Cambridge Assessment English, in collaboration with its sister company, Cambridge Assessment International Education, is working on a pioneering programme to develop a new bilingual school system across Egypt.

Egypt's national Education Development Fund is creating this new school system with the aim of providing excellence in teaching and learning. With curricula and assessment linked to international standards, the Nile Egyptian Schools will provide bilingual education for pupils from ages 4 to 18 and teachers will speak to pupils in both English and standard Arabic from their very first day at school.

Our role in this project has been in developing the English language curriculum and assessment. A tailor-made English curriculum for Grades 1–8 (ages 6–14) has been specifically designed to fit with a bilingual international education programme. The curriculum's learning outcomes have been linked to the internationally recognised standard of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Comprehensive teacher guidelines have been provided to facilitate the successful adoption of the new curriculum. These guidelines give clear instructions on how the curriculum can be taught and include sample teaching materials and lesson plans.

We are also providing progression tests for Grades 3–7, which allow teachers to monitor the progress of students. At each Grade, two 40-minute diagnostic tests are administered in the classroom and marked by teachers.

In addition to providing an English language curriculum and tests for students, we are advising on English language levels required for teaching and other staff within the new school system. The Cambridge English Placement Test is being used as part of the staff recruitment process.

Cambridge Assessment English also provides student admission tests for Grade 6.

**Teachers will speak to pupils in both English and standard Arabic from their very first day at school.**