

PAT TESTING

WHAT IS PAT TESTING?

- PAT stands for Progressive Achievement Testing and is an approach used in thousands of schools across Australia and throughout the world.
- The approach focuses on assessing and monitoring student growth over time and is underpinned by the assumption that students in the same grade may be at very different points in their learning and development.
- The tests are mapped to the Australian curriculum.

WHAT IS BEING ASSESSED?

- PAT Reading, eWrite and Mathematics tests are being administered to all Grade 7, 8 and 9 students this week, with some scheduled for Tuesday next week.
- PAT Reading Comprehension assesses how well students understand the text they are reading. Each test is organised around several extended pieces of writing which include stories, poems, reports and explanations.
- eWrite analyses students' skills and performance in writing across a range of genres, including narrative, description, report or persuasive. This year, we have chosen to focus on persuasive.
- PAT Mathematics covers number knowledge, number strategies, algebra, geometry and measurement, and statistics.

PAT
Progressive
Achievement



HOW WILL THE RESULTS BE USED?

- The results will provide overall descriptions of the types of skills mastered and those still to be developed based on test performance.
- The scale scores can be used to measure improvement over time.
- Data from the PAT testing will provide a picture of how students' results compare with results of students in the norm reference sample in the same year level across Australia.
- Analysis of students' performance will provide information to inform teaching practice moving forward.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. How can I find out my child's PAT test scores and do I need to?

Schools report regularly to parents/guardians on your child's progress through school reports and parent/teacher meetings, where you can always ask about your child's current score range, and how they have progressed up the scale. PAT results can be a good starting point to help you understand how your child is doing. A single test however should always be considered alongside other assessment information.

2. Can I see how my child's test scores compared to other children of their age?

Stanines allow your child's achievement to be compared with the performance of Australian students at a particular year level. Scores on the PAT scale at each level are divided into nine stanines, one being the lowest performance and nine being the highest. The average stanine is around five. So the stanine gives you an idea of your child's achievement level in the context of their year group nationally.

3. Can my child 'fail' the PATs?

The PATs can pinpoint areas where your child is doing well or poorly. The PAT is not a definitive diagnostic test but just one test of many that will build a picture of your child for the teacher.

4. How often should my child be sitting PATs?

Schools generally run PATs once during the school year to help develop learning programmes and to monitor student growth. It is not recommended to use PATs more than twice a year.

5. How are these tests associated with the curriculum?

The content of the tests has been chosen to reflect the content of the curriculum. The scale can be matched to the curriculum levels, so teachers and parents can see what curriculum level students are working at.

6. What format are the tests and how long do they take to sit?

All the tests are multiple-choice format. Students either sit the test online using a computer or tablet. Test times range from 25 to 45 minutes according to the particular test.