

Education Systems of Middle East

How school works across 14 countries — structure, exams, higher education & more, in plain English.



ABOUT THIS VOLUME

Education around the world.

This volume covers the education systems of **Middle East** — a two-page profile of each country, with structure, compulsory years, curriculum, exams, higher education and more. From K12 Academics, reaching 185 countries every month.

HOW EACH PROFILE WORKS

The left page introduces the system and its structure; the right page covers schools, curriculum, exams and higher education, with the key facts at a glance. Systems evolve, so each links to its full, updated guide online.



Bahrain

EDUCATION IN BAHRAIN

Bahrain, a Gulf island nation, provides free public education for citizens with Arabic as the main language of instruction and English taught from early grades and widely used in higher education and business. Literacy is high, and the government has invested heavily in schooling and in a growing higher-education sector.

STRUCTURE & STAGES

- ✓ **Primary (6 years)** — The foundation stage, beginning around age 6
- ✓ **Intermediate (3 years)** — Completing basic education
- ✓ **Secondary (3 years)** — With academic tracks (such as science, literary, and commercial) and vocational/technical options

COMPULSORY EDUCATION & ENROLMENT

Basic education (primary and intermediate) is free and effectively compulsory for children, beginning around age 6. The school year runs roughly September to June .

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Most Bahraini students attend free government schools run by the Ministry of Education, with instruction primarily in Arabic and English taught throughout. Schools are generally single-sex from the intermediate level, consistent with regional norms.

AT A GLANCE

Languages	Arabic · English
Compulsory	Basic education
Structure	6 + 3 + 3
School year	Sept – June
Higher ed	Univ. of Bahrain
Currency	Dinar (BHD)

PRIVATE & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Bahrain has a large private and international-school sector , offering British, American, IB, Indian, and other curricula — popular with expatriate families and Bahrainis seeking English-medium or international pathways, especially in and around Manama.

CURRICULUM & LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The national curriculum covers Arabic, English, mathematics, the sciences, social studies, and Islamic education . English proficiency is emphasized, reflecting its role in higher education and the economy.

EXAMS & QUALIFICATIONS

Students complete a secondary-school certificate at the end of secondary education, which — along with any track-specific results — governs entry to universities. Private and international schools lead to their respective qualifications (IGCSE/A-Levels, IB, etc.).

READ THE FULL BAHRAIN GUIDE
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Iran

EDUCATION IN IRAN

Iran runs a large education system with Persian (Farsi) as the language of instruction, high literacy, and a strong emphasis on mathematics and the sciences. University admission is dominated by the Konkur — a fiercely competitive national entrance examination. Notably, women make up a majority of Iran's university students. Religious...

STRUCTURE & STAGES

- ✓ **Primary (dabestan, 6 years)** — Ages ~6–12
- ✓ **Lower secondary (3 years)** —
- ✓ **Upper secondary (3 years)** — Academic (theoretical), vocational, or technical, leading to the diploma and the Konkur

COMPULSORY EDUCATION & ENROLMENT

Education is compulsory at the primary level (and effectively expected through lower secondary), beginning around age 6. Public education is free, and the school year runs roughly September to June . Schools are generally single-sex.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Most students attend free public schools , with instruction in Persian. The system is centralized and includes religious and ideological education alongside a strong academic core in mathematics and the sciences.



AT A GLANCE

Language	Persian
Compulsory	Primary+
Structure	6 – 3 – 3
School year	Sept – June
University entry	Konkur
Currency	Rial (IRR)

PRIVATE & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Iran has a private and semi-private school sector (including non-profit and specialized schools such as the selective SAMPAD schools for gifted students), concentrated in the cities.

CURRICULUM & LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The curriculum covers Persian, mathematics, the sciences, social studies, and religious (Islamic) education , with a notable strength in maths and the sciences, reflected in Iran's strong performance in international science olympiads.

EXAMS & QUALIFICATIONS

The pivotal assessment is the Konkur — the national university entrance examination — one of the most competitive exams in the world, whose results determine admission to universities and specific fields. Students first earn a secondary diploma before sitting it.

