

National Assessment Program Civics and Citizenship 2027 – Field trial

Information for schools



In 2026, a sample of Year 6 and Year 10 students from across Australia will take part in an online national assessment in civics and citizenship.

What is the NAP – Civics and Citizenship assessment?

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, 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. It also assesses students' attitudes, beliefs, behaviours and skills associated with being active and informed citizens.

NAP–CC assessments have been held every 3 years since 2004. NAP–CC assessments have been delivered to students online since 2013.

NAP–CC helps teachers, education leaders, parents/carers, the community, researchers and policymakers to monitor student proficiency in civics and citizenship. It supports the goal of schooling for students to become active and informed citizens.

Teachers and schools can use the results from the NAP–CC assessment to inform their teaching programs.

Why is the NAP–Civics and Citizenship field trial undertaken?

Before students take part in the NAP–CC main study assessment, we need to run a field trial that evaluates potential questions for the main assessment. Only selected classes of students in Years 6 and 10 participate in these assessments.

This makes sure that the main assessment is high quality and engaging, and gives accurate results.

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

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

The NAP–CC field trial is 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 NAPLAN tests, which students are already familiar with.

The field trial will be held from **Wednesday 14 October to Wednesday 28 October 2026**.

Each test session runs for 60 minutes (Year 6) or 75 minutes (Year 10). Schools should set aside approximately 2 hours to 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 3,200 Year 6 and Year 10 students from approximately 128 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 2027 NAP–CC field trial comprises questions and tasks that allow students to demonstrate understanding and skills at a range of levels. Students have an opportunity to complete online practice questions before progressing to the 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	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 materials and help with the preparations to ensure they are ready to administer the test.

Before 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 the potential of 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 main study assessment, which is scheduled to take place in May 2027.

Further information

Support for participating schools is available from the NAP – Civics and Citizenship Helpdesk on 1800 950 107 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