



Assessment Policy for IB MYP at AYA

Background & Introduction

The American Youth Academy (AYA) is an independent, private school in Florida, which serves students from PreK to Grade 12. AYA has always used a combination of summative and formative assessment, both norm-based and criteria-based. Academic Honesty is stressed, reinforced and enforced on all assessments. The students are often reminded of one of Prophet Muhammad's PBUH sayings: "Whoever cheats is not from among us."

AYA Assessment Philosophy

- Assessment, in its various formats, allows teachers and administrators to gauge students' level of mastery of skills and concepts taught.
- In order for assessments to have value, and for students to attain success on them, they must be:
 - relevant to the students and subjects at hand.
 - diverse in type
 - developed in order to test students' abilities to think, analyze, infer and draw conclusions. They must not be developed to simply have the students regurgitate facts that they have been taught
 - analyzed before they are administered, and their scores analyzed after they are taken
 - reviewed by the teachers and students in order to learn from them and to build upon them
 - reflected upon by students in order to foster further growth
 - scheduled so that students are not overwhelmed at certain times with a large number of exams and then have lapses in time when they have no assessments. This requires collaboration among and between the faculty. It also requires a clear understanding, on the teachers' part, of what assessments are given in which subjects and when. It will be one of the IB DPC's responsibilities to maintain assessment calendars and to guide and remind faculty of them.
- Students' grades should accurately reflect the students' abilities and mastery of subject-matter.

AYA Assessment Goals

1. To establish a starting point for students using diagnostic assessments and to assess student growth using formative, summative, and standardized (MAP) assessments.
2. To guide students during the learning process, so that they can be successful on all forms of assessment administered to them.
3. To analyze and reflect upon students' results on assessments in order to learn from them and to determine future teaching goals.
4. To allow students to analyze and reflect upon their performance on assessments in order to learn from them and to build upon what they have learned.

Types of Assessments Administered at AYA

Summative

Summative assessments, depending on the subject, will be made up of any one or combination of:

- Essays
- Projects
- Portfolios
- Oral Recordings
- Individual presentations
- Process journals
- Explorations/investigations/labs
- Exams

Summative tasks will be assessed using one or more subject- and year-specific MYP criteria. All summative assessment tasks will be recorded according to the MYP 8-point scale for each criterion that is being assessed.

The criterion for each subject group are as follows:

| Subject group | A | B | C | D |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Language and literature | Analyzing | Organizing | Producing text | Using language |
| Language acquisition | Listening | Reading | Speaking | Writing |
| Individuals and societies | Knowing and understanding | Investigating | Communicating | Thinking critically |
| Sciences | Knowing and understanding | Inquiring and designing | Processing and evaluating | Reflecting on the impacts of science |
| Mathematics | Knowing and understanding | Investigating patterns | Communicating | Applying mathematics in real-life contexts |
| Arts | Investigating | Developing | Creating/ Performing | Evaluating |
| Physical and health education | Knowing and understanding | Planning for performance | Applying and performing | Reflecting and improving performance |
| Design | Inquiring and analyzing | Developing ideas | Creating the solution | Evaluating |
| MYP community project | Investigating | Planning | Taking action | Reflecting |
| MYP personal project | Planning | Applying skills | Reflecting | |
| Interdisciplinary | Evaluating | Synthesizing | Reflecting | |

Formative

These assessments will be given consistently throughout the course of the subjects being taught, and, depending on the subject, will be made up of a combination of two or more of the following:

- Quizzes
- Journals
- Essays
- Projects
- Portfolios
- Oral Recordings
- Labs
- Practice exams/Study guides
- Homework
- Classwork

Semester Summatives

- Exams will be administered to all student each semester in the subjects of mathematics, sciences, individuals and societies, language and literature, and language acquisition. The exams consist of at least three question types and must include questions that require higher-level thinking skills.
- Proctors are assigned to ensure academic honesty at all times.
- Teachers grade the exams and perform an Exam Analysis for each subject and group of students. These Exam Analyses must be submitted to the department lead and Teaching and Learning Department for review before results are finalized and posted.

External - Standardized Assessments - Summative

- Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) which is computer adaptive three times per year is taken by Year 0 - Year 3 students and is driven by growth.

External - Developed & Graded by IB - Summative

- While AYA students are not currently participating in MYP eAssessment and ePortfolio assessment, there is a plan in place to implement by 2024-2025 academic year.

Special Needs Accommodations

AYA has always made testing accommodations for students with documented allowances (IEPs). Types of accommodations, depending on the special need, include, but are not limited to:

- Oral Testing
- Extended Time to Complete Assessments
- Modified Questions that focus on the skill being assessed. Questions may be worded more simply than on the un-modified assessments.
- Testing separately from the rest of the class or group of students in a different room.

The International Baccalaureate also makes/allows for accommodations on both internal and external assessments, if there is a school record of special need for a student. This special need must be documented, and the accommodations must be requested one year ahead of time.

Rubrics for Assessments

In order for students to attain success, it is essential that clear guidelines and rubrics are in place for all assessments and all assessment types. At AYA, rubrics are provided by the teachers to the students and are posted on RenWeb for reference by students, parents and administrators.

Grading Scale

The translation of criterion assessments to percentage grades will be determined by each subject group. The general agreement for all MYP is that the level descriptors align with the following:

- 1-2 Unsatisfactory
- 3-4 Satisfactory
- 5-6 Proficient
- 7-8 Distinguished

Reporting of Assessment Results to Parents, Students, Faculty & Administrators

AYA has several reporting systems in place with regards to assessments & students' grades:

1) Google Classroom

- All students and parents have access to Google Classroom for communication of assignments and assessments.
- Teachers will post all summative assessments on Google Classroom along with the accompanying task-specific rubric.
- Teachers may post formative assessments and other assignments using whichever method of scoring they choose.
- All summative grades on Google Classroom will remain in terms of the criterion 8-point scale.

2) RenWeb

- Teachers post grades on RenWeb, an online software, which is a live post that students and parents can keep track of on a regular basis.
- Criterion-related assessments will be converted to percentage grades on RenWeb only. Teachers may either convert directly or use a coding system to convert.
- Overall MYP grades are determined by the following:
 - 50% summative assessment
 - 45% formative assessment
 - 5% PPRR
- Each student and parent has access to RenWeb and is encouraged and reminded to check the reports regularly.
- Administrators frequently check RenWeb to ensure timeliness and accuracy of postings.

3) Quarterly Report Cards

Printed Report Cards are sent home two weeks after the end of each quarter. Report cards include Grades, Conduct Codes and Attendance Records.

4) Standardized Test Results

- MAP scores are received within 24 hours, students receive their scores along with their Report Cards.

Reflection & Revision of AYA's Assessment Policy

As with any policy, AYA's Assessment Policy must be reviewed and analyzed on an annual basis by a committee of teachers and administrators to determine if any changes are needed. This analysis will be based on implementation of current policy, assessment of student and teacher success, demographics of the school, and other variables which may influence the policy's success.

If changes are found to be warranted/needed, they will be made and implemented and again reviewed after a one-year cycle.