



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 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 haven't passed the test?

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 your state or territory to confirm their requirements. The Australasian Teacher Regulatory Authorities website (<http://www.atra.edu.au/>) 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. If you do not meet the standard after your first or second 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 a second or third time.

If you have not been successful after three attempts, you should talk to your higher education provider to discuss your options. As conferring institutions, higher education providers need to decide whether to graduate a student who has not met the standard of the test.

In special and/or extenuating circumstances a higher education provider may consider that an individual student should be allowed an additional attempt at the test and request an additional resit opportunity. If an additional test sitting is approved, you may be permitted to sit the test again.

5. When in my program 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. However, 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 throughout the year.

6. How do I register to sit the test?

You must register on the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) website at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/register>. You can only register to sit the test during the registration period.

7. How do I find out when the testing windows are?

The dates for registering for and sitting the test are available on the ACER website at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/register/2017-test-window-dates>.

8. 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 each test window.

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.

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 on the ACER website at <https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/register/remote-proctoring>.

9. I missed/can't attend my registered test session, can I reschedule to another test window?

ACER can accommodate some changes to your test registration before the close of the registration period, however you may be charged an administration fee for any changes.

If the registration period has closed, ACER will not accept changes to your test registration. In addition, registration deferrals to a future test window will not be accepted. If you are unable to or fail to attend your registered test session you will forfeit the full cost of the test and you will need to register and pay for another test sitting once registrations open for a future test window. If you do not attend the session you booked, this will not count towards your resit 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.

10. I need to sit the test in the next window, but the registration period has closed. What do I do?

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, you will need to wait until registrations open for the next test window.

11. 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 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.

12. 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 special testing conditions online via your candidate account. These will normally be in line with accommodations your higher education provider gives you for exams.

13. Are there practice questions available?

Yes. Practice questions are available at [https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/files/Literacy and Numeracy Test for Initial Teacher Education students - Sample Questions.pdf](https://teacheredtest.acer.edu.au/files/Literacy_and_Numeracy_Test_for_Initial_Teacher_Education_students_-_Sample_Questions.pdf).

14. 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.

15. Will my test results expire?

No, test results do not expire. You only need to demonstrate you have met the standard once.

16. 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.

Further information about the skills assessed by the test is available at <https://www.studentsfirst.gov.au/teacher-quality>.

17. How long does the test take to complete?

The literacy component and the numeracy component each take 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.

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

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

Background to the test

19. 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.

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

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.

20. 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.