**FREQUENTLY ASKS QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

1. **What is APSACS Revised Assessment Framework? Why have the changes been made?**

Ans: APSAC System has developed a comprehensive **Skill-Based Assessment Framework i**n order to bring its students at par with latest Intl standards. In this regard, Embedded Assessments have been introduced to ensure standardized execution of classroom-based assessment and will also prepare the students for APSACS centralized exams, while meeting the purposes of education as articulated in **National Educational Framework** (NEF).

As per revised policy, instead of assessment as a one-time event (C.P), more focus has been laid on continuous assessment (taken after regular intervals during teaching), frequent feedback and opportunities for students to show their conceptual understanding & focus on the classroom teaching.

"**Embedded Continuous Assessment**" aims to eliminate reliance on specific datasheets or syllabus, thus promoting continuous learning (instead of rote learning of specific topics).  Teacher will ensure reinforcement of the taught concept (after the completion of the main concept or chapter) before taking any embedded assessment. In case of being absent (due to genuine reason), the teacher will facilitate students through make-up assessment (towards the end of the term).

The change has been made to ensure stress free learning and+ more time has been allocated for **holistic development**, i.e. CCA activities, sports opportunities, social & life skills, rather than focusing solely on memorization and writing skills during specific weeks. Additionally, Mondays have been designated as "**NO Test Day**" to ensure relaxed & happy weekends.

**JUNIOR SCHOOL**

1. **Will there be any Check Points in Junior School?**

Ans: Check points will not be held in Junior School. Only continuous embedded assessments will be taken during regular teaching learning within a class. No centralized assessment / exams will be carried out in Junior School, in any class.

1. **From when teachers will start taking embedded Assessments?**

Ans: Continuous Embedded Assessments are spread over the entire term. Teachers will start taking the embedded assessment after the 3rd teaching week. Not more than 2 assessments to be taken per week and not more than one assessment to be taken per day. There will be no Assessment on Monday.

1. **Will a separate period be allocated for embedded assessment?**

Ans: As the embedded assessment is a part of regular teaching and learning practice; therefore, it will be taken during regular teaching period. No separate / zero period is allocated to conduct the embedded assessment.

1. **Indicate which subjects are designated for written tests and which are set for oral assessment?**

Ans. Assessment of English, Urdu and Math will be written, whereas, assessment of Waqfiat-e-Aama and Islamiyat will be taken orally.

1. **Where (notebook / sheet) will the embedded assessment be taken?**

Ans: Embedded assessments are ongoing teaching practices. They can be taken on notebooks, loose sheets, worksheets or workbooks (as per the demand of the subject / teacher’s discretion).

1. **Is Online assignment mandatory in Junior school?**

Ans: Online assignments are optional (to be completed by each child and submitted as per instructions / suggested by the subject teacher). However, marks for Online assignments will not be reflected in the report card (for Junior School) for this year only.

1. **What about the Progress Review Session / PTM schedule?**

Ans: There will be 2 x Progress Review Sessions in first term and One Progress Review Session / PTM in the second term (total 3 x Progress Review Sessions). Intimation about these Progress Review Sessions (PTMs) will be shared by the schools.

1. **Will the Listening, Speaking, and Mental Math criteria be pasted in notebooks?**

Ans: Yes, teachers will mention the criteria along with the date, signature and obtained marks to intimate the parents. Students will be informed about this criteria beforehand.

1. **Why do parents have to purchase a clear file?**

Ans. Record of students’ written activities, worksheets, and assessments (if taken on loose sheets) will be kept in the clear file (portfolio) side by side and shared with the parents before each Progress Review Session (PTM).

1. **Will the solved and checked worksheets be returned to the students at the end of each term?**

Ans: Yes, the solved and attempted worksheets will be returned to the students at the end of each term.

1. **In case, a student misses any particular assessment in class I-III due to some genuine reason, how will the school facilitate that case?**

Ans: To facilitate the genuine cases only, the school will arrange a make-up assessment of that specific missed topic/component/skill during the revision week, after the completion of teaching weeks. The school administration will guide & inform the parents in this regard.

1. **When will the make-up assessment be taken?**

Ans: For the pending/leftover assessments (genuine cases only), Make-up Assessments are to be planned in the revision week.

