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**GENERAL EDUCATION CONCEPT (NATIONAL
CURRICULUM) IN AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC**

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INTRODUCTION

General education concept in the Azerbaijan Republic (hereinafter referred to as National Curriculum) is a conceptual framework document that describes learning outcomes and content standards for general education, subjects stipulated under each sub-level of general education, weekly workload for classroom-based and out-of-classroom activities, arrangement of teaching process, main principles of assessment and monitoring of learning achievements and design of subject curricula.

Taking into consideration the exceptional importance of every person's talents and competences that are needed nowadays due to globalization and unification of public and political, cultural and social life, as well as increase of significance of information and communication technologies and toughening of competition environment the national curriculum is aimed at development of human resources that are the main motive forces of social progress and transfer of necessary knowledge and skills in the areas of problem-solving and independent decision-making.

National curriculum serves directly for implementation of the following functions:

- Maintenance of relations and consistency between sub-levels of general education and subjects delivered at these sub-levels;

- Continuous improvement and renovation of content of subjects according to requirements of the wider community;

- Ensuring of flexibility and interactivity of learning technologies;

- Development and implementation of outcome-oriented subject curricula;

- Identification of efficiency of learning environment and teaching activity, developmental and progressive role of learning, as well as knowledge, skills and competency at each level of education based on concentric principle;

- Ensuring of unbiased assessment and stimulation of student achievements.

National curriculum has been developed according to the following general principles:

- Taking into consideration of national and world values;

- Establishment of favorable learning environment for all students taking into consideration their general development level, inclinations and interests;

- Requirement orientation;

- Outcome orientation;

- Integrity.

I. REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERAL EDUCATION AND PERSONS WHO HAVE ATTAINED A GENERAL SECONDARY DEGREE

General education – is a purposeful process aimed at human development through theoretical and practical activities, intellectual, social and physical improvement of people, laying of knowledge foundation that would provide for continuation of education and establishment of pre-requisites for employment based on personal, family, community and public interests, as well as secularity, complexity, succession, integrity and democracy principles that facilitates comprehension and evaluation of processes, problems and development trends encountered in the rapidly changing world, acquisition and implementation of necessary knowledge, skills and competence, independent acquisition of additional knowledge, transformation into useful member of community in market relations environment and free personal development taking into consideration age, physiological, psychological and individual features and potential capacity of students.

A person who have attained a general secondary degree – is a person who speaks Mother tongue fluently, has got detailed information on history and culture of his Motherland, can appreciate fine arts, literature, scientific achievements, human labor, rights and freedoms of citizens, has respect for democratic principles, shows commitment to state system and state interests, uses competently the modern equipment and communication technologies, has tolerant, sensitive and fair attitude to people, national customs and traditions, nature, moral and spiritual values, can study and obtain information independently, masters such qualities as competitive and independent life and activity in market economy environment, self-improvement, healthy life style and independent opinion, acquires necessary knowledge, skills and competence relevant to requirements of community and can speak one or more foreign languages along with Mother tongue.

II. CONTENT STANDARDS OF GENERAL EDUCATION

2.1. GENERAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

2.1.1. Purpose of primary education

Purpose of primary education is described below:

Transfer to children and strengthen children's reading, writing and calculation skills;

Ensure the transfer to children of initial practical knowledge on human beings, community, nature and naturally determined relations between them;

Transfer to children the initial elements of logical and creative thinking and ensure early identification and training of gifted children;

Transfer to children the sensitivity, esthetic and artistic taste, moral and spiritual qualities, physical training and self-service skills.

2.1.2. General learning outcomes of primary education

A student should manage the following:

Use necessary mathematical knowledge in practice, perform simple algorithms and use computer equipment;

Describe items and events that he/she observes and distinguish them by their characteristic features;

Think independently and logically, express his/her attitude;

Establish communication, conduct cooperation and express his/her ideas clearly;

Keep to civilized behavior, individual hygiene and relevant safety regulations;

Implement independently the assigned work/ as well as works that require creativity, use simple labor skills;

Perform his/her duties, respect his/her own and other people's rights;

Present in a simple format the acquired initial knowledge on language, moral and spiritual values, national customs and traditions, history, culture and fine arts of Azerbaijan people;

Read fiction, mass scientific and reference texts relevant to his/her age, distinguish and comment on main content of a text, use dictionaries and other reference books;

Show fair, careful and tolerant attitude to people, nature, labor, as well as personal and public property and learn to apprehend the reality as it is.

2.1.3. Subjects delivered at primary education sub-level

«Mother tongue», «Azerbaijan language», «Foreign language», «Mathematics», «ICT», «Life knowledge», «Technology», «Physical training», «Music», «Fine arts».

2.1.4. Rationale for subjects delivered at primary education sub-level and general learning outcomes in various subjects

MOTHER TONGUE

Rationale for the subject: Learning of alphabet, mastering of reading and writing techniques, calligraphy rules, initial skills in correct, fluent, conscious and expressive reading, gradual enriching of vocabulary, learning and using of the most necessary grammatical rules and literary pronunciation norms, transferring of elocution skills, transferring of initial ideas on language, history, moral and spiritual qualities, culture, customs and traditions of Azerbaijan people are ensured through delivery of this subject.

General outcomes

A student:

Reads independently, correctly, fluently, consciously and expressively and writes grammatically;

Enters into dialogue, expresses his (her) ideas independently and logically;

Comments on texts that he (she) has read or listened to;

Selects and groups main facts from various texts and develops small texts;

Presents in a simple format initial information on language, history, moral and spiritual values, culture, fine arts, customs and traditions of Azerbaijan people;

Uses dictionaries, reference books and catalogues.

AZERBAIJAN LANGUAGE AS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE *

Rationale for the subject: Mastering of Azerbaijan alphabet, frequently used words, word expressions and sentence models, the most necessary speech etiquette, pronunciation and spelling rules in the schools that deliver education in other languages is ensured, as well as listening and understanding, correct and fluent reading, initial speaking and interpreting skills are transferred to students through delivery of this subject.

