**Education Department in Pakistan**

Education in [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) is overseen by the Federal Ministry of Education and the [provincial governments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Pakistan#Provincial_governments), whereas the federal government mostly assists in curriculum development, accreditation and in the financing of research and development. Article 25-A of [Constitution of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Pakistan) obligates the state to provide free and compulsory quality education to children of the age group 5 to 16 years. "The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen years in such a manner as may be determined by law".

The education system in Pakistan is generally divided into six levels:

[preschool](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preschool) (for the age from 3 to 5 years), [primary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primary_education) (grades one through five), [middle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_school) (grades six through eight), [high](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secondary_education) (grades nine and ten, leading to the [Secondary School Certificate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secondary_School_Certificate) or SSC), [intermediate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secondary_education) (grades eleven and twelve, leading to a [Higher Secondary School Certificate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_Secondary_School_Certificate) or HSSC), and [university](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University) programs leading to [undergraduate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Undergraduate) and [graduate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graduate_school) degrees.

**Primary Education**

Only 68% of Pakistani children finish primary school education.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Pakistan#cite_note-12) The standard national system of education is mainly inspired from the [English educational system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_England). [Pre-school](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-school) education is designed for 3–5 years old and usually consists of three stages: Play Group, [Nursery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nursery_school) and [Kindergarten](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kindergarten) (also called 'KG' or 'Prep'). After pre-school education, students go through [junior school](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Junior_school) from grades 1 to 5. This is followed by [middle school](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_school) from grades 6 to 8. At middle school, [single-sex education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single-sex_education) is usually preferred by the community, but [co-education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Co-education) is also common in urban cities. The curriculum is usually subject to the institution. The eight commonly examined disciplines are:

[Arts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arts)

[Computer Studies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_science) and [ICT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_and_Communication_Technology)

[General Science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Science) (including [Physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics), [Chemistry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemistry) and [Biology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biology))

Modern languages with literature i.e. [Urdu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urdu_language) and [English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language)

[Mathematics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematics)

[Religious Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_Education) i.e. [Islamic Studies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamiyat)

[Social Studies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Studies) (including [Civics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civics), [Geography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography), [History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History), [Economics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economics), [Sociology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociology) and sometimes elements of [law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law), [politics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics) and [PHSE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHSE))

Most schools also offer [drama studies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drama), [music](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music) and [physical education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_education) but these are usually not examined or marked. [Home economics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_economics) is sometimes taught to female students, whereas topics related to [astronomy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astronomy), [environmental management](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_management) and [psychology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychology) are frequently included in textbooks of general science. Sometimes [archaeology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeology) and [anthropology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropology) are extensively taught in textbooks of social studies. [SRE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sex_and_Relationships_Education) is not taught at most schools in Pakistan although this trend is being rebuked by some urban schools. Provincial and regional languages such as [Punjabi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjabi_language), [Sindhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindhi_language), [Pashto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pashto_language) and others may be taught in their respective provinces, particularly in language-medium schools. Some institutes give instruction in foreign languages such as [German](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_language), [Turkish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_language), [Arabic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language), [Persian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_language), [French](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_language) and [Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_language). The language of instruction depends on the nature of the institution itself, whether it is an English-medium school or an Urdu-medium school.

As of 2009, Pakistan faces a net primary school attendance rate for both sexes of 66 percent: a figure below estimated world average of 90 percent.

Pakistan's poor performance in the education sector is mainly caused by the low level of public investment. As of 2007, public expenditure on education was 2.2 percent of GNPs, a marginal increase from 2 percent before 1984-85. In addition, the allocation of government funds is skewed towards higher education, allowing the upper income class to reap the majority of the benefits of public subsidy on education. Lower education institutions such as primary schools suffer under such conditions as the lower income classes are unable to enjoy subsidies and quality education. As a result, Pakistan has one of the lowest rates of literacy in the world and the lowest among countries of comparative resources and socio-economic situations.

