

INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS

WHAT IS THE IBT?

The International Benchmark Tests (IBT) is an internationally administered program of assessments in **English**, **Mathematics** and **Science** which benchmarks student performance against a broad, international cohort of students and to the internationally administered assessment program Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), in which more than 50 countries participate.

The IBT provides a comprehensive assessment of student performance and ability in English, Mathematics and Science and provides individual, school and international analyses and comparisons. It is available for students in Years 3 to 10 in English and Mathematics and in Years 3 to 8 in Science.

HOW ARE THE TESTS DEVELOPED?

The IBT is one of many high-quality educational assessments developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), a world leader in assessment and reporting. It provides high quality feedback for teachers and students and allows them to compare their performance reliably with students from their own school and country and from other countries around the world.

Highly experienced test developers at ACER develop the IBT content based on a broad conception of curriculum used in a number of international assessment contexts. No single, national curriculum is used for the IBT, so students from a range of countries participating in the tests can be compared fairly.



BENEFITS FOR SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

The IBT is an international standard assessment program which provides schools with quality data and reporting to help accurately measure student performance, identify areas of strength and weakness and monitor the effectiveness of school programs.

Schools receive a range of quality reports including:

- **individual student reports** that measure and compare performance and highlight individual skills, strengths and weaknesses
- **group reports** that allow schools to rank and compare student performance and identify individual, class and school-wide strengths and weaknesses
- **school, regional and international comparison reports** to compare and benchmark student and school performance
- **recognition of student performance**, through Certificates of Honour, Distinction and Participation.

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Students undertaking the IBT receive individual reports that pinpoint their strengths and weaknesses on specific skills and concepts related to their class level and compare their performance with other students in their own school and country and in other countries. **Parents** are able to observe their child's performance and progress through an independent, comprehensive and internationally accepted assessment tool.

The International Benchmark Tests aim to reward and recognise student achievement. The top achievers in each grade are awarded a **Certificate of Honour**. The subsequent 5% of students in each subject are awarded a **Certificate of Distinction**.

WHAT TESTS ARE AVAILABLE?

Tests are available in three subject areas at a range of class levels. Students may undertake one, two or three subject area tests at their class level.

ENGLISH

| Strands Assessed | Class | Questions | Duration |
|---|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Reading Comprehension, Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar, Vocabulary | 3, 4, 5, 6 | 40 | 60 minutes |
| | 7, 8, 9, 10 | 50 | 60 minutes |

MATHEMATICS

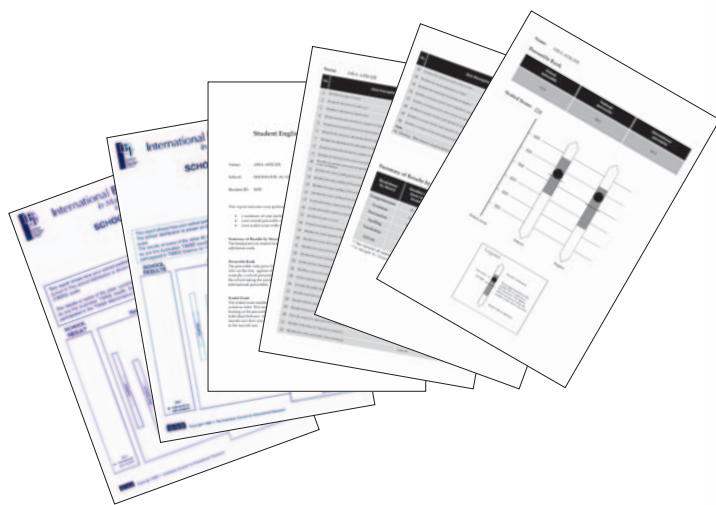
| Strands Assessed | Class | Questions | Duration |
|---|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Number, Measurement, Space, Chance and Data | 3, 4, 5, 6 | 40 | 50 minutes |
| | 7, 8, 9, 10 | 45 | 60 minutes |

SCIENCE

| Strands Assessed | Class | Questions | Duration |
|---|------------------|-----------|------------|
| Earth Science, Physical Science, Life Science | 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 | 40 | 50 minutes |

WHAT REPORTS ARE PROVIDED?

The IBT provides a range of quality reports to schools and students that present individual student performance and compare student and school performance against national and international benchmarks.



To find out more about the IBT reports and how to use them to improve teaching and learning in your school, visit www.acer.edu.au/tests/ibt

WHAT INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS ARE AVAILABLE?

The International Benchmark Tests help students and schools benchmark their performance in English, Mathematics and Science against students in their own school and country and in a range of other countries.

IBT INTERNATIONAL SAMPLE

The IBT International Sample is a sample of the tens of thousands of students participating in the IBT each year in a range of countries around the world. Each year ACER's psychometrics team creates a benchmark IBT International Sample which helps students and schools understand how their individual performance compares.

TIMSS SAMPLE

Using links to the internationally administered Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), the International Benchmark Tests provide students and schools with benchmark comparisons against selected countries in Mathematics and Science. Find out more about TIMSS at www.acer.edu.au/timss



ABOUT ACER

The IBT is developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), a world leader in assessment and reporting.

ACER was established in 1930 as a not-for-profit organisation, independent of government. ACER has more than 300 staff located in offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Dubai and New Delhi.

ACER is an international research leader in the dynamic world of education. Among its many international projects, ACER manages the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) to assess the mathematics, science and reading skills of students in more than 60 countries. ACER also administers the Australian component of studies conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), including PISA, the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and the International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS).

CONTACT

Australian Council for Educational Research

ABN: 10 004 398 145

Melbourne

19 Prospect Hill Road
(Private Bag 55)
Camberwell VIC 3124
Australia

t: +61 3 9277 5555

f: +61 3 9277 5500

e: ibt@acer.edu.au

w: www.acer.edu.au/tests/ibt

