



هيئة جودة التعليم والتدريب
Education & Training Quality Authority
مملكة البحرين - Kingdom of Bahrain

G9 English Language National Examinations Test Specifications Briefing

Directorate of National Examinations

5 December 2023

Agenda

- 1 BQA Strategic Direction and Priorities**
- 2 Directorate of National Examinations (DNE)**
- 3 G9 English Language National Examinations Test Specifications**
- 4 Marking the National Examinations**
- 5 Preparing Students for the Examinations**

BQA Strategic Direction

Vision



To be an effective partner in driving continual quality enhancement for a world-class education and training sectors.

Mission



To play a critical role in advancing quality and raising trust in the education and training sectors, by providing reliable insights in a timely, responsive, and transparent manner.

Values



- Fairness
- Competitiveness
- Sustainability

BQA Objectives and Priorities

**CREATE A HIGH IMPACT ON
NATIONAL EDUCATION AND
TRAINING POLICIES**

- 1 Adaptive organization
- 2 Streamlined for value
- 3 Outputs that improve regulation and quality

BUILD ENABLING STRUCTURES

- 4 A skilled workforce
- 5 Sustainable growth

**INCREASE ENGAGEMENT AND
ACCESSIBILITY**

- 6 Outreach and engagement
- 7 Insights that Improve national policies

Directorate of National Examinations (DNE)

National Examinations Aims

Independently assess students' performance in Bahrain.

Provide information about students' performance, classes and school.

Contribute to improving and developing the education system in Bahrain in line with the international standards and in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders.

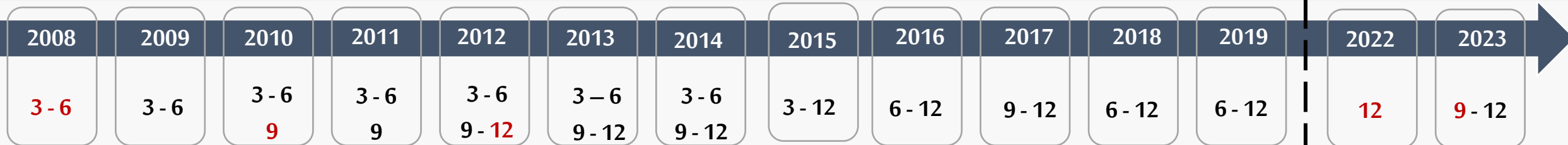
Grade 9:

Measuring students' performance based on the National Curriculum defined by MoE.

Grade 12:

Measuring student's performance after 12 years of schooling in line with the international standards.

National Examinations Implementation since BQA Establishment



Grade 6 Unified Exam

Grades

- **Pilot Examinations**
- **Live Examinations**

Directorate of National Examinations (DNE)

DNE Roles

Developing test specifications

Developing reliable examinations

Implementing examinations

Publishing reports and results

Communicating with stakeholders

G9 National Examinations

Purpose

- Measuring students' performance in Grade 9 based on the National Curriculum as defined by the Ministry of Education in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Providing a beacon of good assessment practice;
- Providing robust information for the monitoring of standards over time.

Subjects

Arabic

Paper 1 (Writing and Listening): Essay questions

Paper 2 (Reading): Productive questions

Maths

One paper (MCQ)

English

Paper 1 (Writing): Essay questions

Paper 2 (Listening and Reading): MCQ

Science

One paper (MCQ)

G9 English Language National Examinations

Purpose

- Measuring core areas of literacy (Writing, Reading, and Listening)
- Developing the ability of Grade 9 students to use English effectively for the purposes of practical communication
- Forming a sound base for the skills required for further study using English as the medium.

Exam Level

Grade 9 examination level is designed to be:

- aligned with Grade 9 curriculum expectations
- comparable to the level described in the Common European Framework as Threshold, Level B1.

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Examination Papers

Paper 1 (Writing)

Parts: 2 parts

Marks: 20 marks

Time: 60 min

Paper 2 (Listening and Reading)

Parts: 5 parts

Marks: 25 marks

Time: 75 min

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Paper 1 - Writing

Part	Competency	Description	Duration	Marks
1	Writing a transactional email.	Students write a transactional email in (80-100) words. The task will comprise 3 functions, for example, describe/explain/justify etc.	60 min	8
2	Write a short piece of continuous prose.	Students write (100-120) words of continuous prose, in response to given input. Each year, the task will require students to write one of the following: a story, a report or an essay. Students will not be given a set of tasks to choose from.		12
Total number of marks				20

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Paper 2- Listening and Reading

Listening

Part	Competency	Description	Duration	Marks
1	Identifying detail, attitude, purpose and opinion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 Short monologues and dialogues (70-90 words each) between two different speakers (male and female) of typical daily situations in informal contexts tested mainly by visual material. - 5 x 3-option MCQs which may include words, numbers or visuals; with an example. 	Approximately 25 min	5
2	Demonstrating general comprehension of detailed information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A monologue testing factual information. (400 – 450 words) - 5 x 3-option MCQs. Initial example included. 		5
Total number of marks				10

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Listening Example – Part 1

Extract 1

M: I'd like two adults' and two children's tickets for the "Princess and the Stone", please.

