

Guide to the Tahsili Exam for Saudi High School Students

Welcome to your definitive resource on the Tahsili Exam (Saudi Scholastic Achievement Test or SAAT), a cornerstone of university admissions throughout the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Designed specifically for secondary students navigating their academic future, this guide thoroughly explores the exam's structure, subject areas, registration procedures, associated costs, and strategic preparation approaches. Whether you're aiming for admission to prestigious Saudi universities or specialized programs, mastering the Tahsili is an essential step in your educational journey.



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What is the Tahsili Exam?

The **Tahsili Exam** SAAT (Scholastic Achievement Admission Test for Science Track Students) is a standardized test administered by the **Education and Training Evaluation Commission (ETEC)** through the **Qiyas** center in Saudi Arabia. This important assessment serves as a critical measuring tool for the academic achievement of high school graduates across the kingdom.

The primary purpose of the Tahsili exam is to evaluate students' mastery of scientific concepts taught throughout secondary school. Most Saudi universities and higher education institutions require this exam as part of their admissions criteria, using it alongside high school GPA and the Qudrat test to determine eligibility for science-based programs and specializations.



Subjects Covered in the Tahsili Exam

The Tahsili exam comprehensively evaluates students' knowledge across four primary scientific disciplines that form the foundation of science education in Saudi secondary schools. The exam features questions that test both fundamental concepts and advanced applications from grades 10-12 curriculum.

Mathematics

- Numbers and operations (real numbers, complex numbers)
- Algebra (equations, inequalities, functions, polynomials)
- Geometry (coordinate geometry, vectors, transformations)
- Trigonometry (functions, identities, applications)
- Calculus (limits, derivatives, integration)
- Statistics and probability (data analysis, distributions)
- Mathematical reasoning and proof
- Discrete mathematics

Physics

- Mechanics (kinematics, dynamics, Newton's laws)
- Work, energy, and power
- Circular motion and gravitation
- Oscillations and mechanical waves
- Fluid mechanics and thermal physics
- Electricity and magnetism (fields, circuits)
- Electromagnetic waves and optics
- Atomic and nuclear physics
- Quantum mechanics fundamentals

Chemistry

- Atomic Structure and Properties of Matter
- Chemical Bonding and the Periodic Table
- Chemical Quantities and Stoichiometry
- States and Behavior of Matter
- Chemical Reactions and Rates
- Energy and Chemical Changes
- Equilibrium and Acids/Bases
- Organic and Biological Chemistry

