



Analysis of the 2025 KICD Curriculum Changes for Upper Primary School (Grades 4, 5 and 6)

Introduction

Following the 2024 rationalisation of the curriculum, the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) made further changes to the curriculum in time for the 2025 school year. These changes affect the way planning, teaching and evaluation is done.

The 2025 curriculum revisions for Grades 4, 5, and 6 reflect a shift toward digital literacy, sustainability, and global citizenship across all learning areas. The updated curriculum aligns with contemporary educational trends, enhancing the use of technology, interdisciplinary connections, and project-based learning.

This document is prepared by Verb Education's CBC App Team. The CBC App is an assessment record-keeping and reporting tool designed to simplify work for teachers and school administrators in the implementation of CBC.

1. Integration of Digital Literacy and Media Competency

A significant transformation is seen in the integration of digital literacy and media competency across multiple Learning Areas.

- English and Kiswahili now emphasize critical media literacy, ethical communication, and digital storytelling.
- Religious Education (both Christian and Islamic) incorporates digital Bible and Qur'an study tools, fostering ethical discussions on digital citizenship.
- Creative Arts and Social Studies introduce collaborative digital projects, multimedia expression, and online research.
- Languages such as Arabic and French incorporate intercultural competence through digital platforms.

2. Emphasis on Sustainability and Environmental Awareness

Environmental responsibility has been woven into various Learning Areas beyond traditional Science & Technology.

- Agriculture & Nutrition (now Agriculture) has been revised to include sustainable farming and climate change resilience.
- Social Studies and French have incorporated sustainability and global stewardship.
- Mathematics introduces financial literacy and economic sustainability.

3. Shift Toward Competency-Based and Experiential Learning

The 2025 curriculum expands competency-based learning by replacing traditional theoretical instruction with experiential and project-based education.

- Assessment models now rely more on collaborative projects, peer reviews, and real-world application tasks rather than conventional memory-based evaluations.
- Science & Technology promotes innovation and hands-on problem-solving through digital simulations and sustainability projects.
- Mathematics includes real-world applications, such as economic development and financial literacy.

4. Strengthening of Global Citizenship and Cultural Awareness

Across languages, humanities, and social sciences, the curriculum has broadened its global perspective.

- Arabic, French, and Kiswahili emphasize cultural exchange and language immersion, equipping students with communication skills for a globalized world.
- Social Studies and Religious Education introduce international relations, social justice, and ethical leadership.

Comparison of the 2024 vs. 2025 Upper Primary Curriculum

English

- 2024: Focused on language mastery, reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
- 2025: Adds critical media literacy, digital communication, and ethical digital engagement.
- Assessment Shift: Includes digital storytelling, media analysis, and interactive assessments.

Kiswahili

- 2024: Focused on linguistic skills and cultural appreciation.
- 2025: Incorporates digital literacy, project-based learning, and ethical communication.
- Assessment Shift: Moves from traditional exams to multimedia projects and peer collaboration.

Mathematics

- 2024: Covered numeracy, logical reasoning, and problem-solving.
- 2025: Strengthens economic development, financial literacy, and STEM connections.
- Assessment Shift: Expands to practical problem-solving, digital tools, and real-world applications.

Science & Technology

- 2024: Focused on natural phenomena and technological applications.
- 2025: Includes innovation, sustainability, and environmental challenges.
- Assessment Shift: Introduces digital tool assessments and project-based learning.

Agriculture

- 2024: Covered resource conservation, food production, and hygiene.
- 2025: Introduces climate-smart agriculture, sustainability, and digital tools in farming.
- Assessment Shift: Expands to practical sustainability projects and technology-based farming solutions.

Social Studies

- 2024: Focused on active citizenship and community participation.
- 2025: Expands to global citizenship, environmental awareness, and international relations.
- Assessment Shift: Moves towards community-based projects, global awareness discussions, and online resources.

Religious Education (Christian and Islamic)

- 2024: Centered on scripture knowledge, moral reasoning, and faith-based teachings.
- 2025: Includes digital faith resources, social justice discussions, and ethical debates.
- Assessment Shift: Moves from memorization tests to interactive, experiential learning.

Creative Arts

- 2024: Focused on art, music, drama, and craft.
- 2025: Expands to include digital arts, interdisciplinary creative projects, and sustainable artistic practices.
- Assessment Shift: Now includes digital portfolios, multimedia projects, and collaborative performances.

Languages (French & Arabic)

- 2024: Focused on language proficiency and cultural appreciation.
- 2025: Adds global citizenship, digital literacy, and environmental sustainability themes.
- Assessment Shift: Expands to include interactive language learning and intercultural exchange projects.