



HSC Minimum Standards

The National Education Standards Authority (NESA) has introduced testing for basic literacy and numeracy levels in order for students to receive a Higher School Certificate (HSC).

What is the level needed to pass the tests?

The Minimum Standard is set at Level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF), a nationally agreed set of levels that indicate practical skills necessary for everyday life, work and further study.

How many tests are there?

There are three (3) online tests for Numeracy, Writing and Reading.

How long do the tests make?

45 minutes each

What do the tests look like?

Test	Style	Outcomes
Reading test	Multiple choice	Assesses comprehension, grammar, punctuation, spelling and vocabulary
Numeracy test	Multiple choice	Assesses number, measurement, space, data and algebraic representation
Writing test	Extended response from written or visual prompt around 500 words	Assesses structure and cohesion, vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and spelling

When can I sit the tests?

Students have four opportunities each year to sit these tests during Years 10 to 12. They are able to complete the tests up to five years after starting the HSC in Year 11.

Can I do a practice test?

There are practice tests available at school, or for Distance Education students at a Learning Hub or under home supervision. Practice reading and numeracy tests take 25 minutes and practice writing tests take 45 minutes. Login pins are generated for every practice test and every real test.

Students can access the NESA website to watch demonstration questions

(<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-minimum-standard>)

How many practice tests can I do?

There is no limit to the amount of practice tests a student can complete.

What if I need extra provisions?

If a student has additional needs and will be eligible for extra provisions for the Minimum Standards tests, please contact the school on (02) 6556 8100, or for Distance Education students (02) 6556 8200.

What if I don't want an HSC?

You are not required to complete the Minimum Standards, however you can choose to take the tests to show your level of literacy and numeracy skills.

What if I don't meet the standards?

Students who do not meet the Standards will not receive an HSC but can still:

- Study HSC courses
- Sit the HSC exams
- Receive a ROSA (Record of School Achievement)
- Receive an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank)
- Receive an HSC Minimum Standard Report

How can I sit the test if I study via Distance Education?

You can choose to complete the tests at Camden Haven High School in Laurieton, or at school Learning Hubs where you are supervised by a teacher. You can also choose to take the tests at home under supervision. The supervisor will install a Lockdown Browser and complete a Statutory Declaration to confirm the conditions have been met exactly as required.

Contact the school on (02) 6556 8200 to arrange a time to sit the tests or practice tests.