

2024 National Assessment Program Civics and Citizenship – Main study

Information for schools

In 2024, a sample of Year 6 and Year 10 students from across Australia will take part in an assessment in civics and citizenship.

What is the NAP – Civics and Citizenship assessment?

The National Assessment Program (NAP) is designed to measure student progress towards important educational outcomes.

The NAP sample assessments are a suite of tests, taking place in a 3-yearly cycle, that monitor student achievement in science literacy, information and communication technology (ICT) literacy, and civics and citizenship.

For the NAP's purposes, 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 perspectives and supports the goal of Australian schooling for students to become active and informed citizens.

The National Assessment Program – Civics and Citizenship (NAP-CC) sample assessment collects information about students' knowledge and understanding, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors related to civics and citizenship.

NAP-CC assessments have been held every 3 years since 2004. In 2013, NAP-CC was trialed and delivered to students online for the first time. In its seventh cycle, the assessment was postponed from 2017 to 2022 because of COVID's impact on schools across Australia.

What is the purpose of the assessment?

Results from the assessment are used to:

- inform schools, education ministers and the community about levels of achievement in civics and citizenship education among Year 6 and Year 10 students across Australia, with the goal of supporting students to become active and informed citizens
- support improvement to teaching and learning programs.

The study assesses student achievement against recognised goals and standards and drives improvements in student outcomes.

How is the NAP – Civics and Citizenship assessment run?

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) develops the NAP-CC assessments in consultation with curriculum and testing authorities and practicing Civics and Citizenship/Humanities teachers in each state and territory.

The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) has been contracted by ACARA to administer the assessments. It will be delivered to students using the same online platform used for the annual NAPLAN tests.

- The assessments will be held from 06-24 May 2024.
- Each test session will run for 60 minutes (Year 6) or 75 minutes (Year 10).
- Schools should also allow time for setting up, preliminary instructions, and the completion of practice questions and the questionnaire.

How are schools and students selected to participate?

Around 12,000 Year 6 and Year 10 students from approximately 640 government, Catholic and independent schools in metropolitan, regional and remote locations will participate in the main study. The sample of schools is stratified using variables such as geographic locations, sectors and school size to ensure and improve the representativeness of the population.

ACER will ask participating schools to supply student lists for the relevant school year (Year 6 and/or Year 10). From these, ACER will select 20 students from each participating year at each school.

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 include multiple-choice, “drag and drop” and short answer questions.
Part B – student questionnaire	Students will complete a questionnaire regarding their attitudes, beliefs and behaviours related to civics and citizenship.

How are the tests constructed?

The NAP–CC 2024 assessment 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 doing the online assessment.

How will the assessment be conducted?

During Term 1, ACER will contact participating schools to provide training and guideline materials 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.

The assessment will be held from 6–24 May 2024 (Term 2). On test day, the test session will be conducted by a nominated staff member from the school.

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

What are the outcomes?

The NAP–CC 2024 assessment provides data comparable at national, state and territory levels, and identifies overall trends.

- Schools will receive a report summarizing their students’ performance in the assessments in Term 3.
- A national public report on the results of the assessment will be released in 2025 and will show achievement in relation to the defined national proficiency levels.
- No individual schools’ results will be published, and no individual student reports will be available.

The public report will include:

- analysis of the performance of different groups of students; for example, differences across genders, states/territories and metropolitan/regional schools
- comparison of civics and citizenship literacy across cohorts of Year 6 and Year 10 students
- comparison of achievement levels over time.

Demonstration tests (which include sample questions) from previous cycles of the NAP–CC assessment are available on the National Assessment Program website at <https://www.nap.edu.au/nap-sample-assessments/the-tests>

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 Civics and Citizenship assessment can be found at www.nap.edu.au