

How to Use This Item Pool

LAMS

This Item Pool is a product of LAMS project.* A group of Ethiopian experts have developed the question items stored in this Item Pool.

Good Items

The purpose of this Item Pool is to make a collection of “good” question items freely available for teachers and educators throughout the country. The items are “good” because the experts (item writers) wrote them strictly following the guidelines and peer-reviewed them several times. Some of the items were further field-tested on primary school students to ensure that the items have statistically acceptable quality as well. At the final stage, all items were rigorously reviewed and selected by representatives of the Ethiopian experts. Only those items with satisfactory quality have been selected for this Item Pool.

Coverage

LAMS project has developed *Item Pools* for Grades 7 and 8, covering all the Units as specified in the syllabus. It has also developed *Sample Item Pools* for Grades 4 and 10, covering only two Units each.

About the Items

In the Pool, one item is indicated in one row. Each row has 10 columns: from the left to the right, Serial number (S.N.), Competency number, Level (K or A), Stem, Figure/Table, Option A, Option B, Option C, Option D and Key.

A *serial number* is given to each item. The series is confined to each Unit, however. For a new Unit, a new series of numbers are given.

Competency number indicates the specific competency the item tries to test. The competencies are taken from the official syllabus (2008 version) but numbered by LAMS. For the list of competencies, see the table attached below.

Level of items is a rough indication of the cognitive level that the item is trying

to assess. “K” means Knowledge Level, roughly corresponding to the “knowledge” and “comprehension” levels as defined in Bloom’s taxonomy. “A” means Application and Higher Level, referring to the “application” and higher levels. This two-level classification of items is only meant to be a summative indicator of the characteristics of the items and not to be a rigorous academic exercise.

For What Purposes You Can Use This Item Pool

This Item Pool is a collection of “good” items. It can be used for following purposes:

1. To compile term or year-end tests

You can compile term or year-end tests selecting items from this Item Pool appropriate for your purposes and students’ level of performance.

2. To compile unit-end tests

At the end of each unit, you may give a test to students to see how well they have understood the contents of the unit. Such unit-end tests can be easily compiled using this Item Pool since it is organized unit-wise and according to the competencies.

3. To give exercise problems to the students in the lesson

This Item Pool contains a full range of basic question items that are suitable for students to work on after the teacher’s initial explanation. You can pick up such basic-level question items and use them in your lesson to complement the exercises given in the textbook.

Many other ways are possible. Please try your own ideas.

* LAMS project is a technical cooperation project jointly implemented by the Ministry of Education of Ethiopia and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for three years from 2014 to 2017. This project produced the Item Pools for Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics for Grades 7 and 8 (and samples for Grades 4 and 10). The LAMS project also developed the Workbooks of the same subjects for Grades 7 and 8.

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