READ THE FULL IRAN GUIDE
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Iraq

EDUCATION IN IRAQ

Iraq runs an education system with Arabic as the main language of instruction and Kurdish official (and the medium of instruction in the Kurdistan Region , which runs a semi-autonomous system). Once among the strongest systems in the region, Iraqi education was severely damaged by decades of war, sanctions, and conflict, and the country...

STRUCTURE & STAGES

- ✓ **Primary (6 years)** — Ages ~6–12
- ✓ **Intermediate (3 years)** — Lower secondary, ending with a national examination
- ✓ **Preparatory (3 years)** — Upper secondary — scientific or literary tracks — ending with the baccalaureate examination

COMPULSORY EDUCATION & ENROLMENT

Education is compulsory at the primary level (six years) and intended to be free. The school year runs roughly September to June . Rebuilding schools and expanding access — especially in areas affected by conflict — has been a central priority.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Most children attend free public schools , in Arabic (or Kurdish in the Kurdistan Region). The system is centrally run in federal Iraq, with the Kurdistan Regional Government administering its own schools.

PRIVATE & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Iraq has a growing private and international-school sector , concentrated in Baghdad, Erbil, and other cities.

الله أكبر

AT A GLANCE

Languages	Arabic · Kurdish
Compulsory	Primary (6 yrs)
Structure	6 – 3 – 3
School year	Sept – June
University entry	National exams
Currency	Dinar (IQD)

CURRICULUM & LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

Instruction is in Arabic (or Kurdish in the Kurdistan Region), covering language, mathematics, sciences, and social studies, with religious education. English is taught as a foreign language.

EXAMS & QUALIFICATIONS

National ministerial examinations are taken at the end of intermediate school and, decisively, at the end of preparatory school (the baccalaureate) — the latter governing admission to universities and specific faculties.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education includes the University of Baghdad (the largest and most prominent), the University of Mosul, and the University of Basrah, plus the Kurdistan Region's universities (such as the University of Sulaimani, Salahaddin University in Erbil, and the University of Duhok) and a growing private sector.

READ THE FULL IRAQ GUIDE
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Israel

EDUCATION IN ISRAEL

Israel runs an education system distinctive for its parallel streams , reflecting the country's diverse society. Instruction is mainly in Hebrew (with a full Arabic -language stream for Arab citizens), education is free and compulsory from age 3, and the country is renowned for its research universities and strength in technology — the...

STRUCTURE & STAGES

- ✓ **Primary (grades 1–6)** — Ages ~6–12
- ✓ **Middle school (grades 7–9)** —
- ✓ **High school (grades 10–12)** — Leading to the Bagrut

COMPULSORY EDUCATION & ENROLMENT

Education is free and compulsory from age 3 to 18 (through the end of high school). The school year runs September to June . Notably, most Jewish citizens complete mandatory military or national service after high school, so many students begin university a few years later than in other countries.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Most students attend free public schools within one of the streams. The State and State-Religious streams follow the national curriculum; the Arab stream teaches in Arabic; and the Haredi stream operates with significant independence, sometimes with limited secular content.



AT A GLANCE

Languages	Hebrew · Arabic
Compulsory	Ages 3–18
Structure	6 – 3 – 3
School year	Sept – June
University entry	Bagrut + psychometric
Currency	Shekel (ILS)

PRIVATE & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Israel has private and semi-private schools, plus international schools, alongside the publicly funded stream system that dominates enrollment.

CURRICULUM & LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The curriculum covers Hebrew (or Arabic), mathematics, the sciences, history, Bible/religious or civic studies, and English , with strong emphasis on the sciences and technology. English proficiency is high and important for higher education.

EXAMS & QUALIFICATIONS

University admission rests on two things: the Bagrut (matriculation certificate, earned through subject exams across high school) and the Psychometric Entrance Test — a national aptitude exam (comparable to the SAT/GRE) used alongside the Bagrut by universities.

