

Themes

English Language

Basic Education
Grade Eight



SPECIMEN

Republic of Lebanon

Ministry of Education and Higher Education

THEMES

Basic Education

Grade Eight

Center for Educational Research and Development



National
Textbook

New Curricula

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Together We Build Through Education!

The Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD) has embarked on an extensive workshop for assessing and developing the educational framework and curricula which have been placed into effect more than three years ago. With full realization of the fact that the educational cycle must continue normally through its components, and until the development process attains its aspired objectives, we are placing in the hands of students, teachers and directors of public schools, this corrected version of textbooks issued by CERD as part of the National Textbook Series.

This version is an interim stage incorporating the corrected typographical and linguistic errors discovered by CERD specialists as well as teachers and students through their daily dealings with the books. The process of assessment and development of the framework and curricula will take into consideration all the comments that have been made, or will be made, in this regard.

It is expected that once the curricula are developed and aligned with the general and specific objectives set for them, the textbooks will be realigned with the new curricular and framework requirements, including tying the content of a course to the number of teaching hours set for it during the school year, taking into consideration vertical alignment within the same course as well as the horizontal alignment with the rest of the courses.

I take this opportunity to invite all school administrators, teachers and students and all officials concerned in public and private schools alike, to promptly send their comments on these curricula and books as their contribution to enrichment of this momentous national process.

This workshop, which was launched under the kind sponsorship of His Excellency the Minister of Education and Higher Education in implementation of Decree No. 10227 embodying the educational curricula and their objectives, fits in with CERD's proclaimed new motto "Together We Build Through Education".

It is our earnest desire to see this national, all-inclusive workshop attracting the greatest amount of interest and participation to define the safest and soundest educational options that directly affect our children, as we vow to continually modernize education and develop its ways and means to keep abreast of modern developments and progress in science and technology.

Dr. Leila MALEEHA
President CERD

Introduction

Themes is a twelve-level series for students studying English as-a-foreign language. The book you are presently using is for Grade Eight.

◆ Features of the Series →

Integrated Skills

In the *Themes* series all language skills i.e., listening, speaking, reading, and writing are integrated in each unit of the books. In addition, there is a focus on developing critical thinking, cultural awareness, and study skills.

◆ Thematic Approach →

Themes follows the theme-based approach to language teaching. This approach uses authentic texts and activities to achieve the learning objectives set in the official English language curriculum. The approach, too, enables students to acquire vocabulary and grammatical structures in context. In addition, students develop their critical thinking skills by comparing, contrasting, categorizing, and synthesizing information. They also gain insights into other cultures.

◆ Components of the Themes Series →

Each level of *Themes* contains the following components: The Students Book, the Workbook, and the Teacher's Manual.

◆ Student Book →

The Student book contains thirteen instructional units. Each unit is centered around an interesting and developmentally appropriate theme. The units include a variety of authentic texts such as articles, stories, poems, and songs as well as non-textual material such as films, tables, charts, pictures, etc.

◆ Workbook →

The Workbook includes activities and exercises to reinforce and consolidate content and skills covered in the units. The activities and exercises are formatted to encourage student response. Furthermore, students are provided with clear directions to complete exercises in class or as homework.

◆ Teacher's Manual →

The Teacher's Manual presents the teaching objectives of each unit and lesson. It provides teachers with instructions and answer keys to facilitate lesson planning along the stages of opening, instruction / participation, and closure. Such planning enables teachers to introduce teaching points, involve students in activities, and assess progress.

Themes is to be accompanied by authentic audio - visual materials such as films and audio-cassettes. These material can be used to help students develop adequate listening skills as well as further understand the themes under study.

The Authors

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