



LITERACY AND NUMERACY TEST FOR INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION STUDENTS

Questions and Answers for Students

1. Is the test compulsory?

If you are completing an initial teacher education program that will allow you to teach in a school setting in Australia, then you are expected to sit and meet the standard of the test prior to graduation.

2. Can I be registered or get a job as a teacher if I have not passed the test?

As agreed by all education ministers, from 1 July 2016 all initial teacher education students are expected to sit and meet the standard of the test prior to graduation. Some states and territories require a successful test result to register or be employed as a teacher. You should contact the teacher registration authority in the state or territory where you wish to teach to confirm their requirements. The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership website (www.aitsl.edu.au/find-your-local-regulatory-authority) provides links to the state and territory teacher registration authorities.

3. How many questions do I need to get right to meet the standard of the test?

Successfully completing the literacy and numeracy components of the test indicates that you have met the minimum standard of personal literacy and numeracy expected of a prospective teacher, which is broadly equivalent to the top 30 per cent of the adult population.

As the questions in each test administration vary to ensure test security and integrity, the exact number of questions a candidate must answer correctly to meet this standard also varies. Results for each test have been determined based on the standard required, irrespective of the version of the test administered. As a result, it is not possible to advise you of a percentage figure needed to meet the standard.

4. What happens if I sit the test and do not meet the standard?

You can sit each component of the test (literacy and numeracy) three times each (initial attempt plus two resits). If you do not meet the standard after your first attempt you should talk to your higher education provider (your university) to request support to help you reach the standard before registering to sit the test again.

If you have not been successful after three attempts, you should talk to your higher education provider to discuss your options.

Your higher education provider may consider that you should be supported to sit the test again due to a special and/or extenuating circumstance. Your higher education provider will need to request the additional resit opportunity from the test administrator. If an additional test attempt is approved, you will be permitted to sit the test again.

If you remain unsuccessful, please contact your higher education provider for information and discussion on next steps.

5. Who can help me if I am feeling anxious or stressed about sitting the test?

Your higher education provider is required to support you to meet the test standard. If you are feeling worried about sitting the test or your results, you are encouraged to contact your provider for assistance and support.

In addition to your program coordinator, higher education providers offer counselling services which may be of help. Community organisations such as Lifeline (phone 13 11 14, www.lifeline.org.au) or Beyond Blue (phone 1300 22 4636, www.beyondblue.org.au) can also be contacted.

6. When in my studies should I sit the test?

You should ask your higher education provider if they require you to sit the test at a particular point in your program. If they don't, you are able to sit the test whenever you prefer **before** graduation.

You should ensure that you allow yourself adequate time to resit the test if required, keeping in mind that the test is only available in set windows each year. It is strongly recommended that you do not attempt the test for the first time in the last available window before you expect to complete your program requirements.

7. How do I register to sit the test?

The test administrator is the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). You must register on the ACER registration site at <https://teacheredreg.acer.edu.au>. A link to the site is available via the test website at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/register>. You can only register to sit the test during an advertised registration period. Late registrations will not be accepted.

8. How do I find out when the test windows are?

The dates for registering and sitting for each test window are available at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/register/test-dates>.

9. Can I sit the test outside of a test window?

No, you can only sit the test (either in a test centre or by remote proctoring) during a specified test window.

10. Where can I sit the test?

You can sit the test at **test centres** in capital cities and in some regional centres. The available locations for each test window are published on the ACER website at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/register/test-centres> prior to the opening of registrations for the first test window each year.

You may also sit the test online by **remote proctoring**. Remote proctoring involves sitting the test under live supervision using your own computer in a suitable location with stable internet connectivity. Remote proctoring is available 24 hours per day during each test window, subject to the available test session appointment times listed on the remote proctoring booking site.

Before registering to sit the test by remote proctoring you must confirm that your computer and test location satisfy the remote proctoring requirements. Please review the instructions for technical readiness at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/register/remote-proctoring>.