READ THE FULL ISRAEL GUIDE
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Jordan

EDUCATION IN JORDAN

Jordan runs an Arabic-language education system (with English widely taught and used in higher education) known for high literacy — among the highest in the Arab world — and for being a regional education hub that attracts students from across the Middle East. University admission hinges on the high-stakes Tawjihi examination. Jordan...

STRUCTURE & STAGES

- ✓ **Basic education (10 years)** — Compulsory, ages ~6–16
- ✓ **Secondary (2 years)** — Academic or vocational, ending with the Tawjihi

COMPULSORY EDUCATION & ENROLMENT

Basic education (ten years) is free and compulsory , beginning around age 6. Public schooling is free, and the school year runs roughly September to June . To manage demand — including from refugee communities — some schools run in double shifts.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Most students attend free public schools , with instruction in Arabic and English taught throughout. Jordan hosts large numbers of Syrian and Palestinian refugees , and the education system has expanded (including double-shift schooling) to accommodate refugee children.

HOMESCHOOLING

Homeschooling is uncommon in Jordan; the large public and private/international school sectors cover most needs.



AT A GLANCE

Languages	Arabic · English
Compulsory	Basic (10 yrs)
Structure	10 + 2
School year	Sept – June
University entry	Tawjihi
Currency	Dinar (JOD)

PRIVATE & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Jordan has a large private and international-school sector , offering British, American, IB, and other curricula, concentrated in Amman — popular with Jordanian and expatriate families.

CURRICULUM & LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The curriculum covers Arabic, English, mathematics, the sciences, social studies, and Islamic (or Christian) education , with academic and vocational tracks in secondary school. English proficiency is emphasized.

EXAMS & QUALIFICATIONS

The pivotal assessment is the Tawjihi (General Secondary Education Certificate Examination), taken at the end of secondary school — a high-stakes exam whose results determine university admission and field of study.

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Kuwait

EDUCATION IN KUWAIT

Kuwait, a Gulf state, provides free education for its citizens at every level, with Arabic as the main language of instruction and English widely taught and used in higher education. The government invests heavily in education and in scholarships that fund large numbers of Kuwaitis to study abroad. Literacy is high.

STRUCTURE & STAGES

- ✓ **Primary (5 years)** — The foundation stage
- ✓ **Intermediate (4 years)** — Completing compulsory education
- ✓ **Secondary (3 years)** — Leading to university

COMPULSORY EDUCATION & ENROLMENT

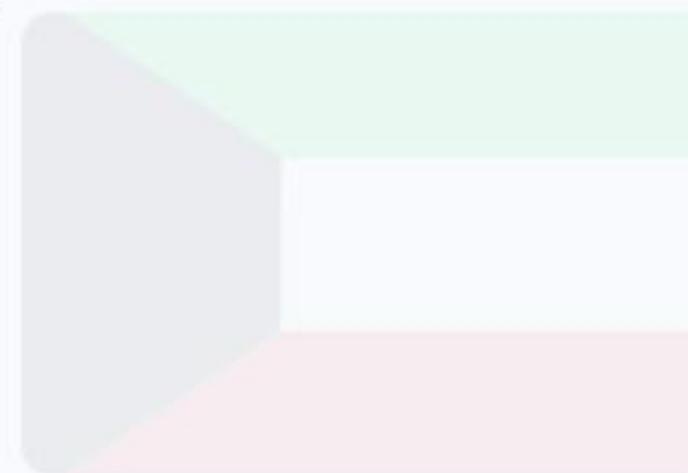
Education is compulsory from age 6 to 14 (primary plus intermediate) and free for citizens. The school year runs roughly September to June , and schools are generally single-sex from an early stage.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Most Kuwaiti students attend free government schools , with instruction in Arabic and English taught throughout. Education is a major area of state investment.

CURRICULUM & LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The national curriculum covers Arabic, English, mathematics, the sciences, social studies, and Islamic education , with English proficiency emphasized for higher education and the workforce.



AT A GLANCE

Languages	Arabic · English
Compulsory	Ages 6–14
Structure	5 – 4 – 3
School year	Sept – June
Higher ed	Kuwait University
Currency	Dinar (KWD)

PRIVATE & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Kuwait has a large private and international-school sector , offering British, American, Indian, and other curricula — popular with expatriate families and Kuwaitis seeking English-medium or international pathways.

