

National Assessment Program

Science Literacy 2026 – Main study

Information for parents and carers



In 2026, 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 science literacy.

What is the NAP–Science Literacy sample assessment?

The NAP Science Literacy sample assessment is a test in science literacy that is given to a sample group of Year 6 and Year 10 students.

The assessment monitors and reports on the overall progress being made towards achieving high standards of science literacy in Australia.

Before the NAP–SL main assessment in May 2026, a field trial is conducted to make sure the questions are suitable.

Why is the NAP–SL assessment undertaken?

The purpose of the assessment is to:

- inform schools, education ministers and the community about levels of achievement in science education among Year 6 and Year 10 students across Australia
- support continuous improvement in the teaching and learning of science literacy to strengthen student outcomes.

Who will be assessed and when?

A random sample of schools in each state and territory across Australia is selected and a sample of students within each of these schools take part. Around 11,300 Year 6 and Year 10 students from approximately 565 government, Catholic and independent schools in metropolitan, rural and remote locations participate in the NAP–SL assessment.

The assessment will be held between **Wednesday 6 May and Tuesday 26 May 2026** and will be conducted by a trained school staff member. There will be quality monitor visits from external test administrators to ensure tests are conducted as described in the guidelines given to schools.

What does participation mean for your child?

If your child is selected for the assessment sample, they will be participating in a world-class online assessment designed by education experts in science literacy.

Taking part will provide your child with an excellent learning opportunity as the tests are designed in an engaging way to bring out the best in students.

Your child is not expected to study for this assessment and no preparation is necessary. There are separate tests for Year 6 and Year 10 students. The test is 60 minutes for Year 6 and 75 minutes for Year 10.

Activity	Description
Practice questions	Students complete a small set of questions to become familiar with the types of questions they can expect.
Objective test and inquiry task	The objective test includes multiple-choice, “drag and drop” and short-answer questions. The inquiry task requires students to engage in a scientific investigation and respond to a series of questions that reflect the key stages of the process.
Student questionnaire	Students complete a short survey regarding their perceptions of and attitudes towards science, and their experiences of science learning at their school.

How will results be published?

A national report will be published in 2027. No individual schools or students are identified in the public report. Students do not receive individual reports.

Schools taking part in the assessment receive reports summarising their students’ results. Results in the school summary reports are mapped to the Australian Curriculum. Teachers can use this information to support teaching and learning programs in their schools.

Further information

If you have any questions about the NAP–SL assessment, please talk to your child’s teacher or school principal, or visit nap.edu.au/nap-sample-assessments/science-literacy.