

How is ICT literacy defined?

For the purposes of the NAP, ICT literacy is defined as:

the ability of individuals to use ICT appropriately to access, manage and evaluate information, develop new understandings, and communicate with others in order to participate effectively in society.

This definition has been adopted after consideration of Australian and international practices in defining ICT literacy. It is based on an extensive literature review and examination of international and national surveys and frameworks.

The NAP ICT literacy domain comprises six processes:

- Accessing information – identifying the information needed and knowing how to find and retrieve information.
- Managing information – organising and storing information for retrieval and reuse.
- Evaluating – reflecting on the processes used to design and construct ICT solutions and making judgements regarding the integrity, relevance and usefulness of information.
- Developing new understandings – creating information and knowledge by synthesising, adapting, applying, designing, inventing or authoring.
- Communicating with others – exchanging information by sharing knowledge and creating information products to suit the audience, the context and the medium.
- Using ICT appropriately – making critical, reflective and strategic ICT decisions and using ICT responsibly by considering social, legal and ethical issues.

These processes work across the three strands of the ICT literacy domain — working with information, creating and sharing information, and using ICT responsibly.

What are the outcomes?

The ICT Literacy Sample Assessment is specifically designed to provide nationally comparable state and territory data and overall trends. No individual student or school results will be published.

A Public Report on the results of the ICT Literacy Sample Assessment, to be released in 2012, will document achievement in relation to the defined proficiency levels. This report will include:

- Analysis of the performance of different groups of students — for example, the relative achievement of boys and girls across Australia and metropolitan, provincial and rural students, and state and territory performance. The results of government and non-government schools will not be compared.
- Comparison of ICT literacy across Year 6 and Year 10 students. A number of tasks are common to the assessments completed by both year levels.
- Changes or trends from 2005 through 2008 to 2011. Some tasks are common across all three assessment cycles and baseline performance data were established in 2005.

Schools involved will also receive information summarising their students' performance on the tests before the end of the 2011 school year.

Selected materials from the 2011 ICT Literacy Sample Assessment will be provided in July 2012 at www.nap.edu.au for all teachers' use and information.

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NAP – ICTL 2011

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Information & Communication Technology Literacy

Information for Schools



This year, a sample of Year 6 and Year 10 students from across Australia will take part in the National Assessment Program (NAP) Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy Sample Assessment.

What is the NAP – ICT Literacy Sample Assessment?

The National Assessment Program is designed to measure students' progress towards the goals outlined in the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians* 2008. National sample testing, agreed to by all state, territory and federal education ministers, has been conducted since 2003.

The NAP monitors student achievements 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 – ICT Literacy Sample Assessment was previously held 2005 and 2008.

The ICT Literacy Sample Assessment recognises ICT literacy as an essential skill across learning areas and the value of students becoming ICT literate citizens, given the wide prevalence and use of ICT in society. It is important that these skills are adaptive and transferable and are used as a tool to assist and transform learning in conjunction with other essential skills, such as literacy, numeracy and problem solving. This is so students leaving school are highly skilled, creative and productive users of new technologies, particularly information and communication technologies.

How is the NAP Sample Assessment program run?

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for the National Assessment Program, including the development of the sample tests. It does this in consultation with the appropriate curriculum and testing authorities in each state and territory, and with key education stakeholders. ACARA contracts a private provider – in this case the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) – to administer the tests in schools.

How are schools and students selected to participate?

Not all schools or all Year 6 and Year 10 students in each school will participate in the ICT Literacy Sample Assessment —only about 6400 students of the total national cohort for each year level will take part. This figure is the outcome of a rigorous random sampling process undertaken in consultation with state and territory authorities.

The sample is 'stratified' to ensure that metropolitan, rural and remote schools and government, Catholic and independent schools are appropriately represented. Within each sampling stratum, schools are selected at random.

Students in the school are also selected at random. Up to 20 Year 6 students and/or 20 Year 10 students in each of the sample schools will be selected to participate in the assessment.

How are the tests constructed?

Although there are many ICT tools available, students will be required to complete the entire assessment using computers.

The ICT Literacy Sample Assessment consists of tasks that enable students to demonstrate achievement at a range of levels. The tasks will be administered in thematic assessment modules. Each state and territory has endorsed the assessment materials.

Students will be presented with the ICT tasks on screen and respond using only computers. These tasks consist of items in the following formats:

- Multiple choice
- Drag and drop (matching information)
- Simple software commands (such as saving a file to a location)
- Short constructed text responses
- Construction of artefacts.

The assessment is designed to 'bring out the best' in students and to encourage their full participation by making the test an engaging experience.

Materials from the 2005 and 2008 cycles of the NAP ICT Literacy Sample Assessment (which include sample questions) are available on the National Assessment Program website at: www.nap.edu.au.

When and how will the Sample Assessment be conducted?

The tests will be held between September and November 2011 at a time suitable for each participating school. Each selected school will receive a detailed manual from ACER defining and explaining the procedures.

A test administrator from ACER will conduct the assessments at the students' regular school in two sessions of two hours (approximately) for each of two groups of ten students. The test administrator will be trained to administer the assessments in a consistent way across all schools participating in the national assessment.

The test will be carried out either using the school's existing computer resources or, if necessary, using a temporary computer lab with laptops provided and set up by the test administrator. The contractor will provide the assessment materials electronically. The test administrator will be trained to deal with local technical computer issues.

Students' responses will be stored electronically for marking and analysis at a later date. Marking will be done either automatically or by trained markers depending on the question type.

Further information

Schools selected for inclusion in the sample will be contacted by ACER and informed of the process by July 2011.

Support for participating schools is available from ACER at ICTL@acer.edu.au or on 1800 762 022.

General information about the National Assessment Program and the ICT Literacy Sample Assessment can be found at www.nap.edu.au or by contacting ACARA at info@acara.edu.au.