

Information booklet for candidates and their parents

**about administration of the competitive selection of
students
for Grade 7 of Nazarbayev Intellectual schools
for the 2026-2027 academic year**

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INTRODUCTION

The launch of a network of twenty one Nazarbayev Intellectual schools in Kazakhstan formed a basement for an experimental platform to implement the development, monitoring, research, analysis, pretest and realization of contemporary educational programmes.

The experience of Intellectual schools has been disseminated to secondary education system of the Republic of Kazakhstan since 2016. The Intellectual schools became centers of methodological resources in updating the content of education.

Admission to the Intellectual schools is carried out on a competitive basis. The selection system of students to Grade 7 of Intellectual schools was developed in 2013 in cooperation with strategic partners, the Institute of Pedagogical Measurement (Cito, the Netherlands) and the Center of Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University (CTY, the USA), based on investigations of the international experience of Great Britain, Australia, the USA and the Netherlands. In 2022 the selection system was acknowledged with a quality mark by Research Center for Examination and Certification (RCEC) that proves the high level of reliability, equity and compliance with international standards.

The system gives the possibility to identify students' abilities to study mathematical and science-oriented subjects that allow:

- to master the content of the *NIS-Programme* effectively;
- to develop broad-based skills and be successful throughout the studying period;
- to solve applied problems in many areas of academic education.

In 2022 a new "Natural Science" section was included in the structure of the comprehensive test of the students selection. This subject is meant to provide basic knowledge on natural sciences such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography in line with the updated content of secondary education. The assessment of the level of knowledge on Natural Science will help to select students capable to successfully study subjects of natural and mathematical disciplines in the Intellectual schools, and improve their profile for further enrollment into higher institutions with natural science oriented programmes.

REGISTRATION FOR THE SELECTION TEST

- The dates of acceptance of documents are from **January 5 to February 9, 2026**. Comprehensive testing will be conducted on **March 27-28, 2026**.
- The list of documents and deadline for submitting documents are **published on the website** of the AEO “Nazarbayev Intellectual schools” in the “Admission” section.

PROVISIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE SELECTION TEST

The comprehensive selection testing for Grade 7 is conducted over two days at Intellectual Schools in a written test format.

Candidates must arrive at the Intellectual School at the specified time with their pass, a pen with black ink, and may bring a bottle of water in a transparent container without a label.

Candidates are admitted to the test after timely passing a face-recognition system and registration on the testing days. A candidate who arrives for the registration after the registration closure is not permitted to take the test. A candidate who was absent on the first day of the test is not permitted to take the test on the second day of the test.

Candidate's testing room and seat are generated automatically by a software. A room for testing can accommodate up to 180 candidates.

Video instructions on test completion are provided for the candidates; the text of the instructions is duplicated in the examination materials.

The testing process is broadcast online for all stakeholders to ensure transparency and objectivity of the testing procedures.

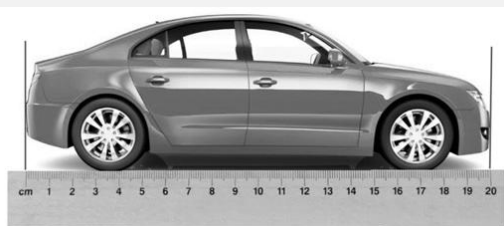
THE FIRST DAY OF THE TEST

Ability test to study science and math (hereinafter – “Ability Test”) is conducted on the first day of the test.

ABILITY TEST			
No	Section	Number of items	Test duration (minutes)
1	Mathematics	40	60
2	Quantitative Reasoning	60	30
3	Natural Science	20	30
Total		120	120
The items of the Ability test assess the functional literacy through measuring students': - abilities to see the relation between numbers, operate on them based on mathematical and logical thinking, interpret data provided in pictures, graphs and diagrams; - skills to use and interpret data to describe and predict natural phenomena and processes.			

The items of the Ability test have 4 alternatives with only **ONE** correct answer.

*A candidate is allowed to use blank spaces in the test booklet as a draft to make calculations if required.

Sample of the item for “Mathematics”	
A model of a car in scale 1:24 is demonstrated in the picture. Using information in the picture identify the real length of the car. A) 4 m B) 4 m 40 cm C) 4 m 80 cm D) 5 m	
Correct answer: C.	