Please note, remote proctoring for the test is provided by ProctorU (www.proctoru.com/). ProctorU is based in the United States and by selecting to sit the test by remote proctoring you will be required to provide personal information to an overseas entity. Please refer to the privacy statement at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/about/privacy-statement> for further information about how your personal information will be collected, stored and used by ProctorU.

11. I cannot attend my registered test session. Can I reschedule?

Test centre

ACER can accommodate some changes to your test registration **before the close of the registration period**. It is possible to change the location, date and time of a test centre session booking (subject to availability) during the registration period by logging into your online candidate account and selecting a new session.

Once the registration period for the relevant test window has closed, it is not possible to make changes to your test centre booking.

Remote proctoring

Remote proctoring sessions can be rescheduled to take place any time (24 hours per day) during the published remote proctoring test window dates. Remote proctoring test session bookings are subject to the list of available appointment times on the remote proctoring booking site. You are strongly advised to book your test session to occur early in the test window. This will ensure that there is enough time to reschedule your session should you experience any genuine misadventure or significant technical problems during your initial test session booking. Please review the remote proctoring registration and test sitting requirements at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/register/remote-proctoring> and <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/sit/remote-proctoring1>.

12. What happens if I miss my registered test session?

If you fail to attend your registered test session at a test centre, or your remote proctoring test session, you will forfeit the full cost of the test and you will need to register and pay for another test sitting in a future test window.

In addition, registration deferrals (for test centres and for remote proctoring) to a future test window **will not be accepted**.

If you do not attend the session you booked, your booking will not count towards your test attempts.

Please refer to the ACER website at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/register> and <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/register/refund-policy> for further information.

13. I need to sit the test in the next window but the registration period has closed. Can I register?

It is not possible to register to sit the test once the registration period closes for a test window. If you miss the cut-off for your chosen test window, you will need to wait until registrations open for the next test window.

The registration dates for the four test windows offered in 2019 were released in September 2018 and are available at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/register/test-dates>. It is the responsibility of students to be aware of the registration period for the applicable test window(s).

14. Why has the test fee increased?

Due to a rise in the costs associated with operating the test, the test fee increased effective Test Window 1 2019. The test registration fee increased from \$92.50 per test component to \$98.00 per test component (\$196 in total). The increase of \$5.50 per component is capped for 2019 and 2020 and is the first increase to the fee since national implementation in 2016.

The cost of goods and services generally increase over time. The Department of Education and Training and ACER worked hard to limit the increase to the lowest level that would allow the test to continue to operate on a cost recovery basis, while also delivering appropriate servicing for students and protecting test integrity. The new test fee is reflective of increases in costs to ACER and their sub-contractors in delivering the test. Test administration costs include test item development, staffing to support test administration, test venue hire, IT costs, costs to deliver the test in physical test centres (particularly in regionals centres) and via remote proctoring, development of support material, and psychometric analysis including validation of results.

15. Can I add the cost of the test to my HECS-HELP or FEE-HELP loan?

No. The fee for sitting the test must be paid in full on registration.

If you are unable to pay the fee to sit the test you may wish to talk to your higher education provider about your situation. Individual higher education providers may offer a range of financial support to students.

The Australian Government also offers a range of study assistance programs to students who are undertaking tertiary education. To find out about eligibility for these programs, contact Study Assist on 1800 020 108 or visit the website at www.studyassist.gov.au.

16. Can I have modifications made to help me sit the test?

If you have any requirements that restrict you from sitting the test in the standard manner, you can apply for reasonable adjustments via your online candidate account. Supporting documentation is required at the time of registration for all applications for reasonable adjustments. Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis and all reasonable efforts will be made to provide you with appropriate testing conditions.

An accessible test form is also available for vision-impaired students.

Please note that it is not possible to give special consideration for impaired performance on the day of the test caused by personal circumstance.

Please refer to the ACER website at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/register/reasonable-adjustments> and <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/results/appeals> for further information.

17. How can I prepare for the test?

Sample and practice questions are available on the ACER website at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/prepare/practice-material>. The questions are designed to give students the opportunity to practise the type of questions contained in the live test.