F: The adult tickets are £8.80 each and children under 15 are half price. Children under 5 are free.

Mmmm. Let me see. It will be £1.40 cheaper if you buy a family ticket for all four of you. That'll cost you £25.

M: Oh, I didn't realise you had family tickets, can I get one please?

1 How much does the man save on the tickets?



A



B



C

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Listening Example – Part 2

The new building is shaped like a huge aeroplane hangar. The floor is covered with sand which means the animals don't have to walk on hard surfaces. Also, it's more convenient for the zoo keepers to sweep these surfaces. And the elephants love playing around and throwing the sand on their backs.

1 There is sand on the floor of the new building because

A it's used to protect the elephants' body.

B it's good for the elephants' feet.

C it's easy for the elephant to clean.

How to do the Listening

- Students will be given the question paper and the answer sheet.
- Students will listen to the CD which includes:
 - the exams instructions
 - the rubrics
- Students have time to read the questions.
- While listening, students answer the questions on the question paper.
- Students hear the recording twice.
- Students complete and check their answers.
- Students have 5 minutes to copy their answers onto the separate bubble answer sheet.
- Students hand in the bubble answer sheet only without the question paper.

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Why is it recommended to answer the questions on the question paper first?

Minimise mistakes

Time management

Avoid incomplete answers

Neatness and clarity

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Paper 2- Listening and Reading

Reading

Part	Competency	Description	Duration	Marks
3	Using appropriate lexis and grammar in context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Text of (120 – 130 words) with 5 item 4-option MCQ lexical cloze tasks including an initial example. - Students must choose one word or phrase from a set of four to fill each gap. 	50 min	5
4	Employing the skills of skimming and scanning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple matching exercise with 5 items including an initial example in the form of descriptions of people (each of 25–35 words) to match to seven short texts each of (40–50 words). 		5
5	Identifying main ideas, attitude, opinion and implied meaning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Text of (290–320) words followed by 5 x 4-option MCQ questions, including an initial example. 		5
Total number of marks				15

Reading Example – Part 4



Julia's best friend Lisa has just moved into a new house and **needs things for her bedroom. Julia wants to make something** that Lisa can **put on her wall.**

A- Announcement from 'Harrison's Gallery'. New exhibition of paintings and photographs from Australia by Juliet Boone. Beautiful paintings that show Australia at its best, from deserts to forests, from the coast to the mountains. The most beautiful plants and flowers have been painted by the artist in the last 5 years.

B- We sell everything from **coloured paper and paints to scissors and glue.** Why spend money buying paintings and decorations when **you can make your own. Paint pictures of flowers and people** or use coloured paper to cut into different shapes. We have everything you need to be creative.

C- Exciting new learning opportunity in the library this week! Paul Jones our computer expert will give free lessons to anyone who wants to do more with their photos than just put them into an album. Paul will show you how to create beautiful books and add messages and dates.

Marking

Participants

DNE Team

Team Leaders

Markers

Process

Photo selection meeting

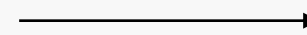
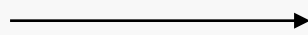
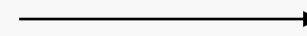
Team leaders meeting

Coordination meeting

Marking

Marking Report

Results



Preparing Students for the Examinations

- Increase students' awareness of the importance of the National Examinations
- Promote learners' independence in the classroom while:
 - reading the instructions on the question paper and the answer sheet
 - reading the rubric
 - reading texts carefully
 - listening to recordings
 - answering examination questions

Preparing Students for the Examinations

- Students should be aware of the duration of the exam and manage to answer within the allocated time.
- Students should be encouraged to answer all the questions.
- Students should write the answers in the right place with a neat and clear handwriting.
- Students should be aware of the given mark for each question.
- **Teachers** must read the results and the Marking reports to identify the strengths and the aspects that need improvement in students' performance to help teachers improve the quality of students responses in future exam sessions.

G9 English Language National Examinations Test Specifications

Paper 1 - Writing

[Question Paper](#)

[Mark scheme](#)

G9 English Language National Examinations Test Specifications

Paper 2 – Listening and Reading

[Question Paper](#)

[Mark scheme](#)

[Tapescript](#)

[Answer Sheet](#)

Test Specifications QR code



Q & A

Thank you