Sample of the item for “Quantitative Reasoning”

1.

Column A	Column B
29 days	A number of days in a month is x

2.

Column A	Column B
n	$n < 8$
	6

3.

Column A	Column B
$(35 \cdot 50)$	$(35 \cdot 5) + (35 \cdot 10)$

Each question has two parts. The first part is in **column A**. The second part is in **column B**. You need to determine which Quantity is greater, or whether Quantities are equal, or whether there is insufficient information to determine, and choose an answer out of below:

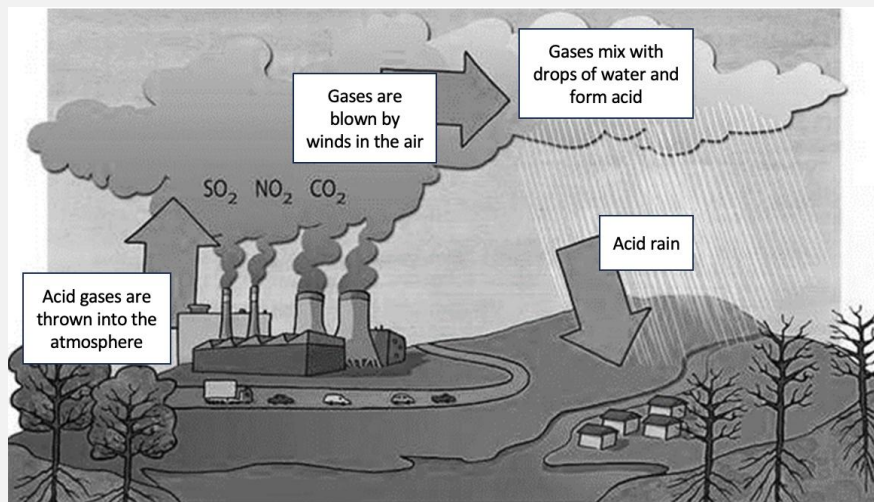
A, if Quantity in Column A is greater.

B, if Quantity in Column B is greater.

C, if two Quantities are equal.

D, if there are insufficient information.

Correct answers: 1 – D, 2 – D, 3 – A



The picture demonstrates a process of formation of acid rain.

How does acid rain affect forests?

- A) Acid rain causes forest fires.
- B) Acid rain increases pH value of soil.
- C) Acid rain increases soil fertility in forests.
- D) Acid rain limits absorption of nutrients.

Correct answer: D.

THE SECOND DAY OF THE TEST

The **Language test** is conducted on the second day of the test. This test is aimed to assess reading literacy, ability to understand and analyse written texts in the first, second and English languages.

LANGUAGE TEST			
№	Section	Number of items	Test duration (minutes)
1	Russian language as first	20	120
2	Kazakh language as second	20	
3	English language	20	
Total		60	120
<i>The language test focuses on the ability to work with a text and graphical content, in other words use reading literacy skills to withdraw necessary information from the text and interpret it.</i>			

There can be from one to five questions to one text in the language test. The language test items can have 3 or 4 alternatives with only **ONE correct answer**.

Sample of the item for “Russian language as first”	
Прекрасный образ дочери степей Девяти алматинкам выпала честь участвовать в фотосессии и надеть на себя стилизованные национальные платья, ощутить в городских буднях дыхание великой степи. Звенит серебро в волосах, солнцем кружит подол платья, косы змеями выются до земли. Глядя на эти фотографии, в очередной раз убеждаешься, насколько всё-таки великолепна национальная одежда: ощущение на себе облака платья и мягкой ткани камзола, высокого саукеле неповторимо. И невольно думаешь о том, что нужно чаще обращаться к прошлому, рассказывать о разных стилях народного костюма и украшений. Какова идея текста? A) Для участия в фотосессии нужны красивые девушки. B) Национальная одежда — лучшее украшение девушки. C) Необходимо в городах носить национальную одежду. D) Необходимо помнить историю национального костюма.	
	
Correct answer: 1 – D.	

