

2024 National Assessment Program Civics and Citizenship field trial

Information for schools

In 2023, a sample of Year 6 and Year 10 students from across Australia will take part in a national online field trial in civics and citizenship ahead of the 2024 main study event.

What is the NAP – Civics and Citizenship field trial?

The National Assessment Program (NAP) measures student progress towards important educational outcomes.

NAP sample assessments test students' skills and understanding in science literacy, ICT literacy (digital literacy), and civics and citizenship. Only selected classes of students in Years 6 and 10 participate in these assessments, which are held on a rolling 3-yearly cycle.

The NAP – Civics and Citizenship (NAP–CC) sample assessment collects information about students' knowledge and understanding related to civics and citizenship. For the NAP, civics and citizenship refers to the knowledge and understanding, as well the attitudes, beliefs, behaviours and skills, associated with being active and informed citizens.

NAP–CC assessments have been held every 3 years since 2004. In 2013, for the first time, NAP–CC was delivered to students online. The NAP–CC main study assessment in 2022 was postponed due to the COVID pandemic and will next be held in 2024.

Prior to the NAP–CC main study assessment being undertaken, a field trial that evaluates potential questions for the main assessment is required.

Why is the NAP – Civics and Citizenship undertaken?

NAP–CC assessments are used to improve teaching and learning, enabling teachers to use information to inform their teaching programs.

NAP–CC assists teachers, education leaders, parents, the community, researchers and policy makers to monitor student proficiency in civics and citizenship,

and supports the goal of schooling for students to become active and informed citizens. The study also assesses student achievement against recognised goals and standards, and helps drive improvements in student outcomes.

How is the NAP – Civics and Citizenship field trial run?

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) develops the sample tests in consultation with curriculum specialists, testing authorities, and practising civics and citizenship and humanities teachers in each state and territory.

The NAP – Civics and Citizenship field trial will be administered by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) on behalf of ACARA. The tests are delivered to students over the same online platform used for the annual NAPLAN tests, so many students are already familiar with this platform.

The field trial will be held from **16 October to 3 November 2023**. Each test session will run for 60 (Year 6) or 75 minutes (Year 10). Schools should also allow time for setting up, preliminary instructions, and the completion of practice and survey questions.

How are schools and students selected to participate in the field trial?

Around 2,400 Year 6 and Year 10 students from approximately 120 randomly selected government, Catholic and independent schools in metropolitan, rural and remote locations will participate in the field trial.

ACARA's contractor, ACER, will ask participating schools to supply class lists for the relevant school year (Year 6 and/or Year 10). From these, ACER will select one class with approximately 25 students from each participating year at each school.

How are the tests constructed?

The field trial comprises questions and tasks that allow students to demonstrate achievement and

understanding at a range of levels. Students have an opportunity to complete practice questions before progressing to the online assessment.

Activity	Description
Practice questions	Students complete a small set of questions to familiarise themselves with the types of questions they can expect.
Part A – assessment items	All students answer a set of questions that includes multiple-choice, “drag and drop” and short answer questions.
Part B – student questionnaire	Students complete a questionnaire regarding their attitudes, beliefs and behaviours related to civics and citizenship.

How will the field trial assessment be conducted?

During Term 3, ACER will contact participating schools to provide training material and assist in the preparations schools must make to ensure they are ready to administer the test.

Prior to the assessment, schools will be able to determine the suitability of their computers/devices for the test by completing the required technical device checks.

On test day, the test session will be conducted by a nominated staff member from the school.

The guideline materials provided to schools by ACER will ensure that the assessment is administered in a nationally consistent manner.

What are the outcomes?

The field trial tests potential questions (which ACARA calls “items”) for use in the NAP–CC main study. It is not about testing students or their ability, and students’ results are not published. Schools taking part in the assessment field trial will be excluded from the assessment main study, which is scheduled to take place in May 2024.

Further information

Support for participating schools is available from the NAP – Civics and Citizenship Helpdesk on 1800 155 108 or email: nap-cc@acer.org

General information about the National Assessment Program and the NAP – Civics and Citizenship assessment can be found at www.nap.edu.au