The National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy

In May 2012, national literacy and numeracy assessments were administered to students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 throughout Australia. This report shows your child’s achievement in those assessments.

The information contained in this report should be considered together with school-based assessments and reports.

Literacy Assessment

The literacy assessment tasks measured student achievement in reading, persuasive writing and language conventions.

Reading

Students were required to read a range of texts similar to those used in Year 3 classrooms and answer questions of varying difficulty to show their understanding of the material.

Persuasive Writing

Students were directed to write in response to stimulus material. This writing task required students to generate and organise ideas and demonstrate their skills in vocabulary use, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation.

Language Conventions

Students were required to identify and correct spelling errors and answer multiple-choice questions on aspects of grammar and punctuation.

Numeracy Assessment

The numeracy assessment task measured student achievement across number; function and pattern; measurement, chance and data; and space. Questions required students to apply mathematical knowledge, skills and understandings in a variety of contexts.

Results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10. The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in the assessments.

Results for Year 3 are reported across the range of Band 1 to Band 6, with Band 2 representing the national minimum standard for this year level.

The national average and the range of achievement for Year 3 students are also shown on the scale.

Your child’s results are shown on the inside pages of this report.

How to read the student report

A student’s result is shown on an achievement scale for each assessment area.

If a student’s result is here, it means the result is well above the expected level of achievement for Year 3 students.

Year 3 students with results in Band 1 are below the national minimum standard.

The lightly shaded area shows the range of achievement for the middle 60% of Year 3 students in Australia.

The open triangle shows the average for Year 3 students at the student’s school.

The triangle shows the national average for Year 3 students.

The dot shows an individual student’s result.
Students read a range of factual and non-factual texts with supporting pictures and diagrams. Students were assessed on aspects of reading that included:
- finding information that is clearly stated
- connecting ideas and drawing conclusions
- recognising how a character acts and thinks
- recognising a sequence of events
- recognising different opinions
- identifying the main idea or purpose of a text.

Students wrote a persuasive text and were assessed on aspects that included:
- supporting the reader and understanding the purpose of their writing
- structuring a persuasive text, developing ideas and points of argument, and making effective word choices
- using the conventions of written language such as grammar, punctuation, spelling and paragraphs.
Students were assessed on aspects of numeracy that included:

- solving problems involving addition and subtraction
- continuing spatial patterns and number patterns involving addition or subtraction
- using a simple plan to find a location
- understanding simple outcomes relating to chance
- reading data in simple tables
- using simple metric units
- reading calendars and key times on analogue clocks
- identifying common 2-D shapes and 3-D objects and their properties.

Students were assessed on aspects of spelling, grammar and punctuation. Tasks included:

- correctly spelling frequently used one- and two-syllable words
- identifying errors and then correctly spelling frequently used words
- identifying examples of correct grammar usage
- recognising the correct use of a small range of frequently used punctuation.
## Summary of skills assessed

The skills described in the following table represent those typically assessed in NAPLAN tests for Year 3 students. These skills increase in difficulty from the lowest to the highest band. A student achieving a result in a particular band is likely to have correctly answered questions involving skills in that band and in each band below it.

### Band 6
- **Reading**
  - Makes meaning from a range of text types and understands how they are structured. Recognises the purpose of general text features such as titles and headings. Makes inferences by connecting ideas across different parts of texts. Draws conclusions about the feelings and motivations of characters and sequences events and information.
- **Persuasive Writing**
  - Organises a persuasive text using focussed paragraphs. Uses some effective persuasive devices and accurate words or groups of words when developing points of argument and ideas. Punctuates nearly all sentences correctly with capitals, full stops, exclamation marks and commas. Correctly uses more complex punctuation marks some of the time.
- **Language Conventions**
  - Identifies errors and correctly spells one- and two-syllable words with common spelling patterns (spiral, locked, pleasing, benches).
- **Numeracy**
  - Applies suitable strategies to solve simple problems including: doubling and halving, simple multiplication and division and reading a centimetre scale. Demonstrates spatial awareness using an irregular repeating pattern.

