

*b. For non-Muslim candidates in lieu of Islamiyat.*

*Note: Pakistan Studies, Islamiyat and Ethics will be taught in both class XI and XII, however examinations will be conducted at the end of class XII.*



*“Transparency ensures merit. It builds confidence in children that they will be rewarded for their hard work. Conceptual understanding and critical thinking improves decision making about all aspects of life. Our decision to choose AKU-EB was the best gift we could ever give to our daughter. She was well prepared for higher studies knowing what she wanted from life.”*

*Parents - Mr. & Mrs. Joozer Marzban*





# How Are AKU-EB Students Assessed?

To maintain the highest level of integrity and transparency during the assessment and result processes, AKU-EB uses a seeding process and an exclusive e-marking software. These processes not only maintain the anonymity of students to the e-markers, but also preserve the maximum level of transparency which empowers students to achieve what they truly deserve.

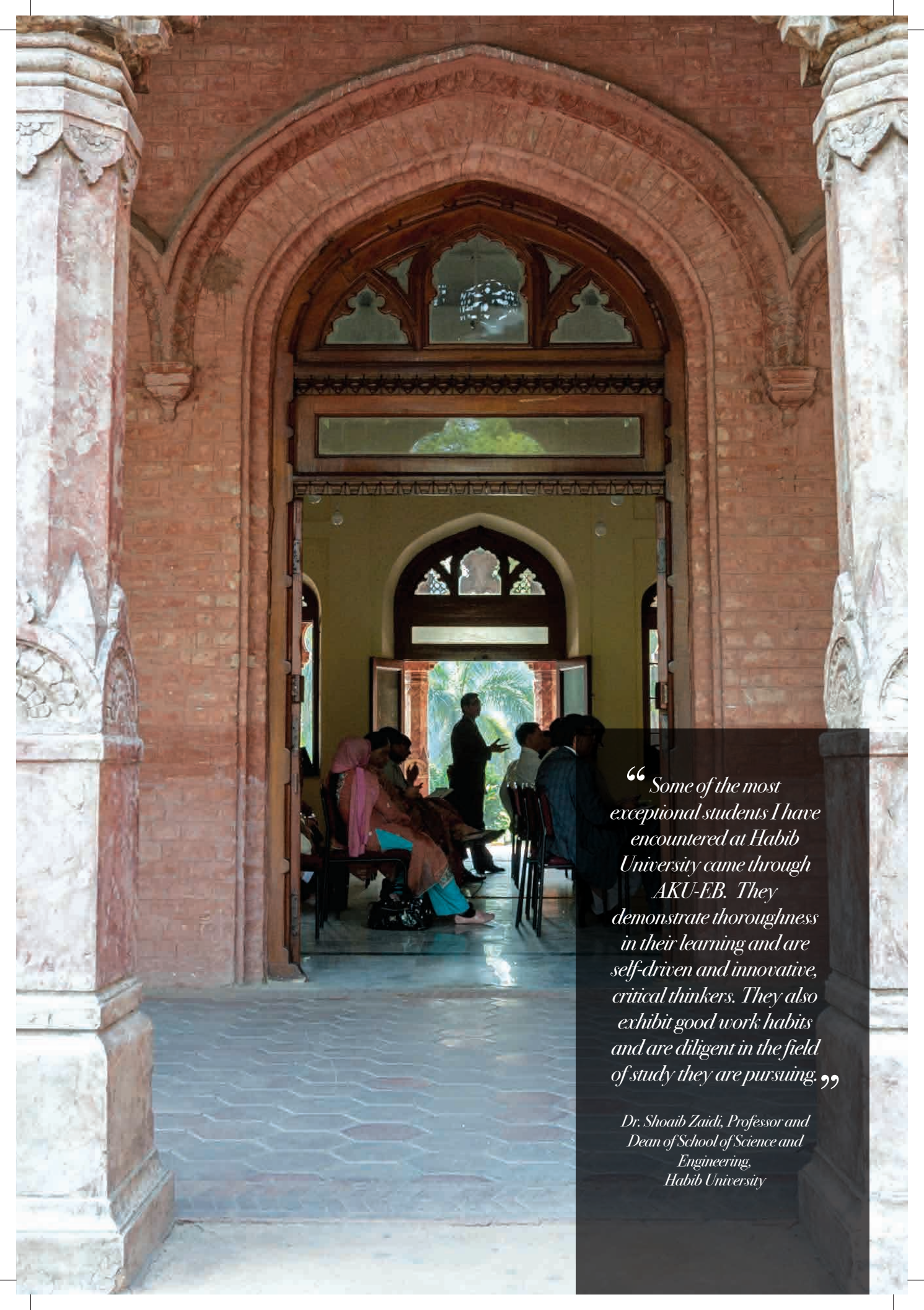
## How Does E-Marking Work?

