

Fact sheet – tailored testing

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The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will move online from 2017, over a three-year period.

Up to 10 per cent of Australian schools will be conducting NAPLAN online in 2017, with more schools going online in 2018, and all schools online by 2019.

One of the main benefits of taking NAPLAN online is a feature known as 'tailored testing', where the test automatically adapts to student performance and asks questions that match the student achievement level, allowing the student to demonstrate their knowledge.

How will tailored testing work for NAPLAN Online?

Students will be presented with sets of questions based on their performance during the test. Many of these questions are of mid-range complexity for each year level, but some are of higher or lower complexity.

For example, students who struggle with questions early in the test will be directed to questions that are less complex. Students performing to a higher level in the test will have the opportunity to answer questions that are more complex.

This model provides all students with the opportunity to better demonstrate the range of their literacy and numeracy skills. Not only does this provide a more precise assessment of their performance, but it is also more engaging for students.

Will students be sitting the same test?

The majority of the NAPLAN questions presented to students will test the same range of difficulty. What will differ from student to student is targeted questions of either higher or lower complexity, depending on the student's performance. These targeted questions are designed to test a wider range of student abilities and provide more detailed results that can be used to target teaching.

Will the same skills be tested as in paper NAPLAN tests?

Both paper-based NAPLAN and NAPLAN Online will test the full range of skills in literacy and numeracy taught through curriculum content. Student results will continue to be

Key benefits of tailored testing:

- encourages participation in the test and is more engaging for students
- matches student achievement levels, without increasing test length
- measures student achievement more precisely (especially for higher performing and struggling students) to inform teaching and learning.

[Research](#), supported by many other studies, indicates that students respond well to an online testing environment and a test that adapts to their performance.

measured against the NAPLAN assessment scale, and students will answer the same number of questions that they would in a paper-based test.

If students get different questions, how can results be comparable?

Every student is tested on the same curriculum content and knowledge for their year level, regardless of the questions they are asked. Questions will continue to be placed on the NAPLAN scale, ensuring results are comparable for all students.

Have Australian schools used tailored testing in the past?

Many school testing programs use a form of tailored testing, for example, the Progressive Achievement Test in Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary and Spelling, which uses adaptive testing to match questions to each student's level of achievement.

ACARA has trialled tailored testing in more than 250 schools across Australia, looking at both student performance during the test and the impact on the cognitive engagement and behaviour of students. More than 2,500 students in Years 3 and 5, and 1,500 students in Years 7 and 9 participated in the trials. ACARA's [research](#) found that most students completed the test feeling positive and motivated to do their best and the test results were more useful in supporting the next stage of their learning.

For more information, visit the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au or email: naplanonline@acara.edu.au