General outcomes

A student:

- Reads small texts correctly and fluently, as well as explains content of the texts;
- Develops and presents small oral and written texts using word expressions and sentence patterns, as well as necessary pronunciation and spelling rules;
- Describes content and features of pictures and illustrations that he (she) observes;
- Translates small reference texts into Mother tongue and vice versa using dictionary.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Rationale for the subject: Learning of alphabet, transfer of listening and understanding, speaking and initial writing skills, as well as transfer and improvement of correct and expressive reading skills are ensured through delivery of this subject.

General outcomes

A student:

- Names items used in daily and private life, as well as operations and properties related to these items;
- Establishes communication based on simple speech etiquette, designs speech patterns based on topical pictures;

* This subject is delivered in schools that deliver education in other languages.

Reads and writes letters and letter combinations of the language that he (she) learns;
Distinguishes and pronounces different sounds that don't exist in his (her) Mother tongue;
Reads small texts and explains content of the texts.

MATHEMATICS

Rationale for the subject: Performing of computational operations by students, mastering of written and oral computational algorithms by students, calculating of numerical expressions, solving of textual problems, mastering of initial measuring skills, and spatial and geometrical concepts, classifying of given data by students, as well as transferring to students of skills for daily practical use of mathematical knowledge are ensured through delivery of this subject.

General outcomes

A student:

Performs four calculation operations over natural numbers between zero and million, identifies position and specific weight (level units) of digits in numbers within decimal numeration;
Expresses unknown quantity using known quantities in calculation operations;
Uses quantities (money, weight, length, area, time) in solution of practical problems;
Identifies and describes characteristic features of simple plain figures and spatial solids;
Collects, registers, systematizes, shows and comments on numerical data.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures transfer to students of elements of algorithmic thinking and skills for use of computer equipment.

General outcomes

A student:

- Identifies irrelevant item in a group of homogenous items, distinguishes and compares these items by their features;
- Identifies errors in succession of actions and the missing step;
- Identifies natural laws and designs simple models based on the natural laws;
- Designs simple mathematical algorithms and projects;
- Operates computer independently and performs simple operations;
- Draws and edits pictures in graphical editor, inserts text into pictures and designs mosaics using algorithms;
- Conducts word processing and editing of simple texts in text editor and inserts pictures into these texts.

LIFE SKILL

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures mastering of necessary information on human rights and freedoms, moral and spiritual values, safety of practical activity, nature, people-nature and individual-community relationships, transferring of initial skills for distinguishing of and commenting on items and events by their nature and implementing of economical, environmental and communicative activities.

General outcomes

A student:

- Shows understanding of his (her) rights, respect for rights and freedoms of other people, sensitive attitude towards people around him (her), provides his (her) personal opinion on the above-mentioned matters;
- Explains the most necessary safety rules related to human life and health protection;
- Shows correctness, fairness, humanism and mercy, clarifies his (her) considerations related to the nature of these spiritual qualities;
- Uses economical knowledge in private life;
- Shows sensitive and careful approach to nature and environment and observes and comments on natural phenomena;
- Comments on events taking place in the wider community based on perception peculiar to his (her) age.

TECHNOLOGY

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures transfer of comparison and assortment, initial processing, self-service and team work habits, as well as skills for simple designing, mounting, modeling and care for animate nature, understanding of measure, proportionality, symmetry and other geometrical concepts, and transfer of skills for developing of simple structures and performing of creative works.

General outcomes

A student:

Compares and assorts materials, uses relevant technological procedures (measuring, cutting, gauging, joining, etc.), and makes simple products;
Performs simple consumer services;
Shows team work skills, comments on products made by him (her) and other people;
Explains and observes in practical activities the safety methods and sanitary and hygienic rules;
Performs simple tasks that require creativity and designs models and projects.

PHYSICAL TRAINING

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures understanding of physical training as an important factor in health strengthening and protection, training and improving of students movement ability using relevant tools and methods, introduction to various areas of sports, mastering of personal hygiene rules and body strengthening methods using natural aids, transfer of initial anatomical concept of structure of human body, as well as training of such qualities as discipline, endurance, will and independence.

General outcomes

A student:

Performs physical actions with or without tools that establish movement abilities, and fulfills the identified norms;

Performs various static and dynamic physical actions that establish movement habits and skills;
Presents sports games, including national sports games and its types;
Explains body strengthening methods using personal hygiene and natural aids;
Observes discipline and regime rules in implementation of physical training process.

FINE ARTS

(Music and fine arts)

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures familiarization of students with form, genre, style and ways of expression of music and fine arts, presentation to students of general information on history of national fine arts, transfer to students of the most simple and initial skills related to creative and esthetical activities (singing, dancing, drawing, etc.), transfer to students of artistic taste, esthetical culture, senses of color, shape and space, love for national music and types of applied arts, as well as interest in samples of the world arts, inclination for creativity, abstract and figurative thinking, diligence and other volitional qualities.

General outcomes

A student:

Uses singing rules, manages to adapt a song for stage based on content of lyrics;
Distinguishes musical instruments and musical compositions by their characteristics;
Distinguishes and comments on musical compositions of various genres;
Perceives music emotionally, makes rhythmical movements adequate to characteristics of music;
Explains musical notes, performs them on simple musical instruments;
Describes practically items and events;
Explains and distinguishes fine arts samples based on perception adequate to his (her) age level;
Comments on relationship between content and shape of an item;
Distinguishes tints of various colors, compares colors by shades of emotional meaning;
Develops simple compositions and proportionally accommodates its various parts;
Performs simple design works.

2.2. GENERAL BASIC EDUCATION

2.2.1. Purpose of basic education

Purpose of basic education is to:

- Ensure transfer to students of communication, as well as writing and speaking skills and intensification of cognitive activities;
- Broaden understanding and awareness of history, literature, culture, fine arts, nature, social and economical potential and development level of Azerbaijan, as well as role of various countries in establishment of the world civilization;
- Transfer to students the skills for analysis and implementation, research and summarization, use of information and communication technologies, operation of various sources, identification of areas of their own activities, evaluation of events and its nature and solution of problems;
- Ensure transfer to students of respect for such values as healthy life style, physical and esthetical culture, cooperation and human rights.