1. All examination answer booklets are scanned into the e-marking software;
2. The software sends separate images of a student's hand-written answer to subject specialists in the marking team;
3. Each team consists of one senior examiner and five examiners, specialising to evaluate responses to a specific question (all questions are assessed by the guidance of a context - specific marking scheme);
4. Each question is checked by various e-markers to eliminate biasness;
5. All examination scores are analysed by a highly qualified assessment team to ensure that results are error free and meet international quality standards of assessment.

## How Does E-Marking Benefit Candidates and Schools?

- It promotes integrity and reliability of the marking process
- Counteracts impersonation, cheating and the use of unfair means
- Eliminates chances of errors during the marking process
- Generates reports which assist schools in improving their teaching practices and student learning outcomes.





*“Some of the most exceptional students I have encountered at Habib University came through AKU-EB. They demonstrate thoroughness in their learning and are self-driven and innovative, critical thinkers. They also exhibit good work habits and are diligent in the field of study they are pursuing.”*

*Dr. Shoaib Zaidi, Professor and  
Dean of School of Science and  
Engineering,  
Habib University*



# Teacher Development

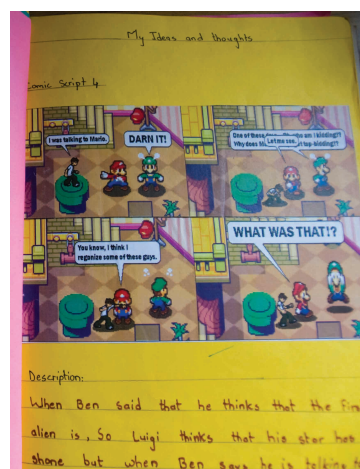
With the aim to inspire excellence in teaching and learning to enrich students' educational experiences and outcomes, AKU-EB provides a broad variety of workshops and training courses. These training courses aim to enhance teaching and learning strategies and content knowledge needed to deliver AKU-EB syllabi. Trainings are offered to AKU-EB affiliated schools as well as those preparing for affiliation.

A dedicated Teacher Development department caters to the needs of teachers and works with affiliated schools in areas of pedagogy, content enhancement, learning through scientific inquiry, exam development and assessment (formative and summative) amongst others. Particular focus is given to teach for a deeper understanding of concepts to develop higher order cognitive skills in students.

