

This year, a sample of Year 6 and Year 10 students from across Australia will take part in a national online assessment in science literacy.

What is the NAP – Science Literacy sample assessment?

The purpose of the online test is to inform schools, education ministers and the community about the levels of student achievement in science literacy among Year 6 and Year 10 students across Australia.

In an increasingly technological environment, students who can understand natural phenomena and apply scientific method to make sense of what they experience

are at a significant advantage. By interpreting information on scientific issues, asking questions, conducting investigations, making decisions, and communicating their findings, students develop their problem-solving skills and are able to participate more fully in the world around them. The NAP Sample Science Literacy assessment recognises science literacy as essential to this process.

Who will be assessed and when?

Around 11,200 Year 6 and Year 10 students from approximately 560 government, Catholic and independent schools in metropolitan, rural and remote locations will participate in the sample assessment.

A random sample of schools will be drawn from across each state and territory in Australia. A sample of students

within each of these schools will be selected to complete the assessment.

The assessment will be held in Term 4, during October and November 2018, and will be conducted by a nominated staff member who will be trained to administer the assessment in a nationally consistent manner.

What does participation mean for your child?

If your child is selected to take part, he or she will participate in a world-class online assessment designed by education experts in science literacy. Taking part will provide your child with an excellent learning opportunity.

The online assessment is intended to test your child's level of science knowledge, understanding and skills. Your child

is not expected to study for this assessment and last minute preparation is unnecessary.

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

Why is this assessment being undertaken?

The main purpose of the national Year 6 and Year 10 Science Literacy assessment is to monitor and report on the overall progress being made towards achieving high standards of science literacy in Australia. A national public report will be published in 2019. No individual school or student will be identified in the public report.

Additionally, schools taking part in the assessment benefit in several ways:

- All schools taking part in the sample assessment will receive reports summarising their students' results. Students will not receive individual reports.
- The school summary reports will be linked to the Australian Curriculum: Science.
- Teachers from participating classes will be able to reflect on this information to enhance teaching and learning programs in Australian schools.

What does the assessment comprise?

Activity	Description
Practice questions	Students complete a small set of questions to familiarise themselves with the type of question they can expect.
Objective test	Students complete a series of questions which include multiple choice, 'drag and drop' and short answer questions.
Inquiry task	Students engage in a task that reflects the key stages of a scientific investigation and answer a series of questions on it.
Student survey	Students complete a short survey regarding their perceptions of, and attitudes towards, science and their experiences of science learning at their school.

Further information

If you have any questions about the Science Literacy national online sample assessment, please talk to your child's teacher or school principal, or visit www.nap.edu.au.