This year, a sample of Year 6 students from across Australia will take part in a national online sample assessment in science literacy.

What is the NAP – Science Literacy sample assessment?

The purpose of the online test is to inform schools, education ministers and the community about the levels of student achievement in science literacy among Year 6 students across Australia. This assessment is not a pass/fail test and participating schools will receive reports summarising their students’ results.

In our rapidly changing world, it is increasingly important that students are able to understand natural phenomena and apply a broad range of conceptual understandings of science to make sense of the world. By interpreting information on scientific issues, asking questions, conducting investigations, collecting and interpreting data, making decisions and communicating their findings, students are able to develop and demonstrate their problem-solving skills and better participate in their world. This assessment recognises science literacy as essential in helping our students become global citizens.

The assessment framework can be found at www.nap.edu.au

Who will be assessed and when?

Around 12,000 Year 6 students from approximately 630 government, Catholic and independent schools in metropolitan, rural and remote locations will participate in the sample assessment. Students will be selected by drawing a random sample of schools in each state and territory across Australia and then a sample of students within each of these schools will be selected to complete the assessment.

The assessments will be held in Term 4 during October and November 2015 at the students’ schools and are expected to take approximately two hours to complete. In each school, the assessment will be conducted by a nominated staff member who will administer the assessment in a nationally consistent manner.

What does participation mean for your child?

If your child is selected to take part, he or she will participate in a world-class online assessment designed by education experts in science literacy. Taking part will provide your child with an excellent learning opportunity.

The online assessment is intended to test your child’s level of science knowledge, understanding and skills and to gauge overall levels of science literacy nationally. Your child is not expected to study for this assessment, and last minute preparation is unnecessary.

The assessment is designed to ‘bring out the best’ in students and to encourage full participation by making the test an engaging experience.

ACARA will improve the learning of all young Australians
Information for Parents

Why is this assessment being done?

The main purpose of the national Year 6 Science Literacy assessment is to monitor and report on the overall progress being made towards achieving high standards of science literacy in Australia. Students’ achievements in science literacy will be described in a national public report to be published in 2016. No individual schools or students will be identified in the public report.

Additionally, schools taking part in assessment benefit in several ways:

- All schools taking part in the sample assessment will receive reports summarising their students’ results. Students will not receive individual reports.
- School summary reports will be linked to the Australian Curriculum: science.
- Teachers from participating classes will be able to reflect on this information to enhance teaching and learning programs in Australian schools.
- All schools will have the opportunity to engage in a national online assessment. Sampled schools will become familiar with the technical capabilities required to engage in online assessments.

What does the assessment comprise?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practice questions</td>
<td>Students complete a small set of questions to familiarise themselves with the type of questions they can expect.</td>
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<td>(10 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objective test</td>
<td>All students answer a series of questions which include multiple choice, ‘drag and drop’ and short answer questions.</td>
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<td>(60 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inquiry task</td>
<td>Students will be shown a number of videos that illustrate key stages in an investigation. They will then be prompted to ask and answer a series of questions based on the content of these videos.</td>
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<td>(35 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student survey</td>
<td>Students will complete a survey regarding their perceptions of, and attitudes towards, science and their experiences of science learning at their school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(10 minutes)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There will be 5 minute breaks between the objective test, the inquiry task and the student survey. Students will break for either recess or lunch depending on the start time of the test.

Further information

If you have any questions about the Year 6 Science Literacy national online sample assessment, please talk to your child’s teacher or school principal, or visit www.nap.edu.au