1. **Will there be any spot test?**

Ans: There are no spot tests. Only continuous embedded assessments (after recap / reinforcement of the concepts) will be held as per the requirement of LOs.

1. **What is the Promotion Detention Policy for Junior School?**

Ans. Promotion and Detention Policy is as under:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Core Subjects** | **Promotion Criteria** | **Non-Core Subjects** | **Promotion Criteria** |
| Eng, Urdu, Mathematics | E Grade  (45% and above each subject) | Waqfiat-e-Aama, Islamiyat | E Grade  (45% and above each subject) |

* There is no conditional/double promotion. No average marks will be awarded in the consolidated result.
* Students of Class III must secure 45% marks in the overall consolidated result / total to be eligible for promotion to Class IV.

Detention Rules. Any student who is unable to meet the promotion criteria is to be detained. Following are not to be promoted.

* + - A student who remains unsuccessful in **two core subjects**.
    - A student who remains unsuccessful in **one core** & **two non-core subjs**.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

1. **Will there be any Check Points in Middle School?**

Ans: Check points will not be held at any level. Continuous Embedded Assessments will be held during regular teaching learning within a class. Centralized Assessment (IV-V) & Exams (VI-VIII) will be carried out in Middle School.

1. **From when teachers will start taking embedded Assessments?**

Ans: Continuous Embedded Assessments are a part of regular teaching learning. Teachers will start taking the these assessment after the 3rd teaching week. Not more than 2 assessments to be taken per week and not more than 1 assessment to be taken per day. There will be no Assessment on Monday.

1. **Will a separate period be allocated for embedded assessment?**

Ans: As the embedded assessment is a part of regular teaching and learning practice; therefore, it will be taken during the regular teaching period. No separate period is allocated to conduct the embedded assessment.

1. **Is Online assignment mandatory in Middle school?**

Ans: Online assignments are to be completed by each child and to be submitted as per instructions by the subject teacher. However, this year's report card will not reflect marks for Online assignments.

1. **Where (notebook / sheets) will the embedded assessment be taken?**

Ans: Embedded assessments are ongoing teaching practices. They can be taken on notebooks, loose sheets, worksheets or workbooks (as per the demand of the subject / teacher’s discretion).

1. **Will the Listening, Speaking, and Mental Math criteria be pasted in notebooks?**

Ans: Yes, teachers will mention the criteria along with the date, signature and obtained marks to inform the parents. Students will be informed about the criteria beforehand.

1. **Why do parents have to purchase a clear file?**

Ans. Record of students’ written activities, worksheets and assessments (if taken on loose sheets) will kept in the clear file (portfolio) side by side and shared with the parents before each Progress Review Session (PTM).

1. **Will the solved and checked worksheets be returned to the students before term exams?**

Ans: Yes, the solved and checked worksheets will be returned to the students before term exams to facilitate them in their Exam preparation.

1. **Guide us about the marks of Online Assessments.**

Ans: Online Assessments (IV-VIII), will be available to the students through apms.quiz.pk for English, Urdu, Math, and Science, for self-assessment or concept reinforcement only. Each child will have his/her login & password. Their marks will neither be reflected in the progress report noir will be added in final consolidated result. Please consult school administration for details.

1. **What about the Progress Review Session / PTM schedule?**

Ans: There will be Progress Review Sessions in the first term and in the second term. Intimation about these Progress Review Sessions (PTMs) will be shared by the schools.

1. **In case, a student misses any particular assessment in class IV-VIII due to some genuine reason, how will the school facilitate that case?**

Ans: To facilitate the genuine cases of class IV-V, the school will arrange a make-up assessment of that specific missed topic/component/skill during the revision week, after the completion of teaching weeks. The school administration will guide & inform the parents in this regard.

For cls VI-VIII: Teachers will facilitate students by taking additional assessments (unannounced) during teaching learning. In case of habitual absenteeism, marks will be deducted, resulting in a compromised Term End Result.

1. **When will the make-up assessment be taken?**

Ans: For the pending/left over-assessments (genuine cases only), Make-up Assessment (Class IV-V Only) are to be planned in the revision week.

1. **Will the Paper of Tarjama tul Quran be separate or part of Islamiyat (cl VI-VIII)?**

Ans: There will be one paper for Islamiyat & Tarjama tul Quran in which Sec A & B will be based on the assessment of Islamiyat and Section C is for the assessment of Tarjma tul Quran.