2.2.2. General learning outcomes of basic education

A student should manage the following:

- Use various procedures, tools and methods, including observation, measurement, calculation, trial and evaluation methods in order to understand environment;
- Choose relevant procedures needed for implementation of learning task based on given algorithm;
- Differentiate, compare, classify and present various facts, ideas and evidences;
- Implement independently various tasks that require creativity in the course of learning process;
- Use monologue and dialogue modes of speech, review materials of various styles and genres that he (she) listens to or reads, present its content in a briefed or detailed way to other people;
- Develop plan, thesis and summary, project and comment, provide samples and evidences and summarize results;

- Use various references (dictionaries, encyclopedias, computer, internet, periodical publications, etc.) in order to perform cognition- and communication-oriented tasks;
- Identify consciously his (her) own capacity, inclination and interest, show his (her) volitional and non-volitional qualities, evaluate outcome of tasks that he (she) has implemented, find optimum solution of the problems encountered;
- Observe social behavior, as well as relevant safety and medical and hygienic rules and healthy life style norms;
- Prove by his (her) own activity that he (she) observes moral and spiritual, juridical, ethical and esthetical values and holds his (her) citizenship position;
- Engage in joint solution of problems, appreciate his (her) own and other people's efforts under team work;
- Establish communication in a foreign language.

2.2.3. Subjects delivered at basic education sub-level

«Mother tongue», «Azerbaijan language», «Literature», «Foreign language», «Mathematics», «Information and communication technology (ICT)», «History of Azerbaijan», «Common history», «Physics», «Chemistry», «Biology», «Geography», «Life skill», «Technology», «Physical training», «Music», «Fine arts».

2.2.4. Rationale for subjects delivered at basic education sub-level and general learning outcomes for various subjects

MOTHER TONGUE

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures training of students' skills for expressive and conscious reading, clear, accurate and correct oral and written speech, mastering of vocabulary, grammar and style wealth of speech, linguistic concepts and rules that are useful in terms of practice, improvement of students' communication skills and transfer to students of feelings of love and respect for Mother tongue.

General outcomes

A student:

Explains and differentiates necessary phonetic, lexical and grammatical concepts, substantiates and presents his (her) considerations using various methods;
Shows that he (she) has mastered linguistic rules in his (her) oral or written speech;
Reads a given text correctly and expressively, divides the text into several parts based on content areas, reviews the text based on relevant criteria;
Develops and improves texts in various types and styles of speech using language units purposefully;
Performs independently the tasks related to arrangement of Mother tongue learning activities that require creativity.

AZERBAIJAN LANGUAGE AS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures mastering by students of phonetic, lexical and grammatical peculiarities needed for practical learning of Azerbaijan language, as well as meaning and intonation of language and speech units, transfer to students of skills for conscious and expressive reading and use of various formats and types of speech, and transfer to students of feeling of love and respect for Azerbaijan language as an official language.

General outcomes

A student:

Comments on content of text that he (she) has listened to;
Reads a text consciously and expressively;
Uses purposefully language units and various modes of speech in the course of communication, develops texts independently;
Expresses his (her) comments clearly and logically;
Proves by his (her) practical activities that he (she) has mastered speech skills in Azerbaijan language and feels love and respect for this language;
Uses various sources in order to improve speaking skills and translates texts from a foreign language to Azerbaijan language and vice versa.

LITERATURE

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures transfer to students of broad understanding of literature as an area of fine arts that includes oral and written creativity samples based on philological art, a national wealth and a tool of strong influence that reflects civilization and cultural and intellectual level of each nation, transfer to students of conscious and expressive reading skills using oral and written literature samples and taking into consideration age and psychological peculiarities of students, as well as sensitive, artistic and emotional attitude to a word and philological arts, review ability, skills for development of clear and systematic oral and written speeches related to various nuances of style and literary and artistic meaning, figurative thinking, reading habits, mastering of necessary knowledge related to theory of literature.

General outcomes

A student:

- Explains similar and different features of oral and written literature, and characteristic peculiarities of oral literature samples using specific examples, and substantiates his (her) comments based on comparisons;
- Comments on role and significance of literature in social and private life, provides personal opinions and considerations in regard to this matter;
- Reads literary and artistic samples expressively according to shades of meaning that arise from their content, explains meaning of words that strengthen the text in terms of artistic and emotional effect;
- Compares potentials of poetry, prose and dramatic materials in terms of expression of opinions and ideas, evaluates them by creative and professional features;
- Works independently on texts written in various genres, comments on main idea expressed in the texts, divides a text into components based on content and develops relevant plan;
- Reviews literary production by content, ideological orientation, professional features, character of images, and states his (her) personal attitude and considerations;
- Shows patient, unbiased and fair attitude to other persons' opinions during team-based discussion of literary production, and at the same time manages to defend and substantiate his (her) own considerations and to come to consensus;
- Expresses his (her) ideas clearly, sequentially, rationally, briefly and, if applicable, figuratively using artistic description tools, manages to identify a style that is relevant to content in the written speech, as well as

to observe spelling and pronunciation rules, to use vocabulary efficiently and to summarize opinions.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures transfer to students of communication skills based on improvement of oral speech as the main requirement, as well as enrichment of vocabulary, mastering of the most necessary grammatical concepts and linguistic structures, improvement of reading and written speech skills, as well as writing technique, listening and understanding habits.

General outcomes

A student:

Reads texts independently, uses lexical and grammatical units in development of dialogue and monologue speech;
Observes communication etiquette rules during team-based study of language, comments on speech of his (her) teammates;
Expresses his (her) ideas in a simple written format;
Plans his (her) speech, expresses the same idea in various words;
Develops dictionary samples, uses purposefully dictionaries, supporting aids and technological tools in the course of language learning.

MATHEMATICS

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures solution of daily practical problems, study of other relevant subjects, continuity of education in classes with mathematical bias, acquirement of necessary mathematical knowledge for proceeding with secondary education in other formats, transfer to students of thinking style that would lay foundation of students' intellectual development and successful practical activities, transfer to students of comprehensive understanding of extraordinary significance of mathematics in progress of civilization and wider community as a component of the world culture, mastering by students of relevant skills in the area of mathematics according to the students' age level, logical

understanding and review of data of various format and content, and understanding of hypothetical nature of real accidental events.

