

NAPLAN Tests 2011 Timetable

	Tuesday 10 May	Wednesday 11 May	Thursday 12 May
Year 3	Language Conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 45 minutes	Numeracy 45 minutes
Year 5	Language Conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 50 minutes	Numeracy 50 minutes
Year 7	Language Conventions 45 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 65 minutes	Numeracy <u>Calculator</u> 40 minutes <u>Non-calculator</u> 40 minutes
Year 9	Language Conventions 45 minutes Writing 40 minutes	Reading 65 minutes	Numeracy <u>Calculator</u> 40 minutes <u>Non-calculator</u> 40 minutes

- **Language Conventions** includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- **Numeracy** includes number; space; algebra, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data.
- **Calculators** are NOT permitted in the Numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, there is one Numeracy test where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.

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PROGRAM
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NAPLAN 2011

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Literacy and Numeracy

Information for Parents



What is NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. All government, and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?

NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of the school's assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance.

What will be tested, and how?

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the *National Statements of Learning* for English and mathematics which underpin state and territory learning frameworks. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The Writing task requires students to write a persuasive text.

Who will run the tests?

NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or the principal. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

Can I help my child prepare for the tests?

NAPLAN assessments are undertaken by students as a normal part of their education program. Teachers will ensure students are prepared for the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended. The most effective way to prepare for the tests is to ensure that literacy and numeracy skills embedded in the normal curriculum are taught. Sample questions and a sample Writing task can be accessed on the NAPLAN website: www.naplan.edu.au.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?

All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with special needs may qualify for special provisions which reflect the support normally provided in the classroom, and students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student who has a severe intellectual disability or who has recently arrived in Australia and is from a non-English speaking background.

Your state testing authority and your school principal can provide you with more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

How is NAPLAN performance measured?

NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has ten bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands will represent the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?

Wherever possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 13 May.

Will I receive a report on my child's performance?

A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent home. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

How are NAPLAN test results used?

- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the *My School* website.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- visit www.naplan.edu.au
- contact your child's school
- contact your state or territory's education authority (details available on the NAPLAN website)