

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

CANDIDATES AND PARENTS SHOULD READ THIS BULLETIN CAREFULLY

WHAT IS PSP (ALTERNATE DATE)?

The Primary Scholarship Program (PSP) allows independent schools around Australia to choose a testing date which best suits their school program. The PSP consists of a sequence of academic ability tests used to select students for the award of a scholarship. The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)* produces these tests, supplies them to schools, marks candidates' papers, and reports results to the schools. ACER does not report results directly to parents.

** The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) is an independent national research and development organisation.*

FILLING IN THE ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM

Please read these instructions carefully then complete the ACER Registration Form. It is recommended that parents and candidates complete the online registration form together.

Please check that the school you are applying for offers the scholarship at the level you require. Not all schools offer all scholarships at all levels. You will not receive a refund if you apply at an incorrect level to a school that does not offer the level you require.

Registration Selection Page

Please select the type of registration you require by selecting the correct statement. For all options apart from the first you will need a username and password that will have been emailed to you.

ACER Registration Form

Please use 'Title Case' for all fields – 'John Smith' not 'john smith' or 'JOHN SMITH'.

You will note that some information is required and some is optional – we recommend that candidates complete as much of the information as possible.

Candidate Details

- **Current School**

Insert the name of the school you are attending in the year of testing.

- **Current School Principal**

Insert the name of the principal at the school you are attending in the year of testing.

- **Religious Denomination**

Write the religious denomination you identify with, where applicable. Some independent schools require this information. Should you have a concern about supplying this information you should check with the school(s) to which you are applying as to whether they require this information.

Primary/Secondary Contact Details

Complete the parental information for one or both parents/guardians. Please ensure that the email is entered TWICE correctly or you will not receive your username and password.

It is recommended that you note down the email address you have provided should you maintain more than one email address.

Extra Information

Many schools collect further information specific to their school. Please note that these fields will be available to all schools you apply to that choose to collect this information, so ACER recommends supplying generic and not school-specific information. Enter this information in the spaces provided.

Payment

Candidates must submit a separate registration and pay the registration fee to each school for which they apply. After the first registration you should use your username and password that is emailed to you for each subsequent registration. Payment for online registration is completed using a credit card.

Each school determines its own fee.

In all cases the candidates will be charged the Basic Registration Fee. Candidates who will sit the tests at country centres may pay a surcharge fixed by the school.

Please note that a registration is not complete until payment is made. You will be emailed a receipt upon successful payment of a registration.

Examination Centre

Some schools may require you to select an examination centre. Please contact the school if you have any questions regarding this.

CLOSING DATE FOR LODGING REGISTRATIONS ONLINE THROUGH A SCHOOL'S WEBSITE

The actual date for the close of registrations will vary slightly from school to school. Make sure you know the closing date for registrations set by all schools to which you have applied. Once the online registration facility has been closed at a school you will not be able to complete a registration or edit your registration details.

Early registration is appreciated.

PROCEDURE ON EXAMINATION DAY

When you report to the examination centre, bring two HB or B pencils, a pencil eraser, and two blue or black pens. Use a pen for the Written Expression section. For the other tests you must use an HB or B pencil. Do not bring rulers, mathematical instruments of any kind, programmable watches, mobile phones, photographic or other image/data capturing devices, books or notepaper. All the materials you will need, other than pencils, erasers and pens, are provided at the examination room. You may like to bring something to eat or drink for the break between Test 2 and 3.

MARKING YOUR ANSWERS

A special answer sheet is provided for the Humanities, and the Mathematics/Science tests. For each question there are four small ovals labelled **A**, **B**, **C** and **D**. Record your answer to each question by marking the oval of your choice with your pencil.

Example (Answer 'B' selected)



If you wish to change an answer, erase it completely and mark the oval corresponding to your new answer.

Note these important points:

- You require a good quality pencil eraser.
- Use only HB or B pencil.
- Do not make any marks on the answer sheet other than in the designated areas.
- Never use ink, ballpoint pen, felt pen or fine-leaded propelling pencil on any part of your answer sheet.

