



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 Use 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

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.

Grade	Grade	Mathematical Literacy		Reading		Narrative/Reflective Writing		Expository/Argument Writing	
		Raw	S.E.	Raw	S.E.	Raw	S.E.	Raw	S.E.
1	1	1000	250	750	150	1000	200	1000	200
	2	1000	250	750	150	1000	200	1000	200
	3	1000	250	750	150	1000	200	1000	200
	4	1000	250	750	150	1000	200	1000	200
	5	1000	250	750	150	1000	200	1000	200
2	1	1200	300	900	180	1200	240	1200	240
	2	1200	300	900	180	1200	240	1200	240
	3	1200	300	900	180	1200	240	1200	240
	4	1200	300	900	180	1200	240	1200	240
	5	1200	300	900	180	1200	240	1200	240
3	1	1400	350	1050	210	1400	280	1400	280
	2	1400	350	1050	210	1400	280	1400	280
	3	1400	350	1050	210	1400	280	1400	280
	4	1400	350	1050	210	1400	280	1400	280
	5	1400	350	1050	210	1400	280	1400	280
4	1	1600	400	1200	240	1600	320	1600	320
	2	1600	400	1200	240	1600	320	1600	320
	3	1600	400	1200	240	1600	320	1600	320
	4	1600	400	1200	240	1600	320	1600	320
	5	1600	400	1200	240	1600	320	1600	320

2016-17 September 2016 Administration Grade 6

Mount ISA International School

Dear Parent/Career:

This set of reports shows your child's achievements in the International Schools' Assessment (ISA) that was administered in September 2016. The performance of your child is shown on the ISA achievement scale in each page of this report.

How to read the reports

The dark circle shows a child's estimated location on the scale based on their performance on this test.

The inner shaded band shows the results for the middle 50% of students in the ISA Reference Norm[®] at this Grade level.

The outer shaded band shows the results for the middle 90% of students in the ISA Reference Norm[®] at this Grade level.

The scale is divided into intervals of 100. It is based on scales developed for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2006. The average proficiency of 15-year-old students in OECD countries was set at 500.

ISA: The underlying skills

Mathematical Literacy, Reading, and Writing, the ISA Reference Norm is based on over 10,000 participating students from 112 international schools in 16 countries.

The test on each page describes levels of students' knowledge, skills and understanding, with the lowest levels of knowledge, skill and understanding at the bottom of each page, and the highest at the top.

Children with a given test result typically demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding described in the levels alongside and below their location on the scale. This typically does not preclude the knowledge, skills and understanding described in the levels above their location on the scale.

Yours sincerely,
Sophy S. Hester
 Chief Executive Officer



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*.

ISA Teaching Resources Centre

ISA Teaching Resources Centre

An online platform created for international schools using the ISA.

Find tailored teaching activities, targeted research-based strategies and fine-grained tools.

Resources ISA Basics Research Further reading Help Contact

Already using ISA? **Not using ISA yet?**

Discover the core ISA concepts

Read more

ISA Reading

Over 100 teaching activities and lesson plans to assist teachers' improve student learning.

ISA Reading

What content is covered? The reading activities cover the reading process, including: identifying main ideas and supporting details; identifying the author's purpose and audience; and identifying the author's point of view.

What grades are covered? The reading activities are designed for students in Grades 1-10.

How can I find resources? The reading activities are organized by grade level and by subject area.

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