



NATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENTS MAY 2009

NAPLAN REPORTING SCALES

The NAPLAN results are reported using five scales, one for each of the following domains: Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. The reporting scales each span Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Each of the NAPLAN reporting scales describes the development of student achievement in a domain from Year 3 through to Year 9 along a ten-band scale. By locating all student results on a single scale that describes their performance and skills, the NAPLAN scales provide significant information about the performance of students.

The NAPLAN scales are constructed so that any given score represents the same level of achievement over time. For example, a score of 700 in Reading will have the same meaning in 2012 as in 2010. This enables changes in literacy and numeracy achievements to be monitored over time.

The use of a common scale that spans Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 allows both the status of, and growth in, individual student achievement to be monitored and reported throughout each student's years of schooling. A key feature of the national scales is that they also enable the achievement of all students to be monitored. It is possible to gauge the achievement of the most able group of students and, at the same time, to pay attention to the group of students who have yet to reach the agreed national minimum standard.

Vertical scales spanning Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 also pave the way for a range of sophisticated analyses of student achievement such as those that measure learning growth over time.

The scale for each domain is divided into ten bands to cover the full range of student achievement in the tests. The bands map the increasing complexity of the skills assessed by NAPLAN. Six of the bands are utilised for reporting student performance at each year level. The Year 3 report shows Bands 1 to 6, the Year 5 report shows Bands 3 to 8, the Year 7 report shows Bands 4 to 9, and the Year 9 report shows Bands 5 to 10. Click here for sample student reports:
http://www.naplan.edu.au/naplan_2009_reporting/naplan_2009_reporting.html.

For each year level, a minimum standard is defined and located on the common underlying scale. Band 2 is the minimum standard for Year 3, Band 4 is the minimum standard for Year 5, Band 5 is the minimum standard for Year 7 and Band 6 is the minimum standard for Year 9. These standards represent increasingly challenging skills and require increasingly higher scores on the NAPLAN scale.