



Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA)

Information for Parents/Carers



The literacy and numeracy requirement

To achieve the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE), students need to demonstrate minimum standards of literacy and numeracy. These standards cover the range of skills regarded as essential to meet the demands of everyday life and work. For example, it would be expected that a young person leaving school can write a good job application, read and follow instructions and complete the sorts of maths adults encounter all the time when shopping or balancing the family budget. These skills, as described in the [Australian Core Skills Framework \(ACSF\)](#) at Level 3, must be demonstrated in:

- literacy (reading and writing), and
- numeracy.

There are two ways students can demonstrate the minimum standards:

- prequalification through the Year 9 National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), or
- performance in the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA).

Students who achieve Band 8 or higher in any of the three components of reading, writing and numeracy in their Year 9 NAPLAN are acknowledged as having demonstrated proficiency in using a range of ACSF Level 3 skills in that component. They are not required to sit the corresponding OLNA component, e.g. if a student achieves Band 8 or higher in reading in their Year 9 NAPLAN they will not need to sit the reading component of the OLNA.

Ongoing opportunities

Students who do not meet the required standards before they leave Year 12 will still receive a Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA) which provides a formal record of what they have achieved during their secondary schooling.

The Authority will provide opportunities for these students to sit the relevant components during any future rounds of the OLNA. When students have demonstrated the standards and they have met all the other requirements of the WACE in that year they will be awarded the WACE.

The OLNA

The OLNA is an online assessment. The table below provides a quick guide to each assessment component.

	Numeracy	Reading	Writing
Number of questions	45		1 (600 word limit)
Question type	Multiple-choice		Extended response
Time	50 minutes		60 minutes
Disability adjustments	A variety of adjustments are available		

Students, teachers and parents/carers can access the OLNA Practice tests and Example tests for each component. Students can use the Practice tests to familiarise themselves with the assessment format and website functionality. The Example test can be used by students, teachers and parents/carers to sample the types of skills assessed and to experience a complete assessment in the reading, writing and numeracy components

Details on accessing the Practice and Example tests are available at senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/olna/practice-and-example-tests.

Assessment dates

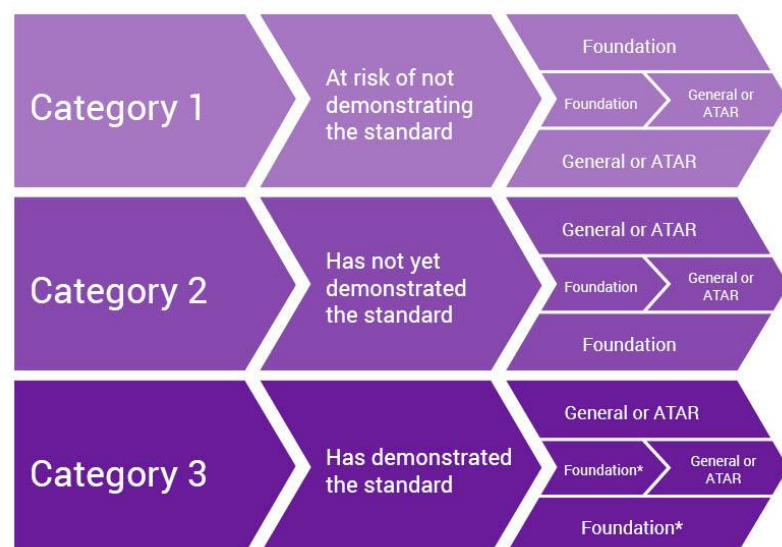
Students in Years 10 to 12 who need to demonstrate the minimum standard in one, two or all of the components will be scheduled to sit the assessment each March and September. This gives students up to six opportunities before the end of Year 12. Schools will arrange for students to sit the OLNA during the assessment windows.

	2018		2019 (provisional)	
	Round One	Round Two	Round One	Round Two
Writing	6–9 March	27 August –30 August	5–8 March	2–5 September
Numeracy and Reading	6–29 March	27 August–21 September	5–29 March	2–27 September

Reporting

The Authority reports on student achievement of the reading, writing and numeracy standards through the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA), on completion of Year 12.

Schools may report to parents on student progress towards demonstrating these standards using interim reports that identify each student's category of achievement for each component. The table below outlines each category and possible enrolment for courses in Year 11 and 12.



*While students who achieve Category 3 are required to enrol in either General or ATAR courses, exemptions to enrol in or continue to enrol in Foundation courses may be permitted with approval from the Authority. See the [WACE Manual](#) for details.

Year 11 and 12 courses

Senior secondary schooling in Western Australia offers a wide range of courses that provide multiple paths to university, training and employment.

ATAR courses are typically for students who are aiming to go to university.

General courses are typically for students who are aiming to enter further vocationally based training or the workforce straight from school.

Foundation courses are for students who have not been able to demonstrate the minimum standards for literacy and/or numeracy before Year 11 and are unlikely to do so before the end of Year 12 without significant levels of teacher support.

Foundation courses

Foundation courses are designed to assist students to meet the minimum standard in literacy and numeracy.

Foundation courses are divided into List A courses and List B courses.

List A courses

There are three List A courses:

- [English Foundation](#)
- [English as an Additional Language or Dialect \(EAL/D\) Foundation](#)
- [Career and Enterprise Foundation](#).

Enrolment in these courses is for students who are in Category 1 or Category 2 in reading and/or writing. These students have not achieved Category 3 in both reading and writing.

List B courses

There are three List B courses:

- [Mathematics Foundation](#)
- [Applied Information Technology Foundation](#)
- [Health, Physical and Outdoor Education Foundation](#).

Enrolment in these courses is for students who are in Category 1 or Category 2 in numeracy. These students have not achieved Category 3 in numeracy.

Specific eligibility requirements are available through schools. The Authority recommends students and their parents/carers discuss all course enrolment decisions with their school.

Adjustments for students with disability

Most students will not need disability adjustments as the assessment has been designed to be accessible to nearly all students in the allotted time.

Schools can access and manage a range of adjustments for students with a diagnosed disability. More information about this is available on the Authority website at <http://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/olna/disability-adjustments>.

Language background other than English

Students who have arrived from overseas, have a language background other than English and have been attending school in Australia for less than one year before the OLNA round, must be given the opportunity to sit the OLNA to achieve a WACE. These students may choose to defer sitting the OLNA until either they have been in Australia for 12 months or have entered mainstream schooling from an Intensive English Centre.

Home-educated students

Home-educated students can access the OLNA at:

- a school
- a site with a supervisor approved by the Authority
- the Authority's offices.

Where these students subsequently enrol in a registered school, and have neither prequalified through their NAPLAN Year 9 performance nor demonstrated the minimum standard of literacy and/or numeracy through the OLNA, they must sit the OLNA at the first opportunity after their enrolment in the registered school.

Home educators can access more information by contacting the OLNA Helpdesk at olna@scsa.wa.edu.au or by phoning (08) 9273 6726.

Advice for parents/carers

Parents/carers can do a lot to help their children achieve the literacy and numeracy standard. Parents/carers are strongly encouraged to speak with the child's teachers to discuss their child's needs. A lot of useful advice can be found online, including at these sites:

- <http://www.testtakingtips.com/anxiety/index.htm>
- <http://www.studygs.net/tstprp8.htm> (for students)
- http://kidshealth.org/teen/school_jobs/school/test_anxiety.html (for students)
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_dVGrZnVRk (a video for parents and teachers).

More information

More information is available at senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au under *Years 11 and 12 > Assessment > OLNA*. This section includes answers to frequently asked questions and a brief video. Questions can also be emailed to olna@scsa.wa.edu.au.

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