### Band 5
- **Reading**
  - Connects events and interprets the behaviour of characters in stories. Identifies the meaning of some unfamiliar words from their context and finds specific information in short factual texts and diagrams.
- **Persuasive Writing**
  - Writes a persuasive text in which paragraphs are used to group like ideas and persuasive devices are used to attempt to convince a reader. Correctly punctuates some sentences with both capital letters and full stops. May demonstrate correct use of capitals for names and some other punctuation. Correctly spells most common words.
- **Language Conventions**
  - Identifies errors and correctly spells most one- and two-syllable words with common spelling patterns (clear, mail, brick, won).
- **Numeracy**
  - Uses addition and subtraction of 2-digit numbers and simple multiplication to solve problems. Continues number patterns. Visualises a 3-D model from a different perspective. Reads a centimetre scale. Identifies a line of symmetry in a 2-D shape.

### Band 4
- **Reading**
  - Makes meaning from simple texts with familiar content and themes. Makes some connections between ideas that are not clearly stated. Identifies simple cause and effect. Makes some simple inferences and conclusions, such as identifying the main idea of a text.
- **Persuasive Writing**
  - Attempts to write a persuasive text containing a few related ideas or points of argument, although these are usually not elaborated. Correctly orders the words in most simple sentences. May experiment with using compound and complex sentences but with limited success. Orders and joins ideas using a few connecting words but the links are not always clear or correct.
- **Language Conventions**
  - Identifies errors and correctly spells one-syllable words with simple spelling patterns (out, feet, rain, hose, would).
- **Numeracy**
  - Selects the most likely outcome in a simple chance event. Adds and subtracts 2-digit numbers. Reads time to the half-hour on an analogue clock and identifies weekly intervals on a calendar.

### Band 3
- **Reading**
  - Makes some meaning from short texts, such as simple reports and stories, which have some visual support. Makes connections between pieces of clearly stated information.
- **Persuasive Writing**
  - Shows some audience awareness by the use of simple persuasive language; for example, I think ... because ... and by providing some information to support reader understanding. Uses some capital letters and full stops correctly. Correctly spells most simple words used in the writing. Some other one- and two-syllable words may also be correct.
- **Language Conventions**
  - Identifies errors and correctly spells some words with simple spelling patterns. Recognises grammar and punctuation conventions in short sentences, such as the correct use of pronouns (herself).
- **Numeracy**
  - Locates a position of an object on a simple plan. Identifies the value of a 3-digit number. Matches a 3-D object to a 2-D view. Uses simple language of chance and simple language of time in familiar contexts.

### Band 2
- **Reading**
  - Makes some meaning from simple texts with familiar content. Texts have short sentences, common words and pictures to support the reader. Finds clearly stated information.
- **Persuasive Writing**
  - Writes a small amount of simple content that can be read. May express an opinion and/or a reason. May write the words for some simple sentences in the correct order, but full stops and capital letters are usually missing or incorrect. Correctly spells a few simple words.
- **Language Conventions**
  - Identifies errors and correctly spells a few words with simple spelling patterns.
- **Numeracy**
  - Names common 3-D objects. Selects the next number in a simple number pattern. Finds information in a simple table or graph. Understands simple place value. Completes simple addition tasks. Shows some understanding of spatial position.

### Band 1
- **Reading**
  - Spells a few words with simple spelling patterns.
- **Persuasive Writing**
  - Identifies errors and correctly spells most words with common spelling patterns (gloves, collect, hungry, comfortable).
- **Language Conventions**
  - Demonstrates knowledge of grammar and punctuation conventions in longer sentences and speech, such as the correct use of commas to separate phrases and apostrophes for contractions (we’ll).
- **Numeracy**
  - Applies some knowledge of texts, makes inferences and processes information to understand the main idea in texts. Draws enough supporting detail for the writer’s point of view to be easily understood by the reader, although the conclusion may be weak or simple. Correctly structures most simple and compound sentences and some complex sentences.