

2016

National Assessment Program

Civics and Citizenship

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 Civics and Citizenship.

What is the NAP – Civics and Citizenship 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 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.

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 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.



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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.

Activity	Description
Practice questions (10 minutes)	Students complete a small set of questions to familiarise themselves with the type of questions they can expect.
Part A: assessment items (Year 6: 60 minutes, Year 10: 75 minutes)	All students answer a series of questions which include multiple choice and short answer questions.
Part B: student survey (20 minutes)	Students will complete a survey regarding their civics and citizenship-related attitudes, beliefs and behaviours.

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.

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How will the assessment be conducted?

In each school, the assessment will be conducted by a nominated staff member from the school who will be trained to administer the online assessment in a nationally consistent manner.

Prior to the assessment, schools will be able to determine the suitability of their computers or devices

for test day by completing a Technical Readiness Test (TRT). In some schools with unsatisfactory internet connectivity, it may be necessary to administer the assessment via an alternative offline solution. Students' responses will be stored electronically for marking and subsequent data analysis and reporting.

What are the outcomes?

The NAP-CC sample assessment is specifically designed to provide nationally comparable state and territory data and overall trends. No individual student or school result will be published.

Schools will receive information summarising their students' performance on the tests before the end of the 2016 school year.

A public report on the results of the assessment, to be released in 2017, will document national, and state and territory achievement in relation to the defined national proficiency levels.

This report will include:

- ▶ analysis of the performance of different groups of students; for example, differences across genders, states/territories and metropolitan/regional schools. The results of government and non-government schools will not be compared.
- ▶ comparison of achievement levels to previous cycles
- ▶ analysis of students' civics and citizenship-related attitudes, beliefs and behaviours according to different groups of students (as relevant); for example boys and girls, students in Year 6 and Year 10; and
- ▶ analysis of the association between performance on the test and selected civics and citizenship-related attitudes, beliefs and behaviours

Selected materials (which include sample questions) from previous cycles of the NAP-CC assessment are available on the National Assessment Program website at www.nap.edu.au

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