EXAMS & QUALIFICATIONS

Students complete a secondary-school certificate that governs university admission; private and international schools lead to their respective qualifications (IGCSE/A-Levels, IB, or American diplomas).

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education is led by the public Kuwait University , alongside a substantial private-university sector — including the American University of Kuwait and the Gulf University for Science and Technology, several affiliated with foreign institutions and teaching in English. The government funds many citizens to study abroad through...

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Lebanon

EDUCATION IN LEBANON

Lebanon runs one of the Arab world's most distinctive education systems: trilingual — with Arabic the official language and French or English used to teach subjects like mathematics and the sciences — and predominantly private , with a majority of students in private (often religious/confessional) schools. Beirut has long been a regional...

STRUCTURE & STAGES

- ✓ **Pre-primary** — Early-childhood education
- ✓ **Elementary / primary (6 years)** — Ages ~6-12
- ✓ **Intermediate (3 years)** — Ending with the Brevet
- ✓ **Secondary (3 years)** — Ending with the Lebanese Baccalaureate

COMPULSORY EDUCATION & ENROLMENT

Education is compulsory from age 6 to 15 and, in public schools, free. The school year runs roughly September to June . In practice, most families use private schools, and cost is a major factor in access, especially amid the economic crisis.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The public school sector is a minority of enrollment; the state runs free public schools, but the majority of Lebanese students attend private schools. Public schools have been especially hard-hit by the economic crisis.



AT A GLANCE

Languages	Arabic · French · English
Compulsory	Ages 6–15
Structure	6 – 3 – 3
School year	Sept – June
University entry	Lebanese Bac
Currency	Pound (LBP)

PRIVATE & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Most Lebanese students attend private schools — many run by religious communities (Catholic, other Christian, and Islamic) or as secular/international institutions — reflecting Lebanon's confessional diversity. Private schools drive the trilingual, internationally oriented character of Lebanese education.

CURRICULUM & LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The curriculum is trilingual : Arabic is the official language, and schools teach in French or English (mathematics and the sciences are typically taught in a foreign language), so most students graduate fluent in Arabic plus French and/or English. Many private schools also offer international programs (French Baccalauréat, IB, or...

SPECIAL EDUCATION & SUPPORT

Special-education provision is developing , delivered largely through private and NGO programs alongside limited public provision; access varies.

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Oman

EDUCATION IN OMAN

Oman, a Gulf sultanate, provides free education for its citizens with Arabic as the main language of instruction and English taught throughout and widely used in higher education. Oman built a modern education system rapidly from 1970 onward, and literacy is now high.

STRUCTURE & STAGES

- ✓ **Basic education (grades 1-10)** — A ten-year cycle covering primary and lower/middle stages
- ✓ **Post-basic education (grades 11-12)** — Leading to the General Education Diploma and university

COMPULSORY EDUCATION & ENROLMENT

Basic education is free and effectively compulsory for children, beginning around age 6. The school year runs roughly September to June .

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Most Omani students attend free government schools , with instruction in Arabic and English taught throughout. The state has invested heavily in expanding and modernizing schooling.

PRIVATE & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Oman has a growing private and international-school sector , offering British, American, Indian, and other curricula, concentrated in Muscat.



AT A GLANCE

Languages	Arabic · English
Compulsory	Basic education
Structure	10 + 2
School year	Sept – June
Higher ed	Sultan Qaboos Univ.
Currency	Rial (OMR)

CURRICULUM & LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The national curriculum covers Arabic, English, mathematics, the sciences, social studies, and Islamic education , with English proficiency emphasized for higher education.

EXAMS & QUALIFICATIONS

Students complete the General Education Diploma at the end of post-basic education, which governs university admission; private and international schools lead to their respective qualifications.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education is led by the public Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) , along with a growing number of private universities and colleges (several with foreign partnerships and English-medium instruction). The government also funds scholarships for study abroad.