**Secondary Education**

Secondary education in Pakistan begins from grade 9 and lasts for four years. After end of each of the school years, students are required to pass a national examination administered by a regional Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (or BISE).

Upon completion of grade 9, students are expected to take a standardised test in each of the first parts of their academic subjects. They again give these tests of the second parts of the same courses at the end of grade 10. Upon successful completion of these examinations, they are awarded a [Secondary School Certificate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secondary_School_Certificate) (or SSC). This is locally termed a '[matriculation certificate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matriculation_in_Pakistan)' or 'matric' for short. The curriculum usually includes a combination of eight courses including electives (such as Biology, Chemistry, Computer and Physics) as well as compulsory subjects (such as Mathematics, English, Urdu, Islamic studies and Pakistan Studies).

Students then enter an [intermediate college](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Junior_college) and complete grades 11 and 12. Upon completion of each of the two grades, they again take standardised tests in their academic subjects. Upon successful completion of these examinations, students are awarded the [Higher Secondary School Certificate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_Secondary_School_Certificate) (or HSSC). This level of education is also called the FSc/FA/ICS or 'intermediate'. There are many streams students can choose for their 11 and 12 grades, such as pre-medical, pre-engineering, humanities (or social sciences), computer science and commerce. Each stream consists of three electives and as well as three compulsory subjects of English, Urdu, Islamiat (grade 11 only) and Pakistan Studies (grade 12 only).

Alternative qualifications in Pakistan are available but are maintained by other [examination boards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Examination_board) instead of BISE. Most common alternative is the [General Certificate of Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Certificate_of_Education) (or GCE), where SSC and HSSC are replaced by [Ordinary Level](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordinary_Level) (or O Level) and [Advanced Level](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_Level) (or A Level) respectively. Other qualifications include [IGCSE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_General_Certificate_of_Secondary_Education) which replaces SSC. GCE and GCSE O Level, IGCSE and GCE AS/A Level are managed by British examination boards of [CIE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Cambridge_International_Examinations) of the [Cambridge Assessment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambridge_Assessment) and/or Edexcel International of the [Pearson PLC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pearson_PLC). Generally, 8-10 courses are selected by students at GCE O Levels and 3-5 at GCE A Levels.

[Advanced Placement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_Placement) (or AP) is an alternative option but much less common than GCE or IGCSE. This replaces the secondary school education as 'High School Education' instead. AP exams are monitored by a North American examination board, [College Board](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_Board), and can only be given under supervision of centers which are registered with the College Board, unlike GCE O/AS/A Level and IGCSE which can be given privately.

Another type of education in Pakistan is called "Technical Education" and combines technical and vocational education. The vocational curriculum starts at grade 5 and ends with grade 10. Three boards, the Punjab Board of Technical Education (PBTE), KPK Board of Technical Education (KPKBTE) and Sindh Board of Technical Education (SBTE) offering Matric Tech. course called [Technical School Certificate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technical_School_Certificate) (TSC) (equivalent to 10th grade) and [Diploma of Associate Engineering](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diploma_of_Associate_Engineering) (DAE) in engineering disciplines like Civil, Chemical, Architecture, Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics, Computer etc. DAE is a three years program of instructions which is equivalent to 12th grade. Diploma holders are called associate engineers. They can either join their respective field or take admission in [B.Tech.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B.Tech." \o "B.Tech.) and [BE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor_of_Engineering) in their related discipline after DAE.

Furthermore, the A level qualification, inherited by the British education system is widely gained in the private schools of Pakistan. Three to four subjects are selected, based on the interest of the student. It is usually divided into a combination of similar subjects within the same category, like Business, Arts and Sciences. This is a two-year program. A level institutions are different from high school. You must secure admission in such an institution, upon the completion of high school, i.e. the British system equivalent being O levels. O levels and A levels are usually not taught within the same school.

