

2014

National Assessment Program

Information and Communication Technology Literacy

Information for Schools

This year, a sample of students from across Australia will take part in a national 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 student's 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 and 2011. 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 in order to participate effectively in society. These processes work across the three strands of the ICT Literacy domain – 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 2014 at the student's school and tests are expected to take approximately two hours to complete.

How are schools and students selected to participate?

Around 12,000 students from Year 6 and Year 10 are randomly selected to participate in the ICT Literacy Assessment. The sample of students is 'stratified' to ensure that government, Catholic and independent schools from metropolitan, rural and remote locations are appropriately represented. Around 20 students from each year group in each of the sampled schools will be selected to participate.

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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 ICT tasks on screen and respond using only their computer. These tasks 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 on computers.

How will the assessment be conducted?

In most schools, a test administrator from ACER will conduct the assessments at the students' school in one session of approximately two hours for each group of 20 students. The test administrator will be trained to administer the assessments in a consistent way across all participating schools. In a small number of very remote schools, the assessment will be administered by a teacher at the school who will have been trained to administer the assessment.

Prior to the assessment, ACER will support schools to gauge their computers' test readiness. In some schools, it may be necessary to administer the assessment via USB devices provided by the ACER test administrator. Students' responses will be stored electronically for marking and analysis at a later date. Marking will be done either automatically or by trained markers depending on the question type.

What are the outcomes?

The ICT Literacy assessment is specifically designed to provide nationally comparable state and territory data and overall trends. No individual student or school results will be published.

Schools will receive information summarising their students' performance on the tests before the end of the 2014 school year.

A public report on the results of the ICT Literacy assessment, to be released in 2015, will document achievement in relation to the defined proficiency levels. This report will include:

- ▶ **Analysis of the performance of different groups of students – for example, differences across genders, state/territories and 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. A number of tasks are common to the assessments completed by both year levels.**
- ▶ **Changes or trends from 2005 through to 2014.**

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 for all teachers' use and information (2014 ICT Literacy Assessment materials available in July 2015).

Further information

Schools selected for inclusion in the sample assessment will be contacted by ACER and informed of the process by July 2014.

Support for participating schools is available from ACER at ictl@acer.edu.au or on 1800 762 022.

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