1. **Guide us about Centralized Assessment and Exam Papers.**

Ans: **Centralized Assessment** **For class IV and V**. Centralized Assessment of 35 marks (English, Urdu, Math Science only) will be conducted at the end of each term.

**Centralized Exams For class VI – VIII**. Centralized Exams will be conducted for all the subjects, at the end of each term.

1. **What is the Promotion and Detention Policy in Middle School?**

Promotion and Detention

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Core Subjects** | **Promotion Criteria** | **Non-Core Subjects** | **Promotion Criteria** |
| IV-V | Eng, Urdu, Mathematics, Science | D Grade  (50% and above in each subject) | Social Studies, Islamiyat, Computer Science | E Grade  (45% and above in each subject) |
| VI-VIII | History, Geography, Islamiyat & Computer Sci. |

* Final consolidated result will comprise of 50% of 1st Term & 50% of 2nd Term, each comprising 40% of formative and 60% of summative assessment.
* There is no conditional/double promotion. No average marks will be awarded in the consolidated result.

Detention Rules. Any student who is unable to meet the promotion criteria is to be detained. The following are not to be promoted.

* + - A student who remains unsuccessful in **three core subjects**.
    - A student who remains unsuccessful in **two core** & **one non-core subject**.
    - A student who remains unsuccessful in **one core** & **all non-core subjects.**
    - Double Detention. If a student is unable to qualify for promotion in 2 consecutive academic yrs, parents are to be asked to withdraw him / her from school.

1. **Will the datasheet for Centralized Assessments / Exams (IV-VIII) be shared?**

Ans: Yes, it will be shared by APSACS on the website 2-3 weeks before the exams (as per previous practice).

**GENERAL**

1. **What is the difference between Check Points and Embedded Assessment?**

Ans: Checkpoints were announced assessments of significant topics only, spread over 5-6 days taken twice/ thrice in a term in Middle/Junior School respectively.

Continuous Embedded Assessments, on the other hand, are unannounced assessments of all the concepts, covered in a unit/chapter during regular teaching and learning.

1. **Will the C.W be assessed for Junior and Middle school?**

Ans: C.W assessment has been discontinued for both Junior and Middle school.

1. **Will the students get a Block Syllabus for the Centralized Assessment/ Centralized Exams? Who will provide it?**

Ans: APSACS will provide Block Syllabus for class IV-VIII two to three weeks before the Centralized Assessment/Exams. All the LOs covered in the e specific term (class VI-VIII) will be assessed in Exam Papers. However, for syllabus covered in first Term will not be assessed again in the second Term.

1. **What if parents want to check the overall performance of their ward in embedded assessments?**

Ans: Marks of embedded assessments (all the subjects) are recorded in the Subject Record Sheets by the subject teacher however there are different ways to share students’ performance in the assessments, for which a teacher is required to:

* 1. check and return the notebooks timely to the students with feedforward remarks.
  2. share the Portfolio with parents before the Progress Review Session to give a clear picture of the child’s progress in the attempted assessments.

1. **What is the Policy for Hifz e Quran?**

Ans: The Hifz-e-Quran Policy introduced by APSACS offers guidelines for students interested in memorizing the Quran. It outlines procedures for their transition back into mainstream education after completing the hifz.

1. **What are the conditions for leaving & joining back the school for Hifz e Quarn?**

Ans: Students can opt for hifz and the maximum duration allowed for completing the memorization is 2 years if he can score 75% marks in the final term exam of the class, he has to leave the school.

1. **What are the conditions for APSACS students to continue their studies after Hifz-e-Quran?**

Ans: After completing Hifz, APSACS students can rejoin school without any admission fees. If a student leaves school for Hifz after passing Class IV with 75% marks, they will directly enter Class VII without any admission test or fees. However, students leaving in Class VII for Hifz will be placed in Class VIII to bridge academic gaps for better performance in Class IX external exams.

The following conditions must be met:

* 1. Submission of a verified Hifz-ul-Quran Certificate/sanad from a recognized institution.
  2. Parents must pay tuition fees during the Hifz period to ensure continued enrollment.