READ THE FULL OMAN GUIDE
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Qatar

EDUCATION IN QATAR

Qatar, a wealthy Gulf state, provides free education for its citizens with Arabic as the main language of instruction and English widely taught and used in higher education. Qatar has invested heavily in education through the Qatar Foundation — most visibly in Education City , a Doha campus hosting branch campuses of leading...

STRUCTURE & STAGES

- ✓ **Primary (6 years)** — The foundation stage
- ✓ **Preparatory (3 years)** — Lower secondary
- ✓ **Secondary (3 years)** — Leading to university

COMPULSORY EDUCATION & ENROLMENT

Basic education is free and effectively compulsory for children, beginning around age 6. The school year runs roughly August/September to June . Government schools follow the national curriculum; many families also choose international schools.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Most Qatari students attend free government schools , with instruction in Arabic and English taught throughout. The state has invested substantially in modernizing schools and curricula.

HOMESCHOOLING

Homeschooling is uncommon in Qatar; the large public and private/international school sectors cover most needs.

AT A GLANCE

Languages	Arabic · English
Compulsory	Basic education
Structure	6 + 3 + 3
School year	Aug/Sept – June
Higher ed	Qatar Univ. · Education City
Currency	Riyal (QAR)

PRIVATE & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Qatar has a very large private and international-school sector , offering British, American, IB, Indian, and other curricula — reflecting the country's large expatriate population, concentrated in and around Doha.

CURRICULUM & LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The national curriculum covers Arabic, English, mathematics, the sciences, social studies, and Islamic education , with English proficiency emphasized for higher education and the economy.

EXAMS & QUALIFICATIONS

Students complete a secondary-school certificate that governs university admission; private and international schools lead to their respective qualifications (IGCSE/A-Levels, IB, or American diplomas).

READ THE FULL QATAR GUIDE
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Saudi Arabia

EDUCATION IN SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia, the largest Gulf state, provides free education for its citizens at every level, with Arabic as the main language of instruction and English taught throughout and widely used in higher education. The kingdom has invested enormously in education from oil revenues, and its Vision 2030 reform agenda is reshaping schools and...

STRUCTURE & STAGES

- ✓ **Primary (6 years)** — The foundation stage
- ✓ **Intermediate (3 years)** — Lower secondary
- ✓ **Secondary (3 years)** — Leading to university, with academic and (increasingly) technical tracks

COMPULSORY EDUCATION & ENROLMENT

Basic education is free and effectively compulsory for children, beginning around age 6. The school year runs roughly August to June . Schools have traditionally been single-sex, with reforms underway.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Most Saudi students attend free government schools , with instruction in Arabic, English taught throughout, and Islamic studies a core part of the curriculum. Vision 2030 has driven curriculum modernization and a greater emphasis on skills and English.

HOMESCHOOLING

Homeschooling is uncommon in Saudi Arabia; the large public and private/international school sectors cover most needs.



AT A GLANCE

Languages	Arabic · English
Compulsory	Basic education
Structure	6 + 3 + 3
School year	Aug – June
University entry	Qudurat · Tahsili
Currency	Riyal (SAR)

PRIVATE & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Saudi Arabia has a growing private and international-school sector , offering Saudi, British, American, IB, and other curricula, concentrated in Riyadh, Jeddah, and the Eastern Province.

CURRICULUM & LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The national curriculum covers Arabic, English, mathematics, the sciences, social studies, and Islamic education . Reforms have expanded English, coding, and critical-thinking content, and technical/vocational pathways.

EXAMS & QUALIFICATIONS

- ✓ **Qudurat (GAT)** — The General Aptitude Test
- ✓ **Tahsili (SAAT)** — The Standardized Achievement Admission Test (for science-track students)

READ THE FULL SAUDI ARABIA GUIDE
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Syria

EDUCATION IN SYRIA

Syria runs an Arabic-language education system that, before 2011, provided widespread, free schooling with relatively high literacy. Fourteen years of civil war (2011–2024) devastated the system — destroying schools, displacing millions, and creating a "lost generation" of out-of-school children. Following the fall of the Assad...

