2025

National Assessment Program
Information and Communication Technology Literacy – Field Trial

Information for schools

In 2024, as part of the National Assessment Program, a sample of Year 6 and Year 10 students from across Australia will take part in an online sample assessment in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) literacy.

What is the NAP–ICTL assessment?

The National Assessment Program (NAP) is designed to measure student progress towards the goals outlined in Alice Spring (Mparntwe) Education Declaration 2019. NAP sample assessments test students' skills and understanding in science literacy, civics and citizenship, and ICT literacy. 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–ICT Literacy (NAP–ICTL) assessment measures students' knowledge and understanding related to ICT and digital literacy. For the purposes of the NAP, ICT literacy is defined as the ability to use ICT appropriately and safely to:

- access, manage and evaluate information
- develop new understandings
- apply computational, design and systems thinking to create solutions
- communicate and collaborate with others
- engage productively with emerging and future technologies.

NAP–ICTL assessments have been held every 3 years since 2005. Before the main study assessment is conducted, a field trial to evaluate potential modules for the main assessment is required.

Why is the NAP–ICTL assessment undertaken?

The purpose of the assessment is:

- to inform schools, education ministers and the community about levels of achievement in ICT education among Year 6 and Year 10 students across Australia
- to support improvement in teaching and learning programs.

The study also assesses student achievement against recognised goals and standards, and helps drive improvements in student outcomes.

How is the NAP–ICTL field trial run?

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) develops the sample tests in consultation with curriculum specialists, education authorities, testing authorities and practising teachers in each state and territory. The NAP–ICTL field trial will be administered by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) on behalf of ACARA. The tests are delivered to students over an online platform.

The field trial will be held from **Wednesday 16 October to Tuesday 29 October 2024.**

All components will be administered on the same day with a short break between the modules to allow the students to stretch and refocus. The actual assessment time is 80 minutes, but schools should allow approximately 2 hours for the entire assessment process.

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

Around 1,750 Year 6 and Year 10 students from approximately 70 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 or Year 10). From these, ACER will select approximately 25 students from each participating year at each school.

How are the tests constructed?

The NAP–ICTL assessment consists of tasks that enable students to show achievement at many levels. Students will be presented with a range of tasks to complete using purpose-built software applications. The tasks have been designed to reflect students' typical real-world use of ICT. Students have an opportunity to complete practice questions before progressing to the online assessment.

The NAP–ICT Literacy assessment consists of an introductory tutorial (10 minutes), 4 assessment modules (20 minutes each) and a student questionnaire (15 minutes).

Activity	Description
Practice questions (10 minutes)	Students complete the tutorial to familiarise themselves with the types of items and tasks they can expect.
Part A: 4 assessment modules (20 minutes per module)	All students complete a series of items and tasks built around using digital tools, which provide the opportunity to demonstrate typical computing skills and software use.
Part B: Student questionnaire (15 minutes)	Students engage in a task that reflects the key stages of a scientific investigation and answer a series of questions on it.

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 ACER provides to schools will ensure that the assessment is administered in a nationally consistent manner.

What are the outcomes?

The field trial tests potential questions (items/modules) for use in the NAP−ICTL main study, which aims to provide a general snapshot of ICT literacy. It is not about testing individual 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, scheduled for May 2025.

Further information

Support for participating schools is available from the NAP−ICTL Helpdesk on 1800 155 108 or email: ictl@acer.org

General information about the National Assessment Program and the NAP−ICTL assessment can be found at https://www.nap.edu.au/nap-sample-assessments/ict-literacy

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