ISA

International Schools' Assessment

QUICK GUIDE

The ISA is a set of tests that enable schools to monitor student performance over time, compare performance internationally and inform improvements in teaching and learning.

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.

The tests are taken across the world, allowing a truly international comparison. Every year more than 90,000 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

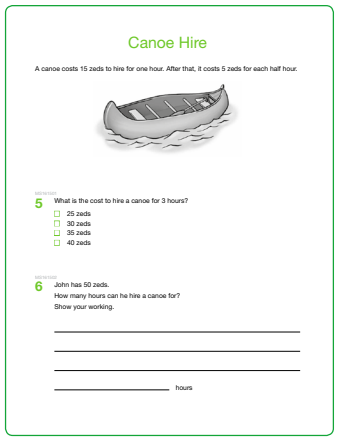
Subject	Grade	Format
Mathematical Literacy	Grades 3-10	Online & Paper
Reading	Grades 3-10	Online & Paper
Writing	Grades 3-10	Online & Paper
Scientific Literacy	Grades 3-10	Online only

The tests are based on the internationally endorsed reading, mathematical literacy and scientific literacy frameworks of PISA. Like PISA, 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 can sit the ISA assessments either in the October or February test administrations.

Sample Questions



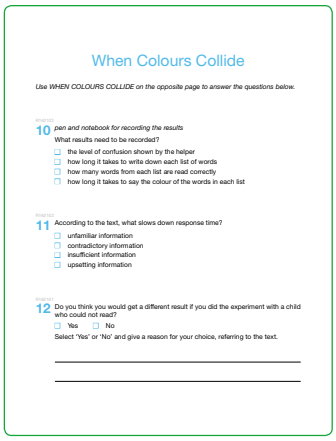
Canoe Hire

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

5 What is the cost to hire a canoe for 3 hours?
- 25 zeds
- 30 zeds
- 35 zeds
- 40 zeds

6 John has 50 zeds.
How many hours can he hire a canoe for?
Show your working.

_____ hours



When Colours Collide

Use WHEN COLOURS COLLIDE on the opposite page to answer the questions below.

10 *pen and notebook for recording the results*
What results need to be recorded?
- the level of confusion shown by the helper
- how long it takes to write down each list of words
- how many words from each list are read correctly
- how long it takes to say the colour of the words in each list

11 According to the text, what slows down response time?
- unfamiliar information
- contradictory information
- insufficient information
- upsetting information

12 Do you think you would get a different result if you did the experiment with a child who could not read?
- Yes
- No

Select 'Yes' or 'No' and give a reason for your choice, referring to the text.

To learn more, or register your school visit
acer.org/isa

Australian Council *for* Educational Research

ACER

Reports

Informative reports provide tracking of individual students' progress over time, as well as comparisons of school performance against similar schools and international standards.

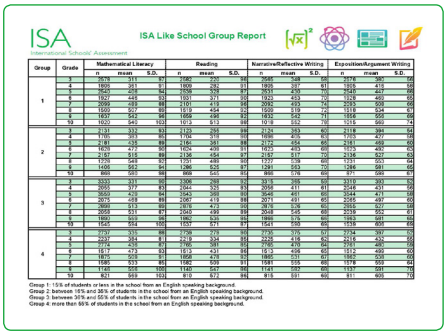
The reports use scale scores, rather than raw scores, enabling all students across grades to be compared within the same subject. These scores also enable student performance to be accurately compared from one year to the next, providing quantitative evidence of student progress over time.

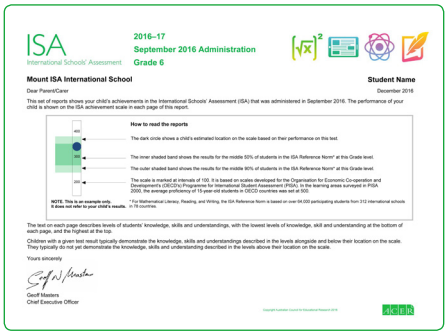
ISA reports allow schools to see how they are performing against international norms, which are based on a large cohort of students across many countries.

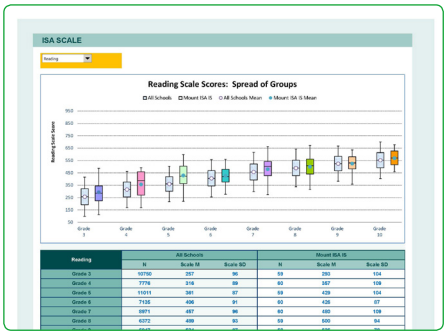
Every ISA school receives the following reports:

- **Individual Student** – for parents/teachers to see current proficiency and track progress.
- **Class** – provides diagnostic information for teachers and grade coordinators.
- **School** – allows schools to benchmark themselves against other schools internationally.
- **National Comparison** – provides a broad picture of school performance against relevant national groups.
- **Interactive Diagnostic** – instant customisation allows schools to interpret and use the data to inform improvements in teaching and learning.

Schools can also choose to purchase the **Interactive Tracking** report which allows schools to monitor performance over a number of years, against reliable benchmarks.


ISA
ISA Like School Group Report

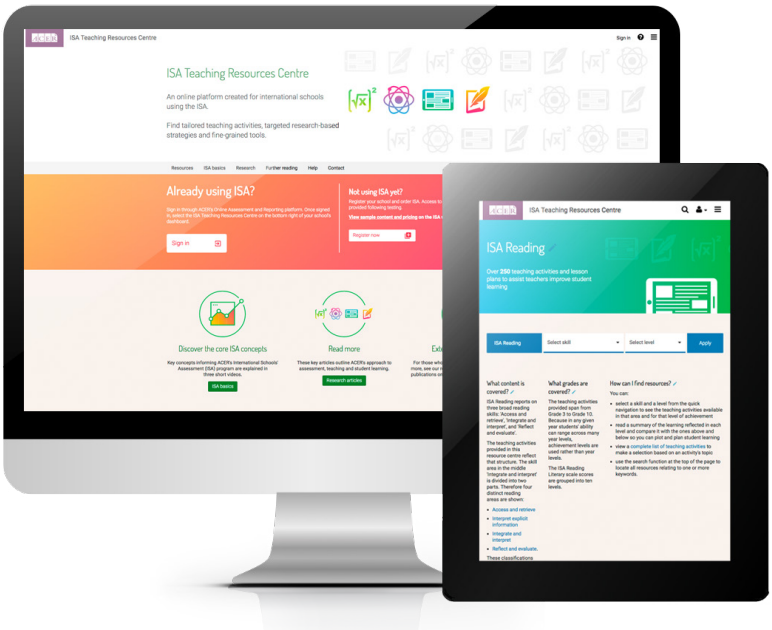

ISA
2016-17
September 2016 Administration
Grade 6



Teaching resources

The ISA Teaching Resources Centre provides teachers with access to resources, research-based strategies and lesson plans that can be used to build the knowledge and skills of each individual student in day-to-day classroom practice. The resources align with ISA reports, so teachers can target their practice effectively based on their students' results.

Extensive support material is also available to help schools use their ISA data to inform and improve their teaching programs. These include The *Guide to Reports*, *How to use the ISA for Benchmarking and Diagnostic Information*, and *A Guide to Interpreting the ISA Data for School Leaders' and Administrators*.



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