STRUCTURE & STAGES

- ✓ **Basic education (9 years)** — Compulsory, ages ~6–15
- ✓ **Secondary (3 years)** — General (scientific or literary) or vocational, ending with the Baccalaureate

COMPULSORY EDUCATION & ENROLMENT

Basic education is compulsory and, in principle, free , beginning around age 6. In practice, access was severely disrupted by the war, and rebuilding is ongoing. The school year runs roughly September to June .

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Most children attended free public schools , with instruction in Arabic. The public system was heavily damaged by the conflict, and provision now varies widely by region.

PRIVATE & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Syria has a private and international-school sector , historically concentrated in Damascus and other cities.

AT A GLANCE

Language	Arabic
Compulsory	Basic (9 yrs)
Structure	9 + 3
School year	Sept – June
University entry	Baccalaureate
Currency	Pound (SYP)

CURRICULUM & LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

Instruction is in Arabic , covering academic subjects, with English (and sometimes French) taught as foreign languages. Curriculum content is among the areas expected to change during the transition.

EXAMS & QUALIFICATIONS

Students complete the Baccalaureate at the end of secondary school, which governs university admission — where and when examinations can be reliably held.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education has centered on the historic University of Damascus (founded 1923) and the University of Aleppo, among others — institutions affected by years of conflict and now operating amid a transitional period.

HOMESCHOOLING

Homeschooling is not a formalized route ; the priority is restoring access to schooling.

READ THE FULL SYRIA GUIDE
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Turkey

EDUCATION IN TURKEY

Turkey (Türkiye) runs a large, centralized education system under the Ministry of National Education, with Turkish as the language of instruction. Rooted in Atatürk's secular republican reforms, it now mandates twelve years of compulsory schooling under the "4+4+4" structure. Access to university is famously competitive, filtered through...

STRUCTURE & STAGES

- ✓ **Primary (İlkokul, 4 years)** — Grades 1–4, ages ~6–10
- ✓ **Lower secondary (Ortaokul, 4 years)** — Grades 5–8 — including the option of imam-hatip (religious) middle schools
- ✓ **Upper secondary (Lise, 4 years)** — Grades 9–12 — general/Anatolian, science, social sciences, vocational-technical, imam-hatip, fine arts, or sports high schools

COMPULSORY EDUCATION & ENROLMENT

Education is free and compulsory for twelve years , from age 6 to 18. The school year runs September to June . A new national curriculum (the "Century of Türkiye Education Model") has been rolling out from 2024–25.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Most students attend free public schools under a nationally uniform curriculum. Entry to selective high schools (science, social sciences, some Anatolian and imam-hatip schools) is by a central exam, the LGS . A notable feature is the large and expanding network of imam-hatip schools , which combine the standard curriculum with Islamic...



AT A GLANCE

Language	Turkish
Compulsory	Ages 6–18
Structure	4 – 4 – 4
School year	Sept – June
University entry	YKS
Currency	Lira (TRY)

PRIVATE & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Turkey has a substantial private and international-school sector (offering IB, British, and American curricula), concentrated in Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir.

CURRICULUM & LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The curriculum covers Turkish language and literature, mathematics, the sciences, social studies, religious culture and ethics, and foreign languages (English is widely taught; some schools and universities teach in English).

EXAMS & QUALIFICATIONS

- ✓ **LGS** — The high-school entrance exam, for placement into selective schools
- ✓ **YKS** — The Higher Education Institutions Exam — the university-entrance exam, comprising the Basic Proficiency Test (TYT), the Field Proficiency Test (AYT)...

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MIDDLE EAST — 13 OF 14

United Arab Emirates

EDUCATION IN UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The United Arab Emirates, a wealthy Gulf federation of seven emirates, provides free education for its citizens , with Arabic as the official language and English extremely widely used — a reflection of the fact that the great majority of residents are expatriates. The UAE has invested heavily in education and become a leading hub for...

