

GENERAL ACHIEVEMENT TEST INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS

In 2022, the General Achievement Test (GAT) has changed to provide value to all Victorian students finishing Year 12.

While the GAT already plays an important role in quality assuring Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) assessments, it will now also assess a student's skills against new Literacy and Numeracy Standards (LNS).

Literacy and numeracy skills are a core part of the curriculum in both VCE and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) and are a key skill expected of students leaving secondary school. Explicit assessment and reporting of reading, writing and numeracy gives students the opportunity to show that they are ready for further education, training or to enter the workforce – regardless of the pathway they have chosen.

The 2022 GAT will be held on Wednesday 7 September.

The reformed GAT follows a comprehensive review conducted by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). It will see Victoria join other jurisdictions who already incorporate literacy and numeracy standards as part of their senior secondary reporting. The GAT will provide specific information on each student's key skills for life beyond school.

Why should students sit the GAT?

Literacy and numeracy are essential skills needed in everyday life, which is why they are a core part of the curriculum in both VCE and VCAL. As part of the GAT, in Section A, senior secondary students will have their literacy and numeracy skills measured against new standards.

Completing Section A of the GAT gives students the opportunity to show they have these essential skills and are ready for further education, training or to enter the workforce.

For students completing VCE Unit 3–4 subjects (including scored VCE VET), the GAT is also an essential part of the VCE assessment process. While the test does not count directly towards VCE scores, GAT results are used to check that VCE external assessments and school-based assessments have been accurately and fairly assessed across the state.

What if my child does not meet one or more of the literacy or numeracy standards?

If a student does not meet one or more of the standards, this will be indicated on the GAT Statement of Results. There will be resit opportunities in 2023 for students who do not meet one or more of the standards in 2022.

About the GAT

The GAT will now be delivered in **two sections**:

Section A will assess literacy and numeracy

Section B will assess mathematics, science, technology, the arts and humanities

All senior secondary students in Victoria, including Senior VCAL students, will sit Section A. All students enrolled in one or more VCE Unit 3–4 subject (including scored VCE VET) will sit Sections A and B.

The GAT will be held on Wednesday 7 September 2022 and usually administered by the student's school. Questions asked in the GAT are based on general knowledge and skills that students have already learnt throughout their study.

GAT 2022 SCHEDULE – 7 SEPTEMBER 2022**SECTION A: Literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy**

9:30–9:45am	Reading time	All senior secondary	VCE 3–4	Senior VCAL	Scored VCE VET 3–4
9:45–11:45am	Writing time				
11:45am–1:15pm	Break				

SECTION B: General knowledge and skills

1:15–1:30pm	Reading time	VCE 3–4	Scored VCE VET 3–4
1:30–3:00pm	Writing time		

How can I help my child prepare for the GAT?

No special study is required to sit the GAT.

The GAT is based on knowledge students will have acquired through their studies and assesses what they have already learnt throughout their education.

For Section A, the questions will be about reading, writing and numeracy. These are based on situations students may encounter in daily life. For example, a question on reading might ask about understanding information they have found online; a writing question might ask them to draft an email to their employer; and a question measuring numeracy might assess a student's ability to understand their hourly pay rate.

In Section B, questions will explore mathematics, science, technology, the arts and humanities knowledge that have already been addressed as part of the curriculum in their schooling.

Sample questions for Section A of the GAT are available on the VCAA website. Past GAT papers are also available to help students prepare for Section B. Go to vcaa.vic.edu.au.

Special provisions for students sitting the GAT

Special provisions are available to make the GAT accessible to students with additional needs. These include:

- Rest breaks
- Extra working time
- Assistive technologies
- Separate rooms
- Alternative test formats
- Readers, scribes and clarifiers

You are encouraged to talk to your child's school if you have questions or need more information about special provisions for the GAT.

GAT results

- GAT results will be reported on the student's GAT Statement of Results, which will be issued as part of the student results package in December.
- The GAT **does not** count directly towards final VCE or VCAL results.

Where can I find more information?

More information about the GAT, including more frequently asked questions, can be found on the VCAA website at vcaa.vic.edu.au.

Parents should also speak to their child's school, TAFE, RTO or VCAL provider for information about special provisions or the administration of the GAT.