

## What does the NAP-SL sample assessment look like?

The NAP-SL sample assessment comprises three sections:

Activity	Description
Pencil-and-paper test (60 minutes)	Students complete a pencil-and-paper test which includes multiple-choice and short-answer questions.
Practical task (45 minutes)	Students work in groups of three in randomly allocated groups to conduct investigations and record data. They answer questions independently based on their observations and data they collected.
Student survey (10 minutes)	Students complete a survey regarding their perceptions of and attitudes to science and their experiences of science learning at their school.

## Where can I find out more information?

If you have any questions about the Year 6 NAP-SL sample assessment program, please talk to your child's school Principal or visit [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au).

**NAP** NATIONAL  
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# NAP-SL 2012

## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

## Science Literacy

### Information for Parents & Carers



**acara** AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM,  
ASSESSMENT AND  
REPORTING AUTHORITY  
[www.acara.edu.au](http://www.acara.edu.au)

**In 2012, a sample of Year 6 students across Australia will take part in the National Assessment Program-Science Literacy (NAP-SL) sample assessment.**

### **What is the NAP-SL sample assessment?**

The NAP-SL sample assessment program recognises science literacy as an essential skill for all students to develop. It measures students' understanding of natural phenomena and their ability to apply a broad range of conceptual understandings of science to make sense of the world. This assessment may involve interpreting media reports about scientific issues, asking investigable questions, conducting investigations, collecting and interpreting data and making decisions at a Year 6 level.

The purpose of the sample assessment is to inform schools, education ministers and the community about the achievements of Australia's Year 6 students. It is part of the National Assessment Program (NAP) which includes a suite of assessments designed to monitor students' progress towards the goals outlined in the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians 2008*. The NAP monitors student achievement in literacy and numeracy (through annual NAPLAN tests); and in science literacy, civics and citizenship and ICT literacy through sample assessments which are undertaken in three-yearly cycles. The NAP-SL sample assessment was previously held in 2003, 2006 and 2009.

### **Who will be assessed?**

A sample of around 13,000 Year 6 students from approximately 600 government and non-government schools from all states and territories across Australia will take part in the study. This sample is the outcome of a rigorous random sampling process undertaken in consultation with state and territory authorities.

The sample ensures that metropolitan, rural and remote schools and government, Catholic and independent schools are properly represented. Within each sampling stratum, schools are selected at random.

A Year 6 class (or, in some cases, two small classes) from each selected school will be randomly chosen.

### **When and how will the sample assessment be conducted?**

The test will be held in October 2012. A test administrator, usually the classroom teacher, will receive and dispatch the test materials under the guidance of the School Contact Officer who is nominated by the school to coordinate the administration of the test.

### **What does participation mean for my child?**

This program will provide an excellent opportunity for your child to participate in a world class assessment designed by education experts in science literacy.

The assessment is designed to assess the students' level of knowledge and understanding of science literacy at the Year 6 level. Students' knowledge and skills are assessed using pencil and paper questions as well as a practical task.

Special attention has been paid to making the assessment an engaging experience. Underpinning the design of the assessment is a well recognised requirement to 'bring out the best' in students and to encourage their full participation by making the test an interesting experience.

Your child is not expected to study for this assessment, and last-minute practice is unnecessary.

### **What are the outcomes of the assessment?**

The main purpose for the national Year 6 NAP-SL sample assessment is to monitor and report on the overall progress being made towards achieving high standards of science literacy. However, there are additional benefits to be gained from the assessment program:

- All schools taking part in the sample assessment will receive reports summarising their students' results.
- Teachers from participating classes will be able to reflect on this information to enhance teaching and learning programs in Australian schools.
- A national public report describing students' achievements in science literacy will be published. No individual schools or students will be identified in this report.

### **Further information**

General information about the National Assessment Program and the Science Literacy sample assessment can be found at:  
[www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)