

“measuring student performance in Science and Society and Environment at Years 5, 7 and 9”



2013
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WAMSE

Western Australian Monitoring Standards in Education
Information for parents

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MONITORING STANDARDS IN EDUCATION 2013

The Western Australian Monitoring Standards in Education (WAMSE) assessment program measures the performance of students in aspects of Science and Society and Environment. This complements information from the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

Who will take part in the WAMSE tests?

Students in Years 5, 7 and 9 in all public, Catholic and many independent schools will participate.

What is tested in Years 5, 7 and 9?

Science

Your child's understanding of the current Western Australian curriculum is tested. However, in 2013 questions are matched to the *Australian Curriculum: Science*. A strong focus is placed on the skills used in scientific investigations.

Society and Environment

Your child's understanding of the current Western Australian curriculum is tested. However, in 2013 questions have been strongly influenced by the *Australian Curriculum: History and Geography*. A strong focus is placed on research skills used in investigations.

Who developed the tests?

The tests have been developed specifically for Western Australian schools by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority and the Australian Council for Educational Research.

When will the tests be conducted?

The assessments will take place in school time during the third week of Term 3 (5 to 9 August 2013).

Who will administer the tests?

In most cases, your child's regular teacher will conduct the assessments as part of the normal school program.

How long will the tests take?

The table below shows the total time for each assessment in minutes. Each assessment has two parts. Students will be allowed a break between parts.

Learning Area	Part	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9
Science	A	40	40	60
	B	40	40	60
Society and Environment	A	45	50	60
	B	45	50	60

Will I receive a report for my child?

Yes. The report will be forwarded to you with your child's second semester report. If you do not receive a report, contact the school immediately.

The WAMSE report is one part of the school's assessment and reporting process. It will not replace other more extensive and informative judgments made by teachers about your child.

Your child's results are confidential. If your child transfers to another school, you may be asked to provide a copy of his or her WAMSE report. This, with other information, helps the teacher/school to assess the educational needs of your child, so it is important that you do not misplace or lose the report.

How are the WAMSE results used?

There are benefits that result from having students in a year group complete the same test:

- performance of each student is compared to that of other students in the state
- progress of each student is monitored over time
- results provide teachers with additional information to identify students who require extension or support
- results assist schools in identifying strengths and weaknesses in teaching and learning programs.

My child has particular needs. Can these be accommodated during the tests?

All students are encouraged to participate in WAMSE tests. Students with particular needs or who have a temporary or permanent disability will be given reasonable assistance during the tests.

For some students, a formal exemption may be granted.

Where can I get more information?

Further information about the testing, including participation and learning adjustments is available from:

- your child's school
- your school's education authority

Sector	Contact number
All	9442 9488
Public	9442 9488
Catholic	6380 5320
Independent (AISWA)	9441 1625

- the WAMSE website
scsa.wa.edu.au/internet/Years_K10/WAMSE