Sample of the item for “Kazakh language as second”	
– Токтар аға, ғарышқа ұшар алдында қандай көңіл күйде болдыңыз? – Елден тым алыста жүргендіктен шығар, маған ғарышқа ұшудан басқа нәрсе қатты әсер етті. Ол – <u>1</u>. Ет асылып, халық жиналып, 93 жастағы ақсақалдың бата беруі – бәрі-бәрі ерекше көңіл күйге бөледі. Мұндай кіршіксіз, шынайы дәстүр әлемде жоқ дер едім. – Ғарыштан аман-есен оралып, сол сапар туралы мемлекет басшысына қазақша баянат жасапсыз. – Менің ана тілімнен тәжірибем өте аз. Соған қарамастан намыстанып, бүкіл ой-санамды тек қазақша жеткізуге бағыттадым. Қазақстанның тұңғыш Президентіне тұңғыш ғарышкері осылайша қазақша тіл қатқан. Мені қазақша сөйле деп ешкім күштеген жоқ. Өзімнің жүрек қалауым солай болды.	
1. Бос орынға қайсысы сәйкес келеді? A) алғашқы қадам B) ата-баба салты C) беймәлім ғарыш D) тылсым дүние	2. «Өзімнің жүрек қалауым солай болды». Ғарышкер не айтқысы келді? A) ақпаратты ана тілінде баяндағанын B) ғарышқа ұшуды армандағанын C) қазақ тілін үйренгісі келетінін D) халқының дәстүрін дәріптейтінін
Correct answers: 1 – B, 2 – A.	

Sample of the item for “English language”

Read the question first, then the text.

What is the aim of this message?

- A) to advertise her shoes
- B) to complain about the cost
- C) to describe her shoes
- D) to share her opinion

Read Karine's message to a footwear selling company.

Karine M. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Whenever I wear these sandals, I really feel my feet are relaxed. Well, I truly love them!

I think the quality is excellent for the price. Thank you for these wonderful shoes.

PS: I never take them off. 😊

Correct answer: D.

In the English language test, a question is located before the text in the texts with one question. To answer this question, candidates are recommended to read the question first, and then the text.

COMPLETION OF ANSWER SHEETS

Each candidate receives two individual answer sheets for each of the testing days (Appendices 1 and 2) which indicate the following information:

- version and title of the test;
- ID of a school, which a candidate is applying to (sector 1);
- language of testing (sector 2);
- gender (sector 3);
- test date (sector 4).

Candidates are required to put their signature in **sector 5**. Please note that the answer sheet is considered **INVALID** without a signature!

The answers to Mathematics, Quantitative Reasoning and Natural Science are filled in the **sectors 6, 7 and 8** of the answer sheet of the first day of the test.

The answers to Russian, Kazakh and English languages are filled in the sectors 6, 7 and 8 of the answer sheets of the second day of the test.

Before the test candidates read the rules on completion of answers sheets:

The rules on completion of answer sheets

- The answer sheet is completed with a ballpoint pen with black ink. It is forbidden to use pens with gel and other types of ink.
- Read the task carefully before you answer the question.
- Choose what you think is the correct answer to the question. Only one alternative is correct.
- Fill in very carefully, do not mix up the sectors of the sections of the test.
- To make your answer count, shade the relevant circle on the answer sheet as shown in the example of correct shading on the answer sheet:

Correct shading of a circle:



Pay attention to samples of an incorrect *shading* of the circle:

Incorrect shading:



- If two or more answers are shaded for a single question, or if the shading is incomplete, the answer will not be counted.
- It is forbidden to cross out the answers.
- It is forbidden to use pencils and correction fluid.
- The answer sheet should not be stained, folded, torn, used as a draft, or written on in any spaces except the designated areas.

RULES OF BEHAVIOUR FOR CANDIDATES DURING THE TEST

During the test candidates are prohibited from:

- 1) exchanging test booklets, cheating;
- 2) having/using cheat sheets, reference books, dictionaries, calculators, rulers, pencil cases, as well as devices that contain any reference information;
- 3) having/using cell phones, smart watches, gadgets, calculators, other information and computing devices;
- 4) filling in the answer sheet after the time has expired, taking the answer sheet or test booklets out of the testing room.

In case of violation of the above rules, the Chairman of the Admissions Committee, jointly with the Test Coordinator and the room administrator, shall draw up an act in the presence of the candidate and remove the candidate from the testing room. In this event, the test results are cancelled.

