The National Assessment Program (NAP) is designed to measure student progress towards the goals outlined in the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians, 2008. The NAP monitors student achievement in literacy and numeracy (through annual NAPLAN tests); and in Civics and Citizenship, Science literacy, and ICT literacy through sample assessments which are undertaken in three-yearly cycles. National sample testing, agreed to by all state, territory and federal education ministers, has been conducted since 2003. The NAP–Civics and Citizenship (NAP–CC) sample assessment was previously held in 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2013.

For the purposes of the NAP, civics and citizenship refers to the knowledge and understanding, and the attitudes, beliefs and skills associated with the capacity to function as active and informed citizens. This concept of civics and citizenship is consistent with international practices and supports the goal of Australian schooling that students become active and informed citizens.

The NAP–CC sample assessment collects information about students’ civics and citizenship-related knowledge and understanding, attitudes, beliefs and behaviours.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for the National Assessment Program, including the development of the sample tests. ACARA consults with the curriculum and testing authorities and key education stakeholders in each state and territory. To deliver the tests online, ACARA has worked closely with Educational Services Australia (ESA), ACARA’s technology partner, to build a robust online delivery system.

The assessments will be held in Term 4 during October and November 2016 at the students’ schools and tests are expected to take approximately two hours to complete.

ACARA will improve the learning of all young Australians
How are schools and students selected to participate?

Approximately 315 schools for Year 6 and 315 schools for Year 10 students have been selected to participate in the NAP–CC assessment program in 2016. Schools are selected according to a rigorous sampling process undertaken in consultation with state and territory authorities. The sample is ‘stratified’ to ensure that government, Catholic and independent schools from metropolitan, rural and remote locations are appropriately represented. Within each sampling stratum, schools are selected at random. Twenty students at the target year level (Year 6 or Year 10) are then selected at random from within each sampled school (in schools with fewer than 20 students in the target year level, all students are selected).

How are the tests constructed?

The NAP–CC assessment comprises questions that enable students to demonstrate achievement and understandings at a range of levels against a proficiency standard. The test requires students to respond to questions that assess knowledge of civics and citizenship content, and questions that require students to reason and analyse within civics and citizenship contexts. Following the test, all students will be asked to complete a survey which has been designed to measure students’ perceptions of citizenship, their attitudes towards a number of civic-related issues, and their civic engagement.

Before completing the assessment, the students are provided with an opportunity to complete practice questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practice questions (10 minutes)</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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<tr>
<td>Part A: assessment items (Year 6: 60 minutes, Year 10: 75 minutes)</td>
<td>All students answer a series of questions which include multiple choice and short answer questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part B: student survey (20 minutes)</td>
<td>Students will complete a survey regarding their civics and citizenship-related attitudes, beliefs and behaviours.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There will be a minimum five minute break between part A and part B. Should this break coincide with the school’s morning tea or lunch time, students will be given that usual break and the student survey will be completed on return to class.

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

ACARA will improve the learning of all young Australians.
Further information

Schools selected for inclusion in the sample assessment have been contacted by ACARA’s contractor ACER and informed of the process for participating in the 2016 assessment.

Support for participating schools is available from the NAP – Civics and Citizenship Helpdesk on 1800 599 426 or email nap-cc@acer.edu.au

General information about the National Assessment Program and the Civics and Citizenship sample assessment can be found at www.nap.edu.au or by contacting ACARA at info@acara.edu.au