STRUCTURE & STAGES

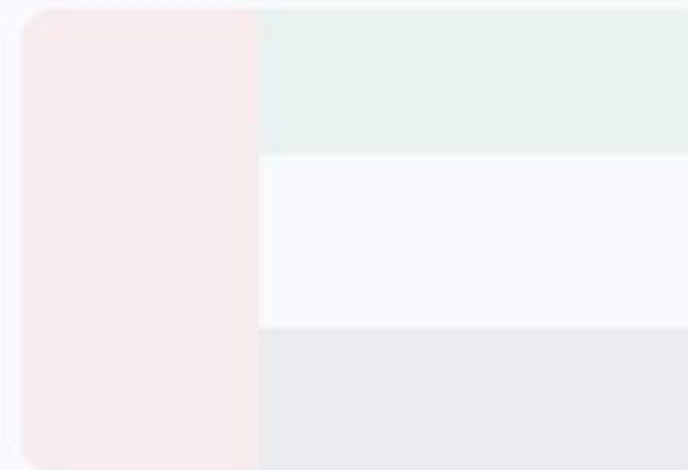
- ✓ **Kindergarten** — Early years
- ✓ **Cycle 1 (primary, ~5 years)** —
- ✓ **Cycle 2 (preparatory, ~4 years)** —
- ✓ **Cycle 3 (secondary, ~3 years)** — Leading to university

COMPULSORY EDUCATION & ENROLMENT

Basic education is free and compulsory for citizens , beginning around age 6. School calendars typically run August/September to June . Because so many residents are expatriates, a very large share of children attend private and international schools.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Emirati students attend free government schools , with Arabic and Islamic studies core and English taught throughout. The government has driven major reforms to modernize curricula and boost English, STEM, and skills.



AT A GLANCE

Languages	Arabic · English
Compulsory	Basic education
Structure	KG + 5 + 4 + 3
School year	Aug/Sept – June
Higher ed	Branch campuses
Currency	Dirham (AED)

PRIVATE & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

The UAE has one of the world's largest and most diverse international-school sectors : British, American, Indian, IB, and many other curricula operate across the emirates (regulated by bodies such as Dubai's KHDA), serving the huge expatriate population.

CURRICULUM & LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

Government schools follow the national curriculum (Arabic, English, mathematics, the sciences, social studies, and Islamic education); private schools follow their respective national or international curricula.

EXAMS & QUALIFICATIONS

For national institutions, university admission uses the secondary certificate together with the EmSAT (the Emirates Standardized Test); international schools lead to their own qualifications (IGCSE/A-Levels, IB, American diplomas, etc.).

READ THE FULL UNITED ARAB EMIRATES GUIDE
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Yemen

EDUCATION IN YEMEN

Yemen runs an Arabic-language education system that, even before the current war, faced severe challenges of poverty and low enrollment — especially for girls. Since 2014–15, conflict has devastated the system , damaging schools, leaving teachers unpaid, and forcing millions of children out of school in what has been called one of the...

STRUCTURE & STAGES

- ✓ **Basic education (9 years)** — Compulsory, ages ~6–15
- ✓ **Secondary (3 years)** — General (scientific or literary), ending with a secondary certificate

COMPULSORY EDUCATION & ENROLMENT

Basic education is compulsory and intended to be free , beginning around age 6. In practice, access — already limited before the war — has been catastrophically disrupted, with wide gaps for girls and rural children.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Most children attended public schools , with instruction in Arabic, alongside Quranic schooling. The public system is now severely degraded in conflict-affected areas.

PRIVATE & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Yemen has a private and religious school sector , concentrated in the cities — also heavily affected by the conflict.

AT A GLANCE

Language	Arabic
Compulsory	Basic (9 yrs)
Structure	9 + 3
School year	Sept – June
University entry	Secondary certificate
Currency	Rial (YER)

CURRICULUM & LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

Instruction is in Arabic , covering academic subjects and Islamic education, with English taught as a foreign language.

EXAMS & QUALIFICATIONS

Students complete a secondary-school certificate at the end of secondary education, which governs university admission — where and when examinations can be held.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education has centered on Sana'a University and the University of Aden , among others — all severely affected by the conflict and the country's division.

SPECIAL EDUCATION & SUPPORT

Special-education provision is minimal and further strained by the crisis.

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