

ISA

International Schools' Assessment

QUICK GUIDE

The ISA is a reliable, evidence-based assessment designed to support international schools to evaluate instructional programs, monitor student progress and compare school performance internationally.



For international schools

The ISA is designed for international schools and schools with an international focus. It is built upon the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) frameworks, in consultation with international schools and drawing upon ACER's extensive assessment development experience.*

The ISA tests are not specific to a single curriculum and participating schools follow a diverse range of curricula including IB, British National, USA and more.

Trusted by schools since 2002, the tests are taken across the world, allowing a truly international comparison. Every year around 60 000 students from hundreds of schools around the world participate in the ISA.

* Note that the ISA is not part of PISA and is not endorsed by the OECD.

Assessments

Subject	Grade
Mathematical Literacy	Grades 3-10
Reading	Grades 3-10
Writing	Grades 3-10
Scientific Literacy	Grades 3-10

The ISA is more than a multiple-choice test, with writing tasks and open-ended questions better illuminating students' thinking processes. Each test is marked by a highly-experienced team of subject matter experts who are trained to evaluate student responses to specific questions.

ISA test questions are also culturally diverse and appropriate for students whose first language may not be English.

Schools administer the test once in the year and can choose to take part in the October, February or May test administration.

Sample Questions

Canoe Hire

A canoe costs 15 zeds to hire for one hour. After that, it costs 5 zeds for each half hour.



John has 50 zeds.
How many hours can he hire a canoe for?
Enter your final answer in this box.

Show your working in the space below.

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Studying Meowsic

Researchers at Lund University in Sweden are studying how cats communicate. Referred to affectionately as Meowsic, the study is focusing on how cats vary their sounds when communicating with humans and other cats, and also how cats respond to different vocal sounds from humans. Aimed at improving our understanding of how we communicate with pets, the researchers expect that results could improve the quality of animal care generally, not just the care of cats. The researchers also intend to look at whether cat noises vary in different parts of the world. Previous studies have shown that some animals, such as whales, have 'regional accents'.

Such research could easily be dismissed as a waste of resources and a sign of people having too much time on their hands. It is easy to laugh off studies that don't lead directly and obviously to medical discoveries or greater wealth, but something about the notion of learning more about life around us has an irresistible appeal to many people. Anything that expands our understanding of the world around us has the potential to lead to new, and sometimes very useful, discoveries. Brilliant mathematician Alan Turing, now largely regarded as the inventor of computer science, was initially investigating abstract concepts that may even have seemed pointless to some people at the time. Yet today we rely heavily on the fruits of his research. Who knows where a greater understanding of cat-human chat might ultimately lead us?

Does the first paragraph perform the following functions?
Select 'Yes' or 'No' for each function.

Function	Yes	No
giving a factual account	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
giving examples of research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
criticising certain types of research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

To learn more, or register your school visit our website or contact us:

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