Candidates are also **not allowed** to:

- 1) leave the testing room without permission and escort, talk to other candidates, change the place;
- 2) fill in the answer sheet with a pen with gel and other types of ink, except for a black ballpoint pen, use pencils and correction fluids;
- 3) shade two or more circles to one question, shade the circle incompletely (in case of incomplete shading or shading of more than one circle to one question, the answer will not be accepted);
- 4) cross out answers in the answer sheet, stain, fold, tear the answer sheet, use the answer sheet as a draft, write on in any spaces except the designated areas;
- 5) use the pass as a draft.

ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS OF THE SELECTION

Processing of the results is performed by Institute of pedagogical measurement, Cito, in the Netherlands. An automated software where candidates' results undergo statistical and psychometrical analysis identifies the level of difficulty of each test item and its proportion in the final score of the test section. This approach ensures objective and reliable assessment of results, which is why **NO appeal** is conducted. Individual reviewing of candidates' results, as well as their booklets and answer sheets is excluded.

The results of the selection test are posted on the website of AEO "Nazarbayev Intellectual schools" www.nis.edu.kz **no later than 40 calendar days** from the end of the second test day.

Day	Section of the test	Number of items	Max. score	Threshold score	Awarding of the grant
THE ABILITY TEST					The highest total score for the comprehensive test (max. score — 1500)
1	Mathematics	40	400	140 (35%)	
	Quantitative Reasoning	60	300	120 (40%)	
	Natural Science	20	200	-	
THE LANGUAGE TEST					
2	Kazakh as first	20	200	-	
	Russian as second	20	200	-	
	English language	20	200	-	

Candidates with **35% (140 scores)**, and higher from the maximum possible score for Mathematics section, and **40% (120 scores)**, and higher from the maximum possible score for Quantitative Reasoning section, are eligible to compete for the "Orken" educational grant.

When candidates have an equal total score a priority is given to a candidate with a higher score on:

Mathematics

Quantitative Reasoning

Natural Science

Language of instruction (first language)

The "Orken" grant is awarded to candidates who have reached the threshold points and the highest total scores for the comprehensive test within the allocated number of grants of the Intellectual schools.

The results are listed in a ranked order based on the total score (from the highest to the lowest total score regardless of the reached threshold scores) and with no account to language of instruction.

SAMPLE ANSWER SHEET **OF THE ABILITY TEST TO STUDY SCIENCE AND MATH** (the first day of the test)

Нұсқа/Вариант

Жаратылыстану-математикалық бағыттағы пәндерді меңгеру қабілеттілігін анықтау бойынша тестіне арналған жауап парағы

Лист ответов теста по оценке способностей к изучению предметов естественно-математического направления

Сектор 1 Мектеп/Школа	
Сектор 2 Тестілеу тілі Язык тестирования	НАЗАР АУДАРЫҢЫЗ! 1. Жауап парағы қара сиялы қаламсаппен толтырылады. Гельді немесе басқа сиялы қаламсаппен қолдануға рұқсат етілмейді. 2. Жауаптың тек бір нұсқасы дұрыс болып табылады. Бір тапсырманың екі және одан көп жауабын бояған жағдайда, жауапты толығымен боямаған жағдайда жауап есептелмейді. 3. Жауаптарды түзетуге болмайды. Қарындаш пен түзететін сұйықтықтар пайдалануға қатаң тыйым салынады. 4. Жауап парағын бүлдіруге, бүктеуге, жұртуға, шпайы парак ретінде пайдалануға, тиісті секторлардан басқа бос орындарға жазып-сызуға болмайды. ВНИМАНИЕ! 1. Лист ответов заполняется шариковой ручкой с черной пастой. Запрещается использовать ручки с гелевыми и другими видами паст. 2. Только один вариант ответа является правильным. При закрашивании двух и более ответов одного задания, неполном закрашивании ответа, ответ не будет засчитан. 3. Запрещается зачеркивать ответы. Категорически запрещается пользоваться карандашом и корректирующими жидкостями. 4. Лист ответов нельзя пачкать, мять, рвать, использовать в качестве черновика, писать, черкать свободные места кроме соответствующих секторов.
Сектор 3 Жынысы/Пол	Сектор 4 Күні (кк/аа/жжжж) Дата (дд/мм/гггг)
Сектор 5 Оқушының қолы Подпись учащегося	Дұрыс толтыру үлгісі Пример правильного заполнения ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D Қате толтыру үлгісі Пример неправильного заполнения ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☒ D