General outcomes

A student:

- Conducts accurate or approximate calculations in oral or written way using measuring and computational accessories;
- Uses the language of algebraic symbols;
- Conducts identical conversions of rational expressions, solves linear and quadratic equations and system of linear inequalities;
- Uses functional concept and graphs in study and interpretation of real dependences;
- Uses characteristics of plain figures and simple spatial solids in solution of practical problems of geometrical content, conducts simple geometrical designing and measuring activities;
- Collects, reviews, systematizes mathematical and statistical data and presents the outcome;
- Forecasts probability of happening of any event based on statistics and assumption;
- Substantiates his (her) considerations logically, expresses his (her) opinions accurately, clearly and briefly in written and oral speech;
- Uses mathematical knowledge in solution of various practical problems;
- Designs his (her) activities, develops algorithms based on the activities, verifies and evaluates the outcomes.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures transfer to students of skills for review of environment in terms of information system and decision-making, as well as use of information and communication technologies.

General outcomes

A student:

- Comments on role and significance of information and communication technologies in modern society;
- Solves daily private life problems in calculator regime;

Adjusts operational system used in computer;
Conducts word-processing and formatting of complex texts in text editor, inserts pictures into text from various memories;
Develops pictures of certain complexity in graphic editor, changes attributes of picture, inserts relevant texts into pictures;
Identifies characteristics, parameters and environment of an item, classifies a system of items;
Designs information model of an item and describes its natural model;
Explains characteristics, codification, receipt and transfer of data based on examples;
Searches, collects and systematizes data using various types of networks and uses these data purposefully;
Develops and delivers various presentations;
Designs new documents using electronic tables;
Uses various types of networks and network operation software, and develops simple Web pages.

HISTORY OF AZERBAIJAN

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures mastering of systemic information on Azerbaijan as one of the most ancient human settlements, statehood traditions of Azerbaijan, origin and development of Azerbaijan people and its national, social, moral and spiritual values, position and role of Azerbaijan in geopolitical location, contribution of Azerbaijan into development of the world civilization, interventions experienced by Azerbaijan and fight against these interventions, historical personalities of Azerbaijan, monuments of material and spiritual culture, as well as transfer to students of skills for review and evaluation of historical events, collection, systemization and presentation of additional facts, use of historical sources and transfer to students of patriotic and national pride feelings.

General outcomes

A student:

Describes historical events in chronological order, explains cause and effect relationship between these events;
States his (her) attitude to historical facts and events, historical personalities and their activities, evaluates them in terms of relevant period;
Works on various texts, chooses and collects, summarizes and presents necessary historical materials.

COMMON HISTORY

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures mastering of systemic information on pre-civilization era of the world history, origin of human communities in various periods, origin of state and development of civilizations, role of various states and peoples in development of the world civilization, public, economical and political reasons of degradation and destruction of various civilizations, monuments of the world's moral, spiritual and material cultures, transfer to students of skills for unbiased consideration of historical events and evaluation of historical events in relevant time and location context.

General outcomes

A student:

- Differentiates historical periods by their characteristic features, evaluates and states his (her) attitude to historical personalities, events and facts in terms of relevant period;
- Compares development trends of various states, as well as public, economical and political processes identifying historical similarities, makes conclusions and states his (her) considerations;
- Reviews various historical sources and collects, systematizes and presents necessary materials.

PHYSICS

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures understanding of main point and appropriateness of natural phenomena and material world, structure of substances, transfer to students of spatial concepts and empirical thinking skills based on time and location ideas, mastering by students of information on role of physics as a main science in social and economical development of community, as well as prominent physicians and scientific achievements in the area of physics.

General outcomes

A student:

- Differentiates physical phenomena based on their nature and explains reasons of these phenomena;
- Collects, summarizes and comments on information about the most common appropriateness of natural phenomena;

- Observes physical phenomena, summarizes the outcomes and provides his (her) considerations;
- Measures physical quantities and uses the outcomes in daily life, meanwhile observes safety rules;
- Makes presentations on role and significance of physics in social and economical progress of community and scientific activities of prominent physicians.

CHEMISTRY

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures understanding of chemical nature of daily life phenomena and materiality of environment, appreciation of the role of chemistry in economical and social progress of society, broadening of students' spatial concepts, transfer to students of cause and effect relationship concepts and skills for review of this relationship, transfer to students of environmental culture, flexible adaptation to various living conditions, mastering by students of information on prominent chemists and scientific achievements in the area of chemistry.

General outcomes

A student:

- Conducts observations and tests in order to understand the nature of chemical phenomena, comments on these phenomena based on the results obtained;
- Explains structure, characteristics and reasons of transformation of substances;
- Uses and manages transformation of substances;
- Shows sensitive and careful attitude to environment, summarizes and presents phenomena that he (she) has observed;
- Participates in transfer and distribution of information on prominent chemists and their discoveries and achievements of special significance.

BIOLOGY

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures transfer to students of general understanding of origin, structure, functions, classification, distribution patterns, improvement and protection of animate nature, mutual relationship within animate nature and between animate and inanimate natures, transfer to students of

general concepts on integrity of the material world, bringing up of students to show careful and sensitive attitude to environment.

General outcomes

A student:

Compares beings that comprise the animate nature by their characteristic features, states his (her) considerations on this matter;

Designs and conducts tests in order to observe transformations that take place in biological beings, summarizes, comments on and presents the outcomes in written form;

Explains and uses in practice the reasons of appropriateness of exchange and transformation of substances in the live beings;

Uses in private life the technology for planting and growing of plants, as well as breeding of and manufacturing of various products from domestic animals, poultry and other animals;

Uses in elimination of environmental problems the theoretical knowledge about bad influence of physical, chemical and biological factors on the live beings;

Provides emergency first aid in injure cases and conducts preventive measures in sickness cases.

