

2017

National Assessment Program

Information and Communication Technology Literacy

Information for schools

This year, a sample of Year 6 and Year 10 students from across Australia will take part in a national online sample assessment in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) literacy.



What is the NAP—ICT Literacy sample assessment?

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 students' achievements in literacy and numeracy (through the annual NAPLAN tests), and in science literacy, civics and citizenship and ICT literacy through sample assessments which are undertaken in three-yearly cycles. The NAP—ICT Literacy assessment was previously held in 2005, 2008, 2011 and 2014. This assessment looks at ICT literacy as an essential skill across all learning areas and emphasises the value of students becoming ICT-literate, global citizens.

For the purposes of the NAP, ICT literacy is defined as the ability of individuals to use ICT appropriately to access, manage and evaluate information, develop new understandings, and communicate with others to participate effectively in society. These processes work across the three strands of ICT literacy as outlined in the NAP—ICT Literacy Assessment Framework — working with information, creating and sharing information, and using ICT responsibly.

How is the NAP sample assessment program run?

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 appropriate curriculum and testing authorities and with the key education stakeholders in each state and territory.

ACARA contracts a service provider – in this case, the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) – to administer the tests in schools.

The assessments will be held in Term 4 between October and November 2017 at the student's school and tests are expected to take approximately two hours to complete.

How are schools and students selected to participate?

Approximately 640 schools have been selected to participate in the NAP—ICT Literacy assessment program in 2017. 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).

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How are the tests constructed?

The ICT Literacy assessment consists of tasks that enable students to demonstrate achievement at a range of levels. Students will be presented with a range of tasks to be completed using purpose-built software applications. The tasks have been designed to reflect students' typical 'real-world' use of ICT and consist of items in the following formats:

- ▶ Multiple choice
- ▶ Drag and drop (matching information)
- ▶ Simple software commands (such as saving a file to a location)
- ▶ Short constructed test responses
- ▶ Construction of artefacts

The assessment is designed to 'bring out the best' in students and to encourage their full participation by making the test an engaging experience. Students will undertake the entire assessment using a computer or device.

What does the assessment comprise?

Before completing the assessment, students are given an opportunity to complete an introductory tutorial.

Activity	Description
Introductory tutorial (10 minutes)	Students complete the tutorial to familiarise themselves with the type of items and tasks they can expect.
Part A: 4 assessment modules (20 minutes for each module)	All students complete a series of items and tasks built around typical computing skills and software.
Part B: student questionnaire (10 minutes)	Students will complete a survey regarding their access to, familiarity with, and interest in using computers.

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 questionnaire will be completed on return to class.

How will the assessment be conducted?

In most schools, a test administrator from ACER will conduct the assessments at the students' school. The test administrator will be trained to administer the assessments in a consistent way across all participating schools. For a small number of very remote schools, alternative arrangements for the administration of the assessment will be made.

Prior to the assessment, schools will be asked to determine the suitability of their computers or devices for test day by completing a Technical Readiness Test (TRT).

In some schools, it may be necessary to administer the assessment using alternative devices provided by the test administrator. Students' responses will be stored electronically for marking subsequent data analysis and reporting.

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What are the outcomes?

The ICT Literacy assessment is specifically designed to provide nationally comparable state and territory data and overall trends.

Students' achievements will be described in a national public report to be published in 2018. The report will document achievement in relation to the defined proficiency levels without identifying individual schools or students. This report will include:

- ▶ Analysis of the performance of different groups of students – for example, differences across gender, differences across state/territory performance and differences across metropolitan/regional schools. The results of government and non-government schools will not be compared.
- ▶ Comparison of ICT literacy across Year 6 and Year 10 students. Several tasks are common to the assessments completed by both year levels.
- ▶ Changes or trends from 2005 through to 2017.

Schools will receive information summarising their students' performance on the tests before the end of the 2017 school year. Additionally, schools taking part in the assessment will benefit in several ways:

- ▶ All schools taking part in the sample assessment will receive reports summarising their students' results.
- ▶ School summary reports will show links to the Australian Curriculum: Digital Technologies.
- ▶ Teachers from participating classes will be able to reflect on this information to enhance teaching and learning programs in Australian schools.
- ▶ Students 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.

NAP

Selected materials (which include sample questions) from previous cycles of the NAP—ICT Literacy assessments are available on the National Assessment Program website at www.nap.edu.au.

Further information

Schools selected for inclusion in the sample assessment will be contacted and informed of the process by July 2017.

Support for participating schools is available at ictl@acer.edu.au or on 1800 599 426.

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