REFUND OF REGISTRATION FEE

Only under the most exceptional situations will a refund of the registration fee be considered. If a refund is awarded, a deduction will be made for administrative and clerical processing. Please see the Refunds policy published on our website for further details: <http://www.acer.edu.au/psp>

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION?

ACER will not disclose your personal information to any third party other than the school or schools with whom you registered. ACER may use your test results for subsequent research related to the PSP program. Names will be separated from data in all cases. Should you wish to find out how to access your personal information you can do so by visiting the ACER website: www.acer.edu.au/tests.html and referring to the section 'Privacy'.

THE TEST TIMETABLE

The Primary Scholarship Program consists of three papers, taken on the same day:

Test 1: Reading and Viewing

30 minutes

Candidates read several short passages and answer multiple-choice questions on each passage.

Test 2: Mathematics

30 minutes

Candidates apply mathematical skills and knowledge to answer problems (multiple-choice format). They also do short calculations in each of the four operations.

Test 3: Writing

40 minutes total

Candidates write two short pieces in different genres in response to stimulus given. The pieces are written in an answer book provided.

HOW TO DO YOUR BEST IN THE EXAMINATION

- Listen carefully to the supervisor.
- Read the instructions on the front cover of each test. Read each test question carefully before you answer it.
- Do not rush. But if you find one question too difficult do not spend a long time on it.
- Leave it out, but make sure you mark your next answer against the right question number. Each question is of equal value.
- If you cannot decide between two answers, mark the letter you think is most likely to be correct. No marks will be deducted for incorrect answers.
- You may have time to go back to questions that you left out or were not sure about, but in the meantime you have done the best you can.

WHAT ARE THE TESTS LIKE?

The test items attempt to assess the following skills: analysis, comprehension, interpretation and reasoning. Candidates are advised to work carefully through the questions appropriate to their level. The answer to each question is clearly important, as is the method by which you arrive at the answer.

Extensive practice on tests of this type will not necessarily improve test scores. Your best preparation is to read widely and think critically.

TEST 1: READING AND VIEWING (30 MINUTES)

In this section of the test there are several short passages for you to read. Each is followed by some multiple-choice questions. You select from the alternatives (A, B, C or D) the one you think best answers the question. There are 25 questions in total.

Here are some hints on how to answer the Reading and Viewing passages.

- First of all, you should read the passage right through carefully, before you try to answer any of the questions.
- You are given the first part of a statement (sentence) and then you have to choose the correct ending to complete the statement.
- Some multiple-choice questions are real questions. There is a question with a question mark. Then there are several (usually four) possible answers. Consider each answer in turn and then choose the one that you believe is correct.

TEST 2: MATHEMATICS (30 MINUTES)

Mathematics has 16 multiple-choice questions and four short answer questions. The multiple-choice questions are word problems. You need to use one or more of the mathematical skills that you have learned to help you work out the answer. For example, one way to work out the answer to question 2 below is to subtract and then divide. (There may be several different ways of working out an answer.) You might need to do some working out on scrap paper. It does not matter what method you use to arrive at your answer. But remember to check all of the alternatives to find the correct answer.

In the short answer questions you work out your answer on the paper and then copy your *answer only* onto the answer sheet.

TEST 3: WRITING (40 MINUTES)

You will be asked to do two short pieces of writing in an answer booklet. For each task you will have 20 minutes. Your supervisor will tell you exactly what to do.

One piece of writing will invite you to tell a true or an imaginary story. Try to capture your reader's attention with a story that you think is a really interesting tale. It might be funny or strange or exciting or it might be written in an unusual way. Read the topic and think about it for a few minutes and then let the ideas flow.

The other piece will ask you to give your opinion about something that is of general interest to primary school children. You do not need to learn about a particular topic beforehand. The important thing is for you to give your opinion on the question and to back it up with some reasons.

Remember to write on the topics you are given in the test. Don't memorise a story you have written beforehand at school. You will do much better if you keep to the set topics.

It is a good idea to plan your work before you write your pieces. You will find planning spaces in your answer booklet.

Try to make your writing clear, lively and interesting to read. Your writing will be assessed on what you have to say, how well you organise your thoughts and how well you express yourself.



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