

2023 National Assessment Program Science Literacy Main Study

Information for parents and carers

In 2023, a sample of Year 6 and Year 10 students from across Australia will take part in a national online main study in science literacy.

What is the NAP – Science Literacy main study?

The NAP – Science Literacy main study is an online test that informs schools, education ministers and the community about the levels of achievement in science literacy among Year 6 and Year 10 students across Australia.

In an increasingly technological environment, it is important that students understand natural phenomena and apply scientific method to make sense of what they experience.

When students interpret information on scientific issues, ask questions, conduct investigations, make decisions and communicate their findings, they develop important problem-solving skills. Science literacy is essential to these processes.

The NAP – Science Literacy main study will be used to improve teaching and learning in science literacy. This study gives teachers information about student science literacy to inform their teaching. It also assists teachers, education leaders, parents/carers, the community, researchers and policy makers to use evidence of student proficiency in science literacy to assess student achievement against recognised goals and standards, and to drive improvements in student outcomes.

Who will be assessed and when?

Around 12,000 Year 6 and Year 10 students from approximately 640 government, Catholic and independent schools in metropolitan, rural and remote locations will participate in the main study.

The schools in the sample will be drawn from across each state and territory in Australia. A sample of students within each of these schools will be selected to complete the assessment.

The assessment will be held in May 2023 (Term 2) and will be conducted by a nominated staff member.

The NAP – Science Literacy main study takes place every 3 years; however, the 2021 assessment was postponed to 2023 due to the impact of COVID on schools.

What does participation mean for your child?

If your child is selected for the sample, they will participate in a world-class online assessment designed by education experts in science literacy. Taking part will provide your child with an excellent learning opportunity because the tests are designed in an engaging way to bring out the best in students.

The online assessment will test your child's level of science knowledge, understanding and skills. 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.

Why is this assessment being undertaken?

The NAP – Science Literacy main study is used to monitor and report on progress towards achieving high standards of science literacy in Australia. A national public report will be published in 2024. No individual school or student will be identified in the public report.

Schools taking part in the assessment benefit in several ways:

- All schools participating in the main study will receive reports summarising their students' results. Students will not receive individual reports.
- The school summary reports will be linked to the Australian Curriculum: Science.
- Teachers from participating classes will be able to reflect on this information to enhance teaching and learning programs in their schools.

What does the assessment comprise?

Activity	Description
Practice questions	Students complete a small set of questions to familiarise themselves with the types of questions they can expect.
Objective test	Students complete a series of questions that include multiple choice, “drag and drop” and short answer questions.
Inquiry task	Students engage in a task that reflects the key stages of a scientific investigation and answer a series of questions on it.
Student survey	Students complete a short survey regarding their perceptions of, and attitudes towards, science and their experiences of science learning at their school.

Year 6 students will have 60 minutes to complete the test. Year 10 students will have 75 minutes to complete the test.

Further information

If you have any questions about the NAP – Science Literacy main study, please talk to your child’s teacher or school principal, or visit www.nap.edu.au