
MINIMUM STANDARD ONLINE TESTS

Students need to pass online reading, writing and numeracy tests of everyday reading, writing and maths skills to show they meet the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy required to receive the HSC from 2020.

Students planning to leave school before completing their HSC may also take these tests to show their level of literacy and numeracy skills.

Students sitting the HSC in 2019 do not need to take these tests or meet the HSC minimum standard.

What will the online tests involve?

The minimum standard online tests are based on the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) with students' results reported as a level of achievement from 1-4.

The test achievement level descriptions describe the skills needed for each of the four levels. Level 3 skills indicate a nationally agreed level of functional literacy and numeracy.

Minimum Standard Reading Test

- 45 multiple choice questions
- Adaptive — meaning it tailors to a student's ability. Questions become harder or easier depending on whether a student is answering questions correctly or incorrectly.
- Marked electronically according to the achievement level descriptions

Minimum Standard Numeracy Test

- 45 multiple choice questions
- Adaptive — meaning it tailors to student's ability. Questions become harder or easier depending on whether a student is answering questions correctly or incorrectly.
- Marked electronically according to the achievement level descriptions

Minimum Standard Writing Test

- One question based on a visual or text prompt with up to a 500 word-response
- Marked by trained markers according to the achievement level descriptions and the following, equally weighted, criteria: relevance of writing to the topic; structure and sequence of ideas and control of language

Practice tests

- Practice tests are available for students wanting to gain a view of what to expect in the minimum standard online tests. They also require a PIN to be generated to enable a login to each test.
- Practice Numeracy and Practice Reading Tests are 15mins in length.
- Practice Writing test allows 45mins.

What's the pass mark?

Students are required to achieve at least Level 3 in each of the three online tests to meet the HSC minimum standard.

Can students apply for disability provisions or exemptions?

Some students sitting the tests will be eligible for disability provisions or be exempt from meeting the HSC minimum standard in order to receive their HSC.

When are results available?

After a student completes an online test, the school and student will receive a results report.

Students will be able to view their progress towards meeting the three areas of the HSC minimum standard via their [Students Online](#) account.

What if a student got a Band 8 or above in a 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN test?

These students are recognised as having met the HSC minimum standard in that particular area and will not need to sit the corresponding online test.

Year 9 NAPLAN tests will no longer be available as an early way for students to demonstrate the standard. This change has been made to ensure NAPLAN remains focused on its diagnostic purpose and to reduce unnecessary stress on young people.

What if a student doesn't pass the tests by Year 12?

Students will have many opportunities to meet the HSC minimum standard, even after they finish Year 12. It is important to note:

- Students have five years from the year they start their first HSC course to meet the HSC minimum standard, so they can take the online tests after they leave school.
- **Students will be able to sit their HSC exams and receive their HSC results regardless of whether they attain the HSC minimum standard. However, without the minimum standard, they will not receive the Higher School Certificate.**
- **Students who do not meet the HSC minimum standard will receive a Record of School Achievement (RoSA) which contains a student's record of academic achievement up until the date they leave school.**

- **The HSC is not required to receive an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). This means students who don't meet the HSC minimum standard will still be able to apply to university, provided they meet all other ATAR requirements.**
- Students who leave school prior to Year 12 can choose to sit the minimum standard online tests.
- The minimum standard literacy and numeracy tests replaced the online Literacy and Numeracy tests in February 2018.

Students who leave school before completing their HSC

Students planning to leave school before achieving their HSC may take the minimum standard online tests to gain a record of their level of literacy and numeracy skills.

NESA recommends that these students sit for the tests as close as possible to the date that they are leaving school.

A student who sits for the tests in anticipation of leaving school for work or further training, and then returns to school for further study later may re-sit the tests.

It's important for schools to make sure students who intend to leave school know they can sit for the minimum standard tests.

More information about the tests and demonstration tests can be found at the following link: <http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-minimum-standard/online-tests/what-to-expect-in-the-tests>

(this part has been updated)

How do I sit the Minimum Standard Online Tests

Contact Mrs Rudder (298 F block staffroom, PE Faculty)

or email carol.rudder@det.nsw.edu.au

1. Find out which of the 3 Tests you need to sit:-Reading, Writing or Numeracy
2. Arrange with Mrs Rudder a time to practice your test(s). Each numeracy and reading practice test takes 15 minutes, the practice writing test allows 45minutes.

A PIN will be generated so you can log in during the day and complete the practice tests.
3. When you feel ready, you can sit the real test(s). A PIN needs to be generated and a time and date arranged so you can be supervised while taking the test.

4. Each test allow 45 minutes for completion.