GEOGRAPHY

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures transfer to students of general concept of natural laws of origin and development of geographical stratum, position of the Earth planet in Solar system, the Earth planet as a natural complex, reasons of natural phenomena and natural processes, use of natural resources of the Earth in economical development, natural environment, resources, population and demographical situation in Azerbaijan, economical, social and geographical peculiarities of Azerbaijan compared to the world countries, careful attitude to nature and environmental problems, citizenship position and cognitive skills.

General outcomes

A student:

Explains main peculiarities of components of natural environment, reasons and location appropriateness of natural phenomena, conducts comparisons

- based on these reasons, summarizes the results and presents them in written form;
- Substantiates significance of geographical stratum and urgency of its protection for continuation of life on the Earth planet based on relevant evidences;
- Uses geographical devices in study of environment and in other various conditions and cases;
- Provides cartographical description of certain territory, conducts reviews based on map and plan;
- Performs relevant calculations using map, geographical data and statistics, designs diagrams and tables based on the results;
- Collects and systematizes additional information on nature, natural resources, population and economical development trends of Azerbaijan and various countries, provides presentations based on this information.

LIFE SKILL

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures transfer to students of comprehensive understanding of main point of natural laws based on example of natural phenomena and social events and consequent improvement of relevant skills stipulated under primary education sub-level, improvement of students' understanding of reproductive health, human rights, spiritual perfection, moral maturity, freedom of conscience, economical enlightening, healthy life style and ways of defense against accidents and natural disasters, transfer to students of such qualities as sincerity, fairness, commitment to convictions, patience, tolerance and self-appraisal, as well as activity planning and implementation skills and economical thinking components.

General outcomes

A student:

- Explains main point of natural laws related to natural phenomena and social events, compares, systematizes and summarizes information on this matter obtained under this subject with relevant information obtained under other subjects;
- Explains danger of bad habits for human life and its grave consequences based on specific examples and shows his (her) commitment to healthy life style in daily activity;

- Shows mastering of safety rules for life activities in his (her) written and oral presentations, as well as in learning and training sessions;
- Explains the main point of provisions of relevant juridical and normative documents that describe the recognized human rights and freedoms based on specific historical events and facts and literary production, shows respectful approach to his (her) own and other people's rights;
- States his (her) opinions and considerations on specific problem during discussions, debates and other activities dedicated to moral and spiritual topics, evaluates events and facts according to their nature and expresses his (her) personal position and attitude;
- Designs, presents and implements small projects on economical efficiency in daily life.

TECHNOLOGY

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures continuation of activities related to fulfillment of functional duties stipulated under primary education sub-level and consequent improvement of technological and applied skills, management and implementation of complex technological processes, transfer to students of creative technical thinking, broadening of students' capacity for use of recent information technologies, students' professional orientation and education in the spirit of diligence and creativity.

General outcomes

A student:

- Uses initial technical and technological knowledge that is considered necessary for independent life, performs urgent technological works in daily private life observing safety techniques and rules, makes simple products;
- Designs and implements simple projects, observes design requirements while making the products, performs simple rehabilitation and construction works;
- Collects and systematizes information related to technological processes, uses it while making the products;
- Manages to grow plants, breed domestic animals, procure and process agricultural products according to available conditions and natural opportunities;

Plans beforehand and manages his (her) labor activity in order to ensure its efficiency;
Manages to work independently or within a team in the course of labor activity.

PHYSICAL TRAINING

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures improvement of students' understanding of physical training as an important factor of development of human personality and a main indicator of general culture level, transfer to students of confidence in their own physical capacity, elimination of psychological obstacles resulting from diffidence in their own potential strength, development of healthy life style into a norm, intensive improvement of movement skills using various kinds of sports and games, improvement of students' physical preparedness and strengthening of their health independently and purposefully, observation of safety rules while performing physical movements, training of skills for joint activity, quickness, agility, strength, speed, movement coordination, elasticity, firmness, discipline, mobilization of physical capacity and assisting other people in emergency situations, medical aid and self-hygiene.

General outcomes

A student:

Performs the identified norms for improvement of movement abilities and identifies and implements independently the relevant regime and activities aimed at improvement of physical preparedness and health;
Observes relevant safety rules, medical and hygienic requirements during physical training activities;
Identifies accurately his (her) place and role in team work, takes up leading and deciding position as necessary;
Selects and performs a series of efficient and purposeful movements aimed at improvement of specific movement skills.

MUSIC

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures continuation of activities stipulated under primary education sub-level and introduction to the most important points of history of our national music and data on prominent musical personalities, ashug (Azeri folk poets and singers) music, mugams, widely spread samples of the world music culture, mastering of choral singing and vocal skills, transfer to students of music perception culture, involvement of students into singing art taking into consideration their vocal capacity, desire and wishes.

General outcomes

A student:

- Comments on data related to prominent classical and contemporary musical workers of Azerbaijan, famous representatives of the world musical art and their widely spread and well-known compositions;
- Knows ashug tunes, mugams and its components, compares musical compositions by their means of expression and distinguishes them by their genre and form;
- Reviews musical compositions by their melodious areas, rhythmic and poetic characteristics;
- Reads musical texts written in notes;
- Shows team-based performance skills.

FINE ARTS

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures improvement of skills stipulated under primary education sub-level, introduction to prominent representatives of fine arts of Azerbaijan and other world countries and their works, artistic and emotional perception of reality and works of art, development of esthetical taste, improvement of understanding of the main point of measure, form, symmetry and harmony concepts based on samples of nature and fine arts, improvement of students' comparison, review and description skills, identification of children endowed with talents relevant to fine arts.

General outcomes

A student:

Comments on information about prominent representatives of Azerbaijan and the world fine arts and their works of art;
Classifies types of fine arts by relevant genres, explains their characteristic features;
Provides adequate representation of live views;
Compares and explains works of art by their national and stylistic features;
Shows styling and design skills.

