

# Jordan

## School Classes

Generally in Jordan each student's grade is calculated from homework, participation, and quizzes as one part and exams as the other. In Jordan, students take all of the subjects in the same classroom over the year. Each teacher comes to the class to teach the subject.

## School Relationships

In Jordan, students must respect their teachers by calling teachers "Teacher" or "Mr." or "Miss." It is disrespectful to call the teachers by their first name, last name, or nickname.

## Extracurricular Activities

Students can participate in extracurricular activities in or out of school. Extracurricular options in the public schools are very limited. However, private schools have more options like sports, music, community service or volunteer work. Some students can participate in independent activities by registering in a private sport, music or other club outside of school, but it depends on the student's economic situation at home. Parents in Jordan usually get involved in supporting their children in extracurricular activities if they have an event or final game.

## School Rules

Generally, Jordanian students are not allowed to use their cell phones in school, however restrictions vary between schools. All public schools are gender segregated in Jordan. Some private schools are co-ed while others are not. Most private schools have uniforms. Girls' public schools require uniforms while the public schools for boys do not.

## Return

Upon return some students may find difficulties in adapting to their original home schools after their experience in the U.S.

## Family Life

The number of family members living in the same house depends on where they live in Jordan. If the student lives in the city, he or she will usually have a small household and some extended family may live in the same building with their uncles. In rural areas, students will have a larger household including the grandfather and grandmother and maybe their uncle or aunt. Usually students eat breakfast before going to school or during the first break at school. Family lunch is served around 3pm- 4pm and a small family dinner from 8pm-9pm.

In Jordan, usually both parents work, but it depends on where the student lives in the city and what is common. In rural areas, only the father works and the mother will stay at home to take care of her children. Authority is shared in different ways in Jordan. The father typically has primary authority in the family and the mother usually has authority over the children since she is with them the most.

It is understood that family members need to have their own time and most will take individual time to relax and a short time to do their own activities. Students generally interact informally with their immediate family members in Jordan. For extended family members like uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews, if they have a good relationship with them they interact informally as well.

## Teen Life

Teenagers are used to having responsibilities if they are out with their friends or if they are at home alone or babysitting for their younger siblings. But generally at this age, students rely heavily on their parents, and specifically their mother. Most teenagers in Jordan are dependent upon their parents. Siblings usually share things like clothes, computers and many other items and they are expected to ask first.



## COUNTRY FACTS:

**Capital:** Amman

**Population:** 6,407,085

**Area, sq. mi.:** 34,495

**Real GDP per capita:** 5,100

**Adult literacy rate:** 95% (male); 85% (female)

**Ethnic make-up:** Arab 98%, Circassian 1%, Armenian 1%

**Religion:** Sunni Muslim 92%, Christian 6% (majority Greek Orthodox, but some Greek and Roman Catholics, Syrian Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox, and Protestant denominations), other 2% (several small Shia Muslim and Druze populations)

## ***Responsibilities***

A family in Jordan may have a housekeeper, depending on their financial status. If the mother works, they most likely will have a housekeeper. Jordanian boys may have an especially difficult time adapting to doing household chores in the U.S. compared to females. Students are used to having their meals ready and prepared for them. The girls may help their mother cook, but it happens rarely.

Parents usually give their children a specific amount of money daily. Students don't work in Jordan at this age and do not have any expectations to be able to budget their money.

## ***Parental Involvement***

Most Jordanian parents have restrictions regarding internet use by their children. Some parents issue time restraints, while others monitor visited sites. Parents receive student grades on a monthly basis in Jordan. Also, parents have monthly parent-teacher meetings to discuss their child's progress in his or her classes. If any misbehavior or absence occurred, schools will contact the parents directly.

## ***Pets***

Some Jordanian families have pets, especially cats. But pets are not allowed to enter the house, especially bedrooms, bathrooms and the kitchen.

## ***Personal Interactions***

### ***Mixed Gender Socializing***

Teenagers usually socialize in groups and rarely one-on-one, depending on family and community expectations. Maintaining friendships with a member of the opposite sex is generally unacceptable. The extent to which families accept friendships between the opposite sexes depends on the families' educational, traditional and religious background.

### ***Friendships***

Teenagers in Jordan make friends through school, activities and neighborhood connections. Teenagers may have many friends at this age, but they always have at least one or two best friends with whom there is continuous communication and fair amount of trust and affinity. Generally, it is not acceptable to share money with other friends, especially in large amounts.

### ***Communication Styles***

Some students are used to direct communication and they find it easier to go straight to the point. Others prefer focusing on the context of a conversation.

### ***Eye Contact***

In Jordan, eye contact is an important thing when socializing and talking to others, especially parents. A student's shyness may affect eye contact, especially when communicating with strangers.

### ***Cultural Norms***

Jordanian teenagers tend to show negative emotions quite freely amongst their peers and family. The space of interaction between two people is less than the space that U.S. students are used to.

## ***Personal Hygiene***

Students mostly change their clothes daily, and may wear their clothes twice in one week but not two days in a row. Teenagers are used to changing all of their clothes after taking a shower. Teenagers are used to wearing their clothes until after school, and then they will change into their pajamas (unless they have any outdoor plans or activities). Teenagers must keep their bathrooms clean after using. Usually there is one large towel, and there may be other small ones for hair and face. Towels are usually replaced every other day.

## ***Religion***

Most Christians go to church every Sunday and some go only on Christmas and Easter. Most Muslims go to the mosque on Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, Ramadan and every Friday. For Ramadan, students fast from sunrise until sunset. They break their fast with dates, proceed to have some soup, and then the main course. Some students are used to having sandwiches or yogurt before the sunrise. Before Eid al-Fitr, students go to buy new clothes. On the Eid days, some students welcome visitors or go on vacation, and may receive money from their family members.

## ***Holidays***

The Main observances are Christmas, Easter, Eid al-Adha, and Eid al-Fitr. All schools have holidays between the first and the second semester for two weeks and the end of the year which is the summer break for around 3 months.