



The Apple International School, Dubai

مدرسة التفاحة العالمية – دبي

ACADEMICS AND ASSESSMENT

Guiding Principles and Protocol

HOMEWORK: STATEMENT OF POSITION, TYPES AND ASSESSMENT

FOLLOW UP PROTOCOL

- **Definition**

Any assignment that has been allotted as Homework is an Extension to the teaching and learning, to assess Comprehension and develop better understanding of the text.

- **Statement of Position:**

"Assessment is incomplete unless it is manifested in a written work done independently by a student. Homework is assigned on a regular basis, to ensure that teaching-learning is being achieved as envisioned. The teachers attempt to achieve a level of understanding and comprehension. The teacher's objectives find fulfillment in Homework, that is generally an extension to the class work."

- **Why is Homework assigned?**

- ✓ Ensure that Parents are aware of the expectations.
- ✓ Raise the Standard of Attainment.

- ✓ Aid and maximize learning at home, and make learning at home purposeful.
 - ✓ Home-School links are strengthened. Parents' role as co-educators is confirmed.
 - ✓ Attitudes and Educational habits such as research, time management, habits of study, concentration and self-discipline are re-enforced.
 - ✓ Allow for practicing, extending and consolidating work done in class.
 - ✓ Provide training for students in planning and organizing time.
 - ✓ Develop a range of skills in identifying and using information resources
 - ✓ Stimulate individual initiative, personal responsibility and self-direction.
 - ✓ Provide parents with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children.
 - ✓ Means of Challenge and stimulus to gifted and talented children.
- **Nature of Homework**
 - The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's school career.
 - Amount and frequency of homework increases as a pupil moves on to higher grades.
 - Homework should not cause undue stress on pupils.
 - It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.

↳ Types of Homework

The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations. It is important that students of all ages have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

The three main types of homework are:

Practice exercises – providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:

- Consolidation exercise e.g. mathematics, including memorization of tables.
- practicing for mastery e.g. spelling words.
- revising information about a current topic.
- practicing words or phrases learnt in a language other than English.
- Reading for pleasure.
- Essay writing.

Preparatory Homework – providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

- Background reading.
- reading e.g. English text for class discussion.
- Researching topics for a class unit of work.
- Collecting items e.g. geometric shapes.

Extension Assignments – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, include:

- writing e.g. a book review.
- making or designing something e.g. an art work.
- Investigations e.g. science, social science.
- researching e.g. history, local news.
- Information and retrieval skills e.g. using a home computer to find material on the internet.
- monitoring e.g. advertising in particular newspapers.

Wherever possible, homework should recognize the place of technology in today's world and the benefits of using technology such as home computers, email and the internet for organizing and accessing information.

NOTE: However, teachers should have regard for equity issues when setting homework that relies upon the use of technology. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged.

In secondary school, homework should develop in students' habits of reviewing work undertaken in class. It is expected that homework will be set on a regular basis in each subject. Coordination across faculties is essential to accommodate competing demands in regard to homework, assessment tasks, assignments and examination preparation. This is particularly important in the secondary school. There are times when students should be provided with the opportunity to negotiate the amount, type and time frames of homework. The quality of homework will be enhanced by students getting expert advice about homework and study skills through seminars and study days. Homework diaries are useful to develop students' organizational skills and time management, and to

improve home-school communication. As students move into the senior school, it is expected that homework demands will increase.

↳ **Responsibilities of Teachers**

- Assign relevant, challenging and meaningful homework that reinforces classroom learning.
- Give clear instructions and make sure students understand the purpose.
- Provide appropriate and timely response / feedback to all homework assignments.
- Involve parents and contact them if a pattern of late or incomplete homework develops.

↳ **Expectations**

Parents can help by:

- Taking an active interest in homework.
- Ensuring that there is time set aside for homework.
- Encouraging and supporting students to complete homework.
- Providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study.
- Encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events.
- Assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work, if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set.
- Communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.
- Alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected.

Teachers can help by:

- Explaining to students and their parents or caregivers the purpose and benefits of homework.
- Ensuring students and parents are aware of the school's homework policy.

- Providing quality homework activities related to class work.
- Setting a suitable amount of relevant homework which is appropriate to the ability of each student.
- Ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed.
- Giving students sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account, as far as possible, competing home obligations and extracurricular activities and homework set by other teachers.
- Marking homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students and parents.
- Alerting parents of any developing problems concerning their children's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework.

Students can help by:

- Being aware of the importance of homework.
- Being aware of their school's homework policy.
- Completing homework within the given time frame.
- Alerting parents to homework expectations.
- Seeking assistance from teachers and parents when difficulties arise.
- Showing their homework to their parents (this is perhaps not as important in senior high school years).
- Ensuring homework is of a high standard.
- Organizing their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If a child is absent for a period of time due to an illness, the parent should ensure that homework is completed.

Duration:

1. FS : 45 minutes to 1 hour
2. Primary : 1 hour – 1 ½ hour
3. Secondary : 2 hours

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