2.3. GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION

2.3.1. Purpose of secondary education

Ensure arrangement of education taking into consideration students' inclinations, interests and potential capacity and create necessary conditions for realization of talents and skills;
Train students in communication culture and independent and easy acquirement and practical use of knowledge and skills, diligence, organizational activities, forecasting, research and team work;
Prepare students for independent life, holding active and useful position in community and conscious professional orientation;
Ensure the transfer to students of critical, figurative and creative thinking skills, as well as skills for understanding and appreciating of nature of achievements and innovations;
Transfer to students the feelings of love for Mother tongue, artistic and literary heredity, historical past, present and optimism for the future of Motherland, transfer to students such qualities as love for and protection of the nature, respect and tolerance for national and the world values, as well as human rights and freedoms;
Ensure efficient use by students of technological tools and economical knowledge in daily activities and transfer to students of skills for communication in one or more foreign languages.

2.3.2. General learning outcomes of secondary education

A student should manage the following:

Identify and state his (her) attitude to problems, take well-considered decisions for solution of the problems;

Search, collect, systematize, compare, review, implement, evaluate and use efficiently the information;
Think independently, critically and creatively, provide new ideas;
Conduct efficient cooperation with partners within team, group or organization;
Enter into dialogue using written and oral speech habits, take part in discussions, provide opinions and considerations independently, use various sources of information, work on texts written in various styles, write creative texts;
Operate up-to-date equipment and communication facilities;
State his (her) attitude to achievements in the area of science, fine arts, culture and literature;
Conduct communication in one or more foreign languages;
Show flexible adaptation to changeable life conditions;
Carry out executive, organizational and managerial functions;
Have rich inner world, continuously improve his (her) intellectual and cultural level, skills and talents and perceive the reality esthetically and figuratively;
Appreciate human labor, citizens' rights and freedoms, show sensitive and tolerant attitude to moral and spiritual values and the nature;
Show healthy life style, leadership and competitiveness skills;
Show fluent speaking of Mother tongue, knowledge of national customs and traditions, history and culture of Motherland and national pride.

2.3.3. Subjects delivered at secondary education sub-level

«Mother tongue», «Azerbaijan language», «Literature», «Foreign language», «Mathematics», «Information and Communication Technology (ICT)», «History of Azerbaijan», «Common history», «Physics», «Chemistry», «Biology», «Geography», «Physical training», «Pre-conscription military training».

2.3.4. Rationale for subjects delivered at secondary education sub-level and general learning outcomes for subjects

MOTHER TONGUE

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures continuation of relevant activities stipulated under basic education sub-level, broadening of capacity for use of language styles, observation of requirements of speech culture in the

course of oral and written speech and transfer to students of components of oratory habits.

General outcomes

A student:

- Compares and evaluates texts by stylistic features, states his (her) opinions and considerations;
- Chooses a style relevant to given topic, explains his ideas in written and oral form;
- Uses necessary norms for accurate, correct and expressive speech in his (her) written and oral speech;
- Develops reviews, papers, reports and presentations in various styles;
- Conducts efficient cooperation with his (her) fellows in development, arrangement and implementation of discussions, meetings, debates and other activities.

AZERBAIJAN LANGUAGE AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures continuation of activities stipulated under basic education sub-level, accurate and correct design of speech in various styles, transfer to students of skills for thinking in Azerbaijan language, expressing an idea accurately according to a point of communication and using of necessary writing rules.

General outcomes

A student:

- Expresses his (her) ideas in Azerbaijan language independently;
- Designs texts in various styles and types of speech;
- Uses spelling and punctuation rules in his (her) written speech;
- Works on texts in Azerbaijan language, states his (her) opinions and considerations on content and style of the texts;
- Presents papers and makes presentations during activities conducted in Azerbaijan language.

LITERATURE

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures improvement of students' skills and habits acquired at basic education sub-level, study of centuries-old period of development of Azerbaijan literature in historical and chronological succession, literary traditions and relations, samples of works of prominent literary men of Azerbaijan and the world literature, broadening of information on theory of literature, transfer to students of literary, artistic and critical thinking skills.

General outcomes

A student:

Shows artistic, emotional and figurative perception of literary samples, compares them in terms of topic, genre and problem, states and substantiates his (her) opinion;

Evaluates content and idea of a literary work in the context of social, political, moral and ethical values prevalent in the period of creation of this work;

Writes creative texts on selected topics in relevant styles;

Reviews sources, collects materials related to prominent literary men, achievements in the area of literature and culture and develops presentations on various literary topics;

Assists in arrangement of activities dedicated to literary topics, states his (her) attitude to literary achievements.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures continuation of activities stipulated under basic education sub-level, mastering by students of communication skills and intercourse culture in foreign language, enrichment of vocabulary, inducement of students' interest in profound study of foreign language, broadening of their world view based on acquaintance with country (countries) where the studied language is spoken as a native language.

General outcomes

A student:

Reads a text expressively, identifies its stylistic character and main idea;

Reads using dictionary a text introduced for the first time with the rate of unknown words of up to 10 percent of the whole text and explains its content;

Designs a plan of the read text, expresses its content in a written thesis and develops independently texts with a simple plot;
Uses complex sentence structures in his (her) oral and written speech.

MATHEMATICS

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures expansion and improvement of activities stipulated under basic education sub-level, transfer to students of new concepts and main points, more systematized and implementation-oriented practical habits, enrichment of students' speech through improvement of mathematical language, mastering by students of mathematical knowledge that would lay foundation of the future education and professional activity and transfer to students of algorithm culture.

General outcomes

A student:

Performs algorithms related to mathematical materials, uses mathematical concepts and formula in private life;
Identifies and expresses in mathematical language the dependence between quantities based on summarization of specific cases and experiences;
Uses algebraic transformations and functional dependences in study of related subjects and consideration of existing natural laws of environment;
Uses broadened spatial concepts in design of drawings, pictures and schemes and description of items that are observed in environment;
Explains information that substantiate natural laws of probability and statistics that are evidenced in environment and forecasts phenomena based on classical probability model;
Performs written and oral operations using measurement and calculation tools;
Substantiates his (her) considerations based on mathematical facts and comments on the logical conclusions and distinguishes between the proved and the emotionally introduced facts.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures improvement of skills and habits mastered at basic education sub-level, transfer to students of skills for review of necessary data that meet requirements of information age community, operation of more frequently-used software, improvement of students' algorithmic

thinking skills and intellectual level and students' preparedness for occupational choice.