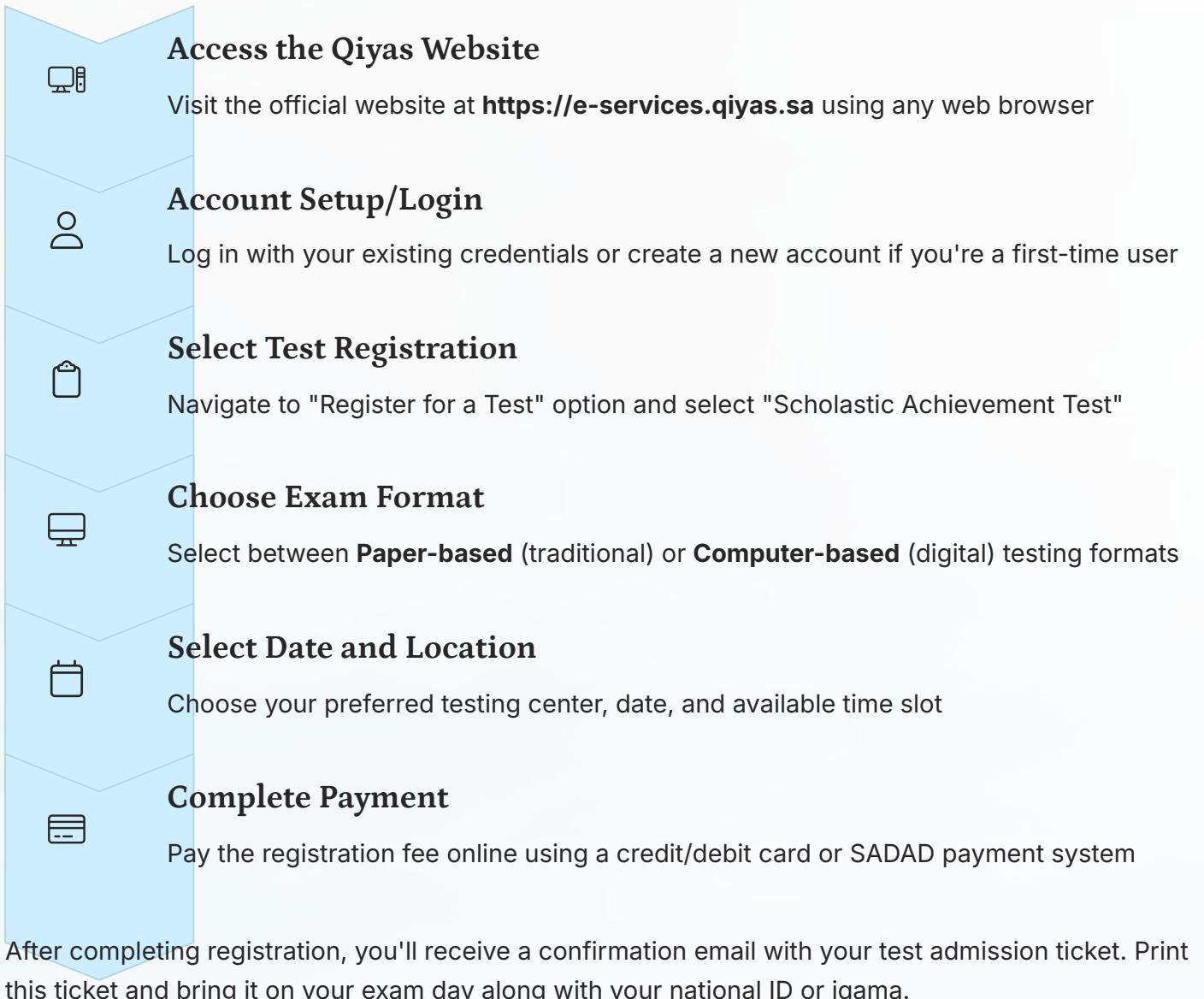
Biology

- Cell biology and organization
- Biochemistry of life (proteins, carbohydrates, lipids)
- Genetics and heredity (Mendelian and molecular)
- DNA technology and genetic engineering
- Human physiology (all body systems)
- Plant structure
- Ecology and environmental sciences
- Biodiversity
- Animal Behavior

Questions on the exam are designed to assess not only memorization of facts but also deeper conceptual understanding and analytical skills relevant to scientific studies.

Registration Process for the Tahsili Exam

Registering for the Tahsili exam requires following a specific online procedure through the official Qiyas platform. The process is straightforward but must be completed within the announced registration periods.



Test Fees and Payment Options

The Tahsili exam requires payment of a fee that varies depending on the format you choose. This fee helps cover the costs of test administration, center operations, and result processing.

Fee Structure

Exam Format	Fee (SAR)
Paper-based exam	100 SAR
Computer-based exam	150 SAR

The higher fee for the computer-based format reflects the additional resources required for digital testing infrastructure.

Payment Methods

- Credit/Debit cards (Visa, Mastercard)
- SADAD payment system
- Mada (for local Saudi bank accounts)
- Apple Pay (where available)