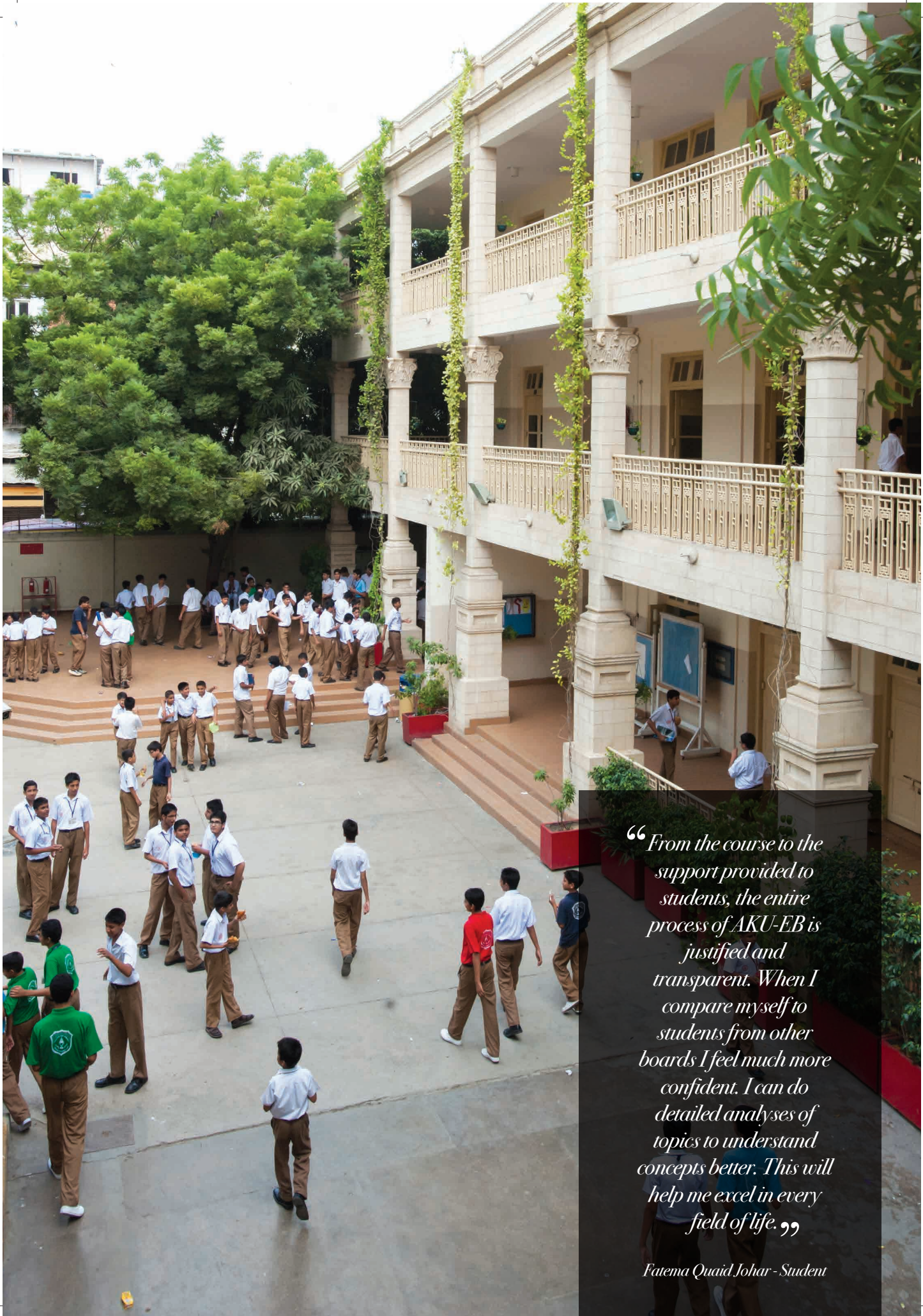
A variety of activities, in online and face to face formats, are undertaken throughout the year to achieve this aim. Classroom observations are conducted at affiliated schools to provide teachers with constructive critical feedback to improve their classroom management and instructional techniques. Platforms for networking and mentoring are also provided in order to encourage sharing of ideas and best practices, whilst focusing on student learning outcomes.

Additionally, a robust, in depth training, designed to enhance teachers' understanding of AKU-EB and their pedagogy to improve student performance is given to all schools which are preparing to affiliate with AKU-EB, or to those who have recently done so.

Training opportunities for Head Teachers and Principals are also provided to embed a culture of continuous improvement within schools.







*“From the course to the support provided to students, the entire process of AKU-EB is justified and transparent. When I compare myself to students from other boards I feel much more confident. I can do detailed analyses of topics to understand concepts better. This will help me excel in every field of life.”*

*Fatema Quaid Johar - Student*



# Expression of Interest for School Affiliation with the Aga Khan University Examination Board

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (include area code): \_\_\_\_\_

Head of the Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Type of School:

☐ Boys ☐ Girls ☐ Co-educational

## Language of Instruction (check both if applicable):

☐ English ☐ Urdu

## Programme(s) of Interest for Affiliation (Check more than one if applicable):

☐ Middle School Programme (MSP) ☐ Secondary School Certificate (SSC)  
☐ Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC)

## Number of Students Currently Enrolled (Average):

Grade Level	Number of Students
Middle School (Classes VI, VII & VIII)	
SSC (Classes IX & X)	
HSSC (Classes XI & XII)	

## Legal Status:

☐ Private  
☐ Not for Profit (Schools not making profit such as NGO, Trust, Community, etc.)