General outcomes

A student:

Understands and describes information and operates information carriers;
Designs algorithms of various structures for solution of simple problems, develops and implements software;
Designs algorithms for data processing based on simple data models and studies the ready model using a computer;
Adjusts operational system installed on computer and performs necessary operations;
Designs new picture using various parts of other pictures in graphical editor, designs tables and conducts word-processing and formatting of texts in text editor, performs calculations based on tables and prints documents;
Develops and edits various presentations and adds multimedia effects to these presentations;
Performs relevant operations in electronic table processor and database;
Uses main internet services and develops Web pages of various designs.

HISTORY OF AZERBAIJAN

Rationale for the subjects: Delivery of this subject ensures expansion of activities stipulated under basic education sub-level, mastering of information on influence of colonial policy on territorial integrity and national and spiritual values of Azerbaijan, social, economical and cultural development trends in colonial period, national freedom movement, rehabilitation, protection and improvement of statehood, position of Azerbaijan in the contemporary world, factors that make for overall development of the country, transfer to students of skills for statement of attitude to and evaluation of historical social and political events.

General outcomes

A student:

Explains and states his (her) attitude to main point of historical events in terms of characteristics of specific period;

- Collects and reviews historical information using up-to-date technologies, and develops presentations;
- Provides hypotheses and considerations related to historical events and proposes forecasts;
- Provides proposals on issues that have influence on public opinion during debates and discussions, states his (her) attitude to practical implementation of juridical and political values (democracy, human freedoms, etc.).

COMMON HISTORY

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures expansion of activities stipulated under basic education sub-level, mastering of general information on important periods of history of countries and peoples that could serve as an example of historical development and civilization and have been close to us throughout the whole human history, social, economical, political and cultural processes, international relations, reformative and revolutionary ways of development of communities, transition from agricultural civilization to industrial civilization, contemporary information community, integration processes that take place throughout the world, global problems that worry the mankind, transfer to students of skills for systematization and presentation of data on social, economical and political processes, facts that characterize government, community and interpersonal relationships, political and social movements, role of material and spiritual culture and human factor in social development.

General outcomes

A student:

- Reviews historical facts based on various sources, explains reasons of similarities and disparities between these facts, collects, systematizes and presents additional information on specific historical events, develops papers, reports and theses based on his (her) personal considerations;
- Compares in historical context the events and developments of the world history with the same periods of Azerbaijan history, conducts reviews and states his (her) considerations;
- States and substantiates his (her) position in dialogues dedicated to historical topics, discussion of events, developments and processes of the past and the present times;

Distinguishes the role of reforms and revolutions in development of communities and states his (her) attitude to these roles;
Compares agricultural (traditional), industrial and information communities, and explains their characteristics;
Identifies cause and effect relationship between historical processes and events;
Comments on global problems that worry the mankind, and proposes various hypotheses related to elimination of these problems.

PHYSICS

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures improvement of areas of activity stipulated under basic education sub-level, further broadening of space and time concepts, mastering of information about nature and implementation of physical appropriateness and fundamental physical rules, relationship between physics and other sciences, leading role of physics in study of lively substance and technological progress, transfer to students of scientific world view and improvement of their critical thinking skills.

General outcomes

A student:

Compares fundamental physical rules with other physical rules, explains their similarities and differences;
Comments on relationship between physical phenomena and certain natural laws and areas of use of these natural laws;
Shows capacity for use in practice of theoretical knowledge performing experiments and tests.

CHEMISTRY

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures improvement of activities stipulated under basic education sub-level, mastering of main chemical rules, broadening and improvement of students' spatial concepts based on structure of substances, study of factors that have influence on vital relations between inanimate and animate nature, the role of chemical natural resources in development of economy, understanding of main natural laws that make for existence of animate

material world and transfer to students of observation, review, implementation and research skills.

General outcomes

A student:

- Compares and distinguishes inorganic and organic substances;
- Uses the most necessary chemical rules and phenomena in private life;
- Distinguishes chemical substances by their characteristics and observes the rules for use of these substances;
- Performs experiments, summarizes their results, states his (her) considerations and makes relevant oral and written presentations.

BIOLOGY

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures transfer to students of concepts of life origin, cell, development and evolution of organic world, origin of human being, foundations of genetics and selection, environmental problems and ways of their solution, relevant knowledge and skills, transfer to students of scientific world view and logical thinking about integrity and wholeness of animate material world.

General outcomes

A student:

- Comments on and explains biological processes that take place during origin and development of biological beings, as well as in live organisms;
- Collects, systematizes, compares, reviews and evaluates materials about origin of human being, races, heredity, reasons and ways of elimination of global environmental problems, etc.;
- Substantiates natural hereditary laws through problem-solving and comments on the outcomes;
- Explains significance and ways of implementation of achievements of selection in various areas.

GEOGRAPHY

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures transfer of information on principle of activity of geographical stratum and its influence on development of environment, origin of natural complexes on the Earth planet and global environmental problems that arise from processes taking place in these complexes, role of anthropogenic changes of environment in progress of the mankind, ways of solution of problems encountered in the area of provision with natural resources and involvement of Azerbaijan in globalization process, complex perception of the world based on cause and effect relationship, transfer to students of economical thinking skills and environmental culture.

General outcomes

A student:

- Explains natural laws of development of components of geographical stratum, mutual relationship of these components, results of influence of these components on environment, conducts comparative analysis of natural complexes, comments on causes of changes that take place in these complexes using relevant examples;
- Implements experiments that are aimed at observation of the process of changing of environment, as well as summarizes and presents results of these experiments;
- Develops individual and team-based small projects aimed at ensuring of economical efficiency based on relevant theoretical knowledge, performs calculations and states his (her) considerations on use of the calculation results;
- Develops plans and maps of various contents, performs geographical calculations in selected areas and develops relevant diagrams, drawings and tables;
- Reviews and summarizes the geopolitical changes and states his (her) considerations about influence of these changes on Azerbaijan;
- Collects, systematizes and presents in written and oral form the additional materials using communicational and technological facilities in order to broaden his (her) knowledge and awareness.