Сектор 6 Математика		Сектор 7 Сандық сипаттамалар/ Количественные характеристики			Сектор 8 Жаратылыстану/ Естествознание
1	A B C D	21	A B C D	41	A B C D
2	A B C D	22	A B C D	42	A B C D
3	A B C D	23	A B C D	43	A B C D
4	A B C D	24	A B C D	44	A B C D
5	A B C D	25	A B C D	45	A B C D
6	A B C D	26	A B C D	46	A B C D
7	A B C D	27	A B C D	47	A B C D
8	A B C D	28	A B C D	48	A B C D
9	A B C D	29	A B C D	49	A B C D
10	A B C D	30	A B C D	50	A B C D
11	A B C D	31	A B C D	51	A B C D
12	A B C D	32	A B C D	52	A B C D
13	A B C D	33	A B C D	53	A B C D
14	A B C D	34	A B C D	54	A B C D
15	A B C D	35	A B C D	55	A B C D
16	A B C D	36	A B C D	56	A B C D
17	A B C D	37	A B C D	57	A B C D
18	A B C D	38	A B C D	58	A B C D
19	A B C D	39	A B C D	59	A B C D
20	A B C D	40	A B C D	60	A B C D

Draft

SAMPLE ANSWER SHEET OF THE LANGUAGE TEST (the second day of the test)

  		Нұсқа/Вариант	
Тілдік тест жауап парағы Лист ответов языкового теста			
Сектор 1 Мектеп/Школа			
Сектор 2 Тестілеу тілі Язык тестирования		НАЗАР АУДАРЫҢЫЗ! 1. Жауап парағы қара сиялы қаламсаппен толтырылады. Гельді немесе басқа сиялы қаламсаппен қолдануға рұқсат етілмейді. 2. Жауаптың тек бір нұсқасы дұрыс болып табылады. Бір тапсырманың екі және одан көп жауабын бояған жағдайда, жауапты толығымен боямаған жағдайда жауап есептелмейді. 3. Жауаптарды түзетуге болмайды. Қарындаш пен түзететін сұйықтықтар пайдалануға қатаң тыйым салынады. 4. Жауап парағын бүлдіруге, бүктеуге, жартуға, шпайы парақ ретінде пайдалануға, тиісті секторлардан басқа бос орындарға жазып-сызуға болмайды. ВНИМАНИЕ! 1. Лист ответов заполняется шариковой ручкой с черной пастой. Запрещается использовать ручки с гелевыми и другими видами паст. 2. Только один вариант ответа является правильным. При закрашивании двух и более ответов одного задания, неполном закрашивании ответа, ответ не будет засчитан. 3. Запрещается зачеркивать ответы. Категорически запрещается пользоваться карандашом и корректирующими жидкостями. 4. Лист ответов нельзя пачкать, мять, рвать, использовать в качестве черновика, писать, черкать свободные места кроме соответствующих секторов.	
Сектор 3 Жынысы/Пол			
Сектор 4 Күні (кк/аа/жжжж) Дата (дд/мм/гггг)		Дұрыс толтыру үлгісі Пример правильного заполнения ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D	
Сектор 5 Оқушының қолы Подпись учащегося		Қате толтыру үлгісі Пример неправильного заполнения ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☒ D	
Сектор 6 Қазақ тілі (Бірінші тіл)		Сектор 7 Русский язык (второй язык)	
Сектор 8 English			
1 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 2 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 3 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 4 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 5 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 6 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 7 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 8 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 9 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 10 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 11 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 12 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 13 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 14 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 15 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 16 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 17 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 18 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 19 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 20 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D	21 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 22 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 23 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 24 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 25 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 26 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 27 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 28 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 29 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 30 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 31 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 32 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 33 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 34 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 35 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 36 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 37 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 38 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 39 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 40 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D	41 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 42 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 43 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 44 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 45 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 46 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 47 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 48 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 49 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 50 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 51 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 52 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 53 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 54 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 55 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 56 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 57 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 58 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 59 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D 60 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D	

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