Signature of Institutional Head: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Please send this form to the Aga Khan University Examination Board through the following methods:

**Either** scan and email this form to: [examination.board@aku.edu](mailto:examination.board@aku.edu) **OR**

Mail it to the Aga Khan University Examination Board through our pre-paid TCS service.



**Please drop this form to your nearest TCS Facility**

The Aga Khan University Examination Board

Block-C, IED-PDC, 1-5/B-VII

Federal B. Area, Karimabad, P.O. Box 13688

Karachi - 75950, Pakistan

Tel: +92 21 3682 7011-8 | Fax: +92 21 3682 7010

Mobile: +92 300 829 2268

Email: [examination.board@aku.edu](mailto:examination.board@aku.edu)

Website: [examinationboard.aku.edu](http://examinationboard.aku.edu)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/akueb](http://www.facebook.com/akueb)

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# How to become an AKU-EB affiliated school?

1. Submit a complete **Affiliation Application Form** available on the AKU-EB website (examinationboard.aku.edu) along with a school inspection fee. \*
2. After receipt of your application, the **Quality Assurance** team will liaise for a school inspection.
3. Once the school inspection report is approved, the school will be given the status of an **AKU-EB Affiliated School**.

On completing the affiliation process, our Teacher Development team will conduct an orientation session to enhance teachers' understanding of AKU-EB.

## School Affiliation Check List

A science laboratory with necessary equipment for a minimum of 6 to 8 students to work independently (only applicable for Science Group)	<input type="checkbox"/>
A library or classroom resource area with textbooks or reference books	<input type="checkbox"/>
A computer laboratory with at least 6 to 8 workstations (only applicable for schools offering Computer Science)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Classrooms with sufficient capacity to accommodate students	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Examination Sessions

May Session	September Session
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Registrations begin from November till February (including late fee deadlines *)</li><li>• Results are announced in July</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Registrations begin from May till August (including late fee deadlines *)</li><li>• Results are announced in October</li></ul>

Students (regular and private) can resit for failed examinations as well as for improvement in subject(s) in both of the examination sessions.

All SSC and HSSC results are announced on our website. Students can access their results from our website using their student ID, whereas the AKU-EB affiliated schools are provided with login information to view student results.

## Any Questions?

For a list of affiliated schools, syllabi, book-list, student learning resources, timetables, past papers, answers to frequently asked questions, and news and events, please visit our website.

We welcome your questions and feedback. Contact us by email, phone or continue to visit our website and Facebook page for regular updates.



آغا خان یونیورسٹی ایگزامینیشن بورڈ

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

The Aga Khan University Examination Board Block-C, IED-PDC, 1-5/B-VII  
Federal B. Area, Karimabad, P.O. Box 13688 Karachi - 75950, Pakistan  
Tel: +92 21 3682 7011-8 | Fax: +92 21 3682 7010 | Mobile: +92 300 829 2268  
Email: [examination.board@aku.edu](mailto:examination.board@aku.edu) Website: [examinationboard.aku.edu](http://examinationboard.aku.edu)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/akueb](http://www.facebook.com/akueb)

# Over 10 Years of Experience

Students scoring 70% and above in AKU-EB HSSC are exempted from the admission test and interview. Students scoring 80% and above are given a full four-year scholarship.

**Sukkur IBA**

Students from AKU-EB are exempted from entrance test and interview if their  
SSC / HSSC score is 85% or above.

Students scoring 80% or above in the AKU-EB SSC part I and HSSC part I are eligible for a scholarship that funds a 2-year IB Diploma Programme.

**United World Colleges**



## Over 30,000 Graduates

## Over 8,000 Unique Questions Developed Each Year

## Over 1,000 Teachers Trained Each Year

## Pakistan

Aga Khan University	NED Uni
COMSATS Institute of Information Technology	Quaid-e-
Habib University	University
University of Karachi	University
King Edward Medical College	
Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)	
National University of Computer and Emerging Science (FAST)	
National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)	

- | NED University of Engineering and Technology
- | Quaid-e-Azam University
- | University of Agriculture
- | University of Punjab