PHYSICAL TRAINING

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures improvement of requirements and general skills stipulated under basic education sub-level, mastering of necessary theoretical information in order to ensure physical training process, necessary conditions are created for realization of talents and potential capacity of students who have inclination and interest in this or other area of sports, students' occupational choice.

General outcomes

A student:

Fulfills the identified norms aimed at mastering and improving of movement abilities;

Explains theoretical information on arrangement of physical training process and uses this information purposefully in design of practical activities;

Identifies and performs series of movements relevant to characteristics of a chosen area of sports;

Shows organizational skills, psychological firmness, endurance and commitment to common interests during individual or team-based activities.

PRE-CONSCRIPTION MILITARY TRAINING

Rationale for the subject: Delivery of this subject ensures mastering by students of general information about Azerbaijan Armed Forces, necessary military service regulations, introduction to army life, transfer to students of civil defense and medical aid skills, students' physical and psychological preparedness for military service, mastering of topographical habits, students' perception of service in Azerbaijan Armed Forces as a sacred duty and a matter of honor, strengthening of students' feelings of patriotism, conviction, endurance, courage, discipline and individual responsibility.

General outcomes

A student:

Comments on information about establishment, structure and improvement of Azerbaijan Armed Forces, requirements of conscription and military service law;

Shows mastering of main provisions stipulated under service regulations of Azerbaijan Armed Forces, medical aid and civil defense skills, topographical habits;

Uses relevant methods and tools for solution of problems encountered in uncertain situations;

Performs norms in physical training, civil defense and parade drill, conducts coordinated activities in group- or team-based implementation of these processes.

III. WEEKLY WORKLOAD FOR VARIOUS SUBJECTS IN GENERAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS

Language in which subjects are delivered	Weekly workload			
	Primary education level Grades 1-4	Basic education level Grades 5-9	Secondary education level Grades 9-11	Total Grades 1-11
Azerbaijan language	91/8	146/20	66/10	303/38
Other languages	99/8	156/20	70/10	325/38

Note: Numbers in numerators of fractions refer to classroom-based workload, and numbers in denominators of fractions refer to hours allocated for out-of-classroom sessions.

IV. PRINCIPLES OF ARRANGEMENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESS IN GENERAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

Teaching and learning process is established through mutual cooperation activities between teachers as coordinating, directing and consulting players and students as researching, practicing and creating players, taking into consideration the following principles.

Integrity of teaching and learning process: Learning objectives are implemented in a complex way (developing, learning and training) during

teaching and learning process and include teacher and student activities that result in actual outcomes.

Establishment of equal opportunities for learning: Teaching and learning process is managed through establishment of equal learning environment for all students taking into consideration students' potential capacity.

Student-centeredness: Student is located in the center of education process. All teaching and learning activities are aimed at meeting of a child's interests and requirements, improvement of his (her) talents, skills and potential capacity.

Development orientation: Students' perception activities are tracked, their achievements are reviewed and level of development of their knowledge, skills and habits is managed.

Motivation to activities: All progress in students' activities is registered and evaluated in order to establish efficient and effective teaching and learning process and to increase students' interest in learning, consequently students are directed towards further improvement of learning outcomes.

Establishment of supporting environment: Arrangement of teaching and learning process in sound spiritual and psychological environment based on optimum logistics ensures favorable and safe conditions for improvement of quality and efficiency.

V. STUDENT ASSESSMENT IN GENERAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

Student assessment as a successive and systematic process and an indivisible component of learning activity serves directly for evaluation and consequent improvement of education quality.

Student assessment is accompanied by collection and review of relevant information about quality and improvement of education.

Collection of information is carried out through implementation of tests and review of test results, classroom-based interviews, observation of implementation status of subject curricula and student and teacher activities, review of school progress records and other school documents, etc.

As a rule, the collected information includes students' attitude to learning and students' achievements, teachers' qualification level, relevance of curricula, provision with learning resources and management methods.

According to review of the collected information, results of the implemented assessment are considered a reliable source for establishment of national education policy and identification of the future development perspectives.

Student assessment is based on principles of purposefulness, mutual evaluation, relevance and reliability, development orientation, transparency and mutual cooperation.

Student assessment is implemented in the following 3 areas: school-based, national and international.

School-based assessment includes the following 3 components:

Monitoring of student progress is a school-based activity conducted by teachers and school administrators. In this phase students' achievements are assessed in formative (regular, continuous), micro-summative (per chapters and sections) and macro-summative (semi-annual) forms, in written and oral form.

Curriculum-based assessment is conducted in order to identify adequacy of students' learning achievements to relevant content standards.

Final assessment per education levels (basic and secondary) is implemented as centralized final exams and results in issue of relevant education certificate.

Students' learning activities at secondary education level in accordance with relevant inclinations or minimum standards is identified taking into consideration the results of final assessment conducted at basic education level.

- ▲ As a rule, ***national sample-based assessment*** is implemented every 4-5 years in order to evaluate quality of curricula and changes that have occurred in general education system using the collected information on arrangement, planning and implementation environment of education process.
- ▲ As a rule, ***international assessment*** is implemented every 3 years in order to gain some insight of the status of education system based on learning achievements of a national sample of students, to identify problems and ways of its solution through review of relevant information, to forecast prospective development trends and to compare the existing situation with that of other countries.

VI. STRUCTURE OF SUBJECT CURRICULA

▲ Introduction

Goals and objectives of a subject, rationale for its significance;
Characteristics of a subject.

▲ Content of a subject

- ❖ General learning outcomes per education sub-levels;
- ❖ Content areas of a subject and their substantiation;
- ❖ General learning outcomes per each grade (main content standards);
- ❖ Identification and substantiation of necessary minimum and higher level sub-standards based on general learning outcomes;
- ❖ Intra-subject and inter-subject integration;
- ❖ Description of minimum requirements related to student achievements based on review of general learning outcomes.

Learning strategies

Description of main requirements related to arrangement of learning activities in any subject;

Recommendations on improvement of forms and methods;

Examples of a teacher's plan for learning activity.

Development of assessment samples

Co-curricular assessment tools;

Final assessment tools per education sub-levels.