1. **What are the conditions for non-APSACS students to continue their studies after Hifz-e-Quran?**
2. Regular admission procedures are to be followed by the school administration.
3. Entrance tests in core subjects (English, Urdu, Math) and Hifz-e-Quran are mandatory.
4. Placement in classes is based on student’s performance in the admission test.
5. Submission of a verified Certificate/sanad of Hifz-ul-Quran from a recognized institute/Jaamia/Madrassa is required.
6. **What is Short-Term Migration (STM)?**

Ans: Short Term Migration (STM) means permission to attend an APSAC for a short duration, depending on the circumstances leading to the requirement. This will include permission to attend classes and appear in all Assessments / Examinations held during this period, however, any dissimilarity in the syllabus covered (Cold & Warm Regions) will not be the responsibility of the school authorities.

1. **What is Holistic Development Record (HDR)?**

Ans: To highlight the significance of students' social-emotional skills and well-being, in promoting the overall health and happiness of the child, Holistic Development Record is introduced by APSACS. This record will be generated at the end of each term and can be viewed by the parents on AIS along with the Term Progress Report.

1. **What are Non-Academic Awards?**

Ans: Non-Academic Awards are the Achievement Certificates awarded to students in the following areas:

* + - 1. Attendance
      2. Conduct
      3. Sports
      4. Best Personality
      5. Cocurricular Activities
      6. Online Assignment

1. **What is the APSACS Scholarship Scheme?**

Ans: APSACS provides scholarships to students based on their academic achievements. The scholarships consist of cash awards covering 50% of tuition fees and 50% of books and stationery, in fol categories: -

* 1. Academic.
  2. Sports.
  3. Support.

For details, please consult school administration.

1. **What are the conditions to get an academic scholarship?**

Ans: To qualify for academic scholarship, students must meet certain eligibility requirements, including:

* 1. Successful completion of the academic year in respective APSACs
  2. Outstanding academic performance within a region.
  3. Exceptional performance in national/international-level sports activities.
  4. Serving as a role model in terms of punctuality, discipline, responsibility, hard work, reliability, and honesty.
  5. Students awarded APSACS Centralized Scholarship will not be considered for other scholarships.

SSC and HSSC Students are awarded scholarships by FBISE (Federal Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education), hence not eligible for APSACS Scholarship.

1. **What is APSACS Support Scholarship?**

Ans: APSACS Support Scholarship are awarded (regional level) to the deserving students to help them to accomplish their academic goals within the school.

1. **What is APSACS Sport Scholarship?**

Ans: Sport Scholarship is awarded to APSACS athletes performing extraordinary performance at national & international level.

1. **What type of interactive sessions will be offered by the school for Parents during the session?**

Ans: Following **types of interactive sessions** will be held:

* + 1. **Orientation Session, at the beginning of the year**. Soon after the Academic Session starts schools orientate the parents on briefs of the policy matters (Teaching pedagogies, Assessment plans, Awards policy, Promotion Detention rules, CCAs, Sports, etc).
    2. **Progress Review Sessions**,at the middle & end of the Term.

There will be One Progress Review Session / PTM and one end of term PTM in the first term. One Progress Review Session will be held in the second term and final **Result & Prize Distribution ceremony will be held** at end-of-academic year.

1. **What is APSACS Policy about cheating cases?**

Ans: If cheating is detected, either by an invigilator during an examination or by the subject teacher when checking / marking scripts, a mark of zero to be recorded. Clear proof is needed before any action is taken. All students must be warned against unfair practices before the start of the examination. Parents must be called to the school to discuss any dishonest practice carried out by their child.

1. **What will be the Award Policy in class I-VIII?**
2. Class positions will not be announced.
3. Subject-based Distinctions, at least one per subject including Arts, across all sections of a grade, will be recognized.
4. Students achieving this distinction will receive a Certificate at the end of each academic year.
5. In case of a tie / many students with distinction, a certificate will be given to both / all students.
6. **Why is it important to fill out the Academic Feedback Form? How can parents use it to address concerns about teaching and learning?**

Ans: The Academic Feedback Form will be provided to parents once per term before the Progress Review Session. All subject teachers will give feedback on students’ performance and suggest areas for improvement, giving parents a clear understanding of their child’s progress in each subject. Students will also share their learning experiences in the same form. Parents will receive the form along with the Portfolio before the Progress Review Session and can use it to provide feedback and address any concerns they may have.