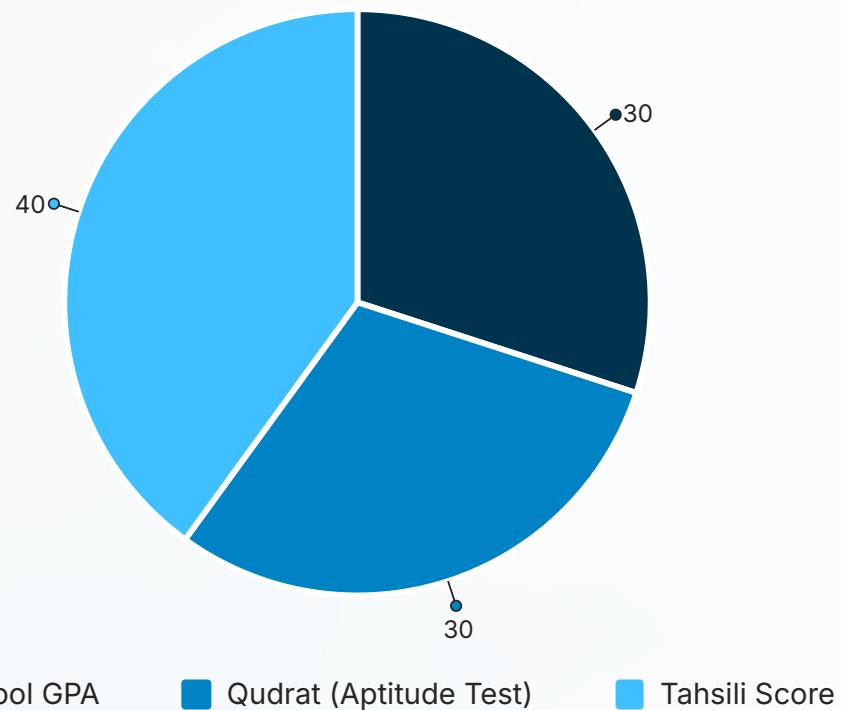
Payment must be completed during the registration process. Your registration is not confirmed until payment is successfully processed.

If you need to reschedule your exam, be aware that additional fees may apply depending on how close to the test date you make the change. Refund policies are limited and typically only apply in specific circumstances.

Weighted Admission Formula

Understanding how your Tahsili score contributes to university admissions is crucial for planning your academic future. Most Saudi universities use a weighted formula that combines multiple factors to calculate your overall admission score.

For science majors and medical tracks, the standard weighted admission formula typically follows this distribution:



This formula highlights the significant impact of your Tahsili performance, which carries the highest weight (40%) in the admissions process for most scientific and medical specializations. This weighting reflects the importance of subject-specific knowledge for success in these fields.

Important: Different universities and programs may adjust these percentages. Some highly competitive programs like medicine at top universities might place even greater emphasis on Tahsili scores, while others might have different weighting schemes.

Always check the specific admission criteria for your target universities and programs, as they may have unique requirements or additional factors in their admission calculations.

Exam Dates and Test Format

Exam Schedule

The Tahsili exam is offered **twice a year**, typically coinciding with the end of each academic semester. Exact dates vary annually but generally fall within these periods:

- **First session:** May (end of second semester)
- **Second session:** June (start of third semester)

Registration windows usually open 8-12 weeks before each testing period. Qiyas announces all official dates through their website and social media channels, so monitoring these platforms regularly is essential for timely registration.

Test Structure

- **Duration:** Approximately 2.5 hours
- **Question format:** Multiple-choice questions only
- **Language options:** Available in both Arabic and English for science track students
- **Total questions:** Approximately 110 questions
- **Calculator:** calculators are not allowed
- **Scoring:** Raw scores are converted to standardized scores (out of 100)

The computer-based format offers the advantage of immediate preliminary results, while paper-based test results typically take 2-3 weeks to be announced. All results are published through your Qiyas account portal.

Contact Information and Additional Resources

For questions, technical issues, or any concerns regarding the Tahsili exam, the Education and Training Evaluation Commission (ETEC) provides several official channels for student support.



Official Website

Visit <https://etec.gov.sa> for comprehensive information, practice materials, and official announcements



Call Center

Call **920033555** for direct assistance from Sunday to Thursday (8:00 AM - 8:00 PM)



Email Support

Contact support@etec.gov.sa for written inquiries and documentation needs



Social Media

Follow @ETEC_SA on Twitter and other platforms for the latest updates and announcements

Preparation Resources

- **Official practice tests:** Available through the Qiyas website with answer explanations
- **Study guides:** [Subject-specific materials covering all four tested disciplines](#)
- **Mobile application:** "Qiyas" app provides practice questions and test information
- **YouTube channel:** ETEC's official YouTube channel features tutorials and exam overviews

Remember to verify that any third-party preparation materials align with the current test specifications, as the exam content may be updated periodically to reflect curriculum changes.