A Described Proficiency Scale is also available on the ACER website at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/results/described-proficiency-scales>. It describes the skills assessed by the test and how candidates' achievement of the standard required by the test is determined. Example questions at different levels of achievement are included.

Accessible versions of these documents are available from ACER on request.

While some students may use commercially produced practice tests, ACER and the Department of Education and Training do not endorse the use or validity of these products.

18. When do I get my results?

Results are released approximately one month after the close of the test window in which you sat the test. ACER will email you to advise when your results are available to download from your online candidate account. Further information about when results will be released is available at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/results>.

19. Can I receive my results early?

No, unfortunately it is not possible to expedite an individual student's result due to marking and verification processes that must be completed following the conclusion of each test window.

20. Will my test results expire?

No, test results do not expire. You only need to demonstrate you have met the standard for each test component (literacy and numeracy) once. Results are transferable should you change to a different higher education provider.

21. What does the test measure?

There are two components to the test, a literacy component and a numeracy component. Questions in the literacy component of the test assess reading skills and the technical skills of writing (syntax, grammar, spelling, word usage and text organisation). Questions in the numeracy component of the test measure skills in number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.

Please also refer to the information about the Described Proficiency Scale at question 17.

22. I have met the standard for some parts of the test. Do I need to resit the whole test again?

The test is made up of two components – a literacy component and a numeracy component. Each component of the test is made up of multiple sub-domains. You will need to re-sit the full test component if you have not reached the overall standard for that component. Results from individual sub-domain(s) are not transferrable between separate attempts of each test component.

23. How long does the test take to complete?

Each test component (literacy and numeracy) takes approximately two hours to complete plus additional time for administration and housekeeping.

Please note that you are not required to sit both components of the test on the same day.

24. I've already passed other literacy and numeracy assessments throughout my university program. Do I also need to sit this test?

Yes. The test is in addition to and different from existing university-based literacy and numeracy assessments.

Background to the test

25. Why has the test been introduced?

Enhancing the capability of teachers is vital to raising the overall quality of Australia's school system and lifting student outcomes. Action to improve the quality of teachers in Australian schools must begin when teachers are first prepared for the profession.¹

For teachers, strong personal literacy and numeracy skills form an essential part of the attributes and skills needed to be effective in the classroom. They are also necessary to foster the development of these critical, fundamental skills in students, providing the building blocks for future learning. In response to the Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group report, in 2015 all education ministers agreed to amend the *Accreditation of initial teacher education programs in Australia: Standards and Procedures* (Standards and Procedures) which set out the requirements that an initial teacher education program must meet to be nationally accredited.

The original Standards and Procedures, agreed in 2011, already required that all initial teacher education students possess levels of personal literacy and numeracy broadly equivalent to the top 30 per cent of the adult population. The change agreed in 2015, commencing from 1 July 2016, was that the test will be the means for demonstrating a student has met this standard.

This test, for the first time, provides a nationally consistent way to measure aspects of an individual's personal literacy and numeracy capabilities, which can be reasonably assessed in an online environment.

By successfully completing the test, a student will demonstrate to their higher education provider, teacher registration bodies, future employers and the public that they possess the high level of personal literacy and numeracy skills required to be a teacher. Students who successfully complete the test will graduate and enter the workforce confident that they have satisfied a national standard set for their profession.

26. How was the top 30 per cent of the adult population established?

The test applies a standard broadly equivalent to that achievable by the top 30 per cent of the adult population. The standard in the test has been determined by reference to existing frameworks for adult competency in literacy and numeracy, in particular the Australian Core Skills Framework and the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies. Literacy and numeracy specialists provided their expertise in the development of the test and in setting the standard for the test. A periodic review is undertaken of the test standard to ensure it continues to measure the top 30 per cent of the adult population. If necessary, an adjustment to the test standard is made.

¹ Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group (2015) *Action Now: Classroom Ready Teachers*, Canberra