

NAPLAN test window

Alternative format (paper)

March 2026

From 2026, the NAPLAN alternative format (paper) test window is changing.

The **paper test order** is now the same as the online NAPLAN test order:



Writing



Reading



Conventions
of language



Numeracy

The paper test window has been extended to **5 days** to support schools to schedule one test per day and provide catch-up tests for students who are absent on scheduled test days.

The information below applies **only** to schools approved by their state/territory test administration authority to complete NAPLAN via alternative format (paper) tests.

2026 NAPLAN alternative format (paper) test window

Date	Wednesday 11 March	Thursday 12 March	Friday 13 March	Monday 16 March	Tuesday 17 March
Test day	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Scheduled test	<p>Writing (Day 1 only)</p>	<p>Reading ↓ Conventions of language ↓ Numeracy</p>			Catch-ups only (non-writing)
Notes	Reading can be scheduled after writing on day 1.	Catch-ups permitted.	Catch-ups permitted.	Catch-ups permitted. Writing catch-ups must conclude by the end of day 4 .	Catch-ups for non-writing domains must conclude by the end of day 5 .

Important scheduling guidelines

- Schools must follow the **test order** as shown and schedule tests in the **morning where possible**.
- One** test per day per class is recommended.
- Writing** must be scheduled on **day 1 only**.
- Do not** adjust the test order or test window to accommodate other events such as camps, excursions or school sport.
- Catch-ups can only be scheduled **after** the original scheduled test session.
- For detailed guidance, schools should refer to the **NAPLAN national protocols for test administration** and consult their state/territory **test administration authority**.