**Tertiary Education**

According to UNESCO's 2009 Global Education Digest, 6% of Pakistanis (9% of men and 3.5% of women) were university graduates as of 2007.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Pakistan#cite_note-UNESCO_2009-16) Pakistan plans to increase this figure to 10% by 2015 and subsequently to 15% by 2020. There is also a great deal of variety between age cohorts. Less than 6% of those in the age cohort 55-64 have a degree, compared to 8% in the 45-54 age cohort, 11% in the 35-44 age cohort and 16% in the age cohort 25-34.

After earning their [HSSC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_Secondary_School_Certificate), students may study in a professional institute for [Bachelor's degree](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor%27s_degree) courses such as [engineering](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor_of_Engineering) (BE/BS/BSc Engineering), [medicine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor_of_Medicine,_Bachelor_of_Surgery) (MBBS), [dentistry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dental_degree) (BDS), [veterinary medicine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veterinary_medicine) (DVM), [law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor_of_Laws) (LLB), [architecture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor_of_Architecture) (BArch), [pharmacy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctor_of_Pharmacy#Pakistan) (Pharm.D) and [nursing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nursing) (BSc Nursing). These courses require four or five years of study. The accreditation councils which accredit the above professional degrees and register these professionals are: [Pakistan Engineering Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Engineering_Council) (PEC), [Pakistan Medical and Dental Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Medical_and_Dental_Council) (PMDC), [Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Veterinary_Medical_Council) (PVMC), [Pakistan Bar Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Bar_Council) (PBC), [Pakistan Council for Architects and Town Planners](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Council_for_Architects_and_Town_Planners) (PCATP), [Pharmacy Council of Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharmacy_Council_of_Pakistan) (PCP) and [Pakistan Nursing Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Nursing_Council) (PNC). Students can also attend a university for [Bachelor of Arts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor_of_Arts) (BA), [Bachelor of Science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor_of_Science) (BSc), [Bachelor of Commerce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor_of_Commerce) (BCom) or [Bachelor of Business Administration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBA) (BBA) degree courses.

There are two types of Bachelor courses in Pakistan: Pass or Honors. Pass degree requires two years of study and students normally read three optional subjects (such as [Chemistry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemistry) or [Economics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economics)) in addition to almost equal number of compulsory subjects (such as [English](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_studies), islamiyat and [Pakistan Studies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Studies)). Honours degree requires four years of study, and students normally specialize in a chosen field of study, such as [Biochemistry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biochemistry) (BSc Hons. Biochemistry)

**Higher Education**

Most of [Master's degree](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master%27s_degree) programs require two years education. [Master of Philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master_of_Philosophy) (MPhil) is available in most of the subjects and can be undertaken after doing Masters. [Doctor of Philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctor_of_Philosophy) (PhD) education is available in selected areas and is usually pursued after earning a MPhil degree. Students pursuing MPhil or PhD degrees must choose a specific field and a university that is doing research work in that field. MPhil and PhD education in Pakistan requires a minimum of two years of study.

**Non formal Education**

Out of the formal system, the public sectors runs numerous schools and training centres, most being vocational-oriented. Among those institutions can be found vocational schools, technical training centres and agriculture and vocational training centres. An [apprenticeship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apprenticeship) system is also framed by the state of Pakistan. Informal education is also important in Pakistan and regroups mostly school-leavers and low-skilled individuals, who are trained under the supervision of a senior craftsman.Few institutes are run by corporates to train university students eligible for jobs and provide experience during education fulfilling a gap between university and industry for example: Appxone Private Limited is training Engineers with professional development on major subjects of Electronics and Computer science and other fields.

**Madrassa Education**

Madrassas are [Islamic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic) [seminaries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seminaries). Most Madrasas teach mostly Islamic subjects such as [Tafseer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tafseer" \o "Tafseer) (Interpretation of the Quran), [Hadith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith" \o "Hadith) (sayings of Muhammad), Fiqh (Islamic Law), [Arabic language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language) and include some non-Islamic subjects, such as logic, philosophy, mathematics, to enable students to understand the religious ones. The number of madrassas are popular among Pakistan's poorest families in part because they feed and house their students. Estimates of the number of madrasas vary between 12,000 and 40,000. In some areas of Pakistan they outnumber the public schools.