



ISA Testing at ISS

One of the most important questions for parents is always, “How is my child doing?”. A related question is ‘Compared to what?’ This is a particularly critical question for families away from home, where it is hard to know how systems, and standards compare. Until recently it has been difficult for any international school to answer these questions in a really substantial way, because the international school network has not had access to a form of external assessment normed on international standards. This has now changed, with the development of The International Schools’ Assessment (ISA).

On **February 2nd and 3rd** students in Grade 3,4,5, 6, 7,8, 9,10 will be sitting the (ISA).

Grade 3-5 will be doing this using paper tests whilst Grade 6-10 will be using the online version.

These assessments are sat by over 70,000 students worldwide and provide an indication of students’ achievement in Reading, Writing and Mathematical Literacy.

What is the ISA?

The International Schools’ Assessment (ISA) is an annual assessment programme that has been specially developed to measure skills in mathematical literacy, reading and writing of students in international schools.

ISA is based on the internationally endorsed reading and mathematical literacy frameworks of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. It is designed and developed in Australia by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER).

The ISA reports provide descriptive information about what students know and can do. The results are equated from year to year so they can be used to track changes over time at individual and school level.

What is the ISA NOT?

The ISA is not a competitive or comparative test, such as the IB Diploma, AP, SATS etc. It is not a test that students “pass”. It will not be used for purposes other than providing data to us, you, and your child, about his/her learning. Students do not ‘prepare’ for the tests, since they are consistent with what students learn on a regular basis.

How do the assessments work?

Students complete a reading literacy test, a mathematical literacy test and two writing tests, each of which takes between 45 minutes and one hour to administer. The tests include both multiple-choice and open ended tasks.





How do the ISA's help ISS to improve student learning?

The ISA's provides the school with valuable data to improve student learning both for the individual student and across the schools' programmes. They do this by:

- measuring individual students' achievement in order to reflect on and address strengths and weaknesses
- monitoring an individual's or group's progress over time
- evaluating instructional programs against objective evidence of student performance, to diagnose gaps, and to measure growth in learning between grade levels and from year to year within one grade level
- comparing subgroup performance (e.g. girls and boys; students from different language backgrounds) to see where there may be unexpected results and try to understand them
- providing normative data in relation to selected population to see "how we are doing"
- by being able to compare ISS with the average results from all other participating schools
- by being able to compare with average results from "like schools" - other international schools with similar profiles
- by being able to compare 8th, 9th and 10th grade international school students with international results and national groups for 15-year-olds from 65 countries (via PISA data)

What information will I receive as a parent?

We will pass on all information about your child to you in the form of an individual report. These reports are provided by ACER and are very comprehensive. They will give you a detailed record of your child's performance in relation to scales that describe increasingly advanced skills in mathematical literacy, reading literacy and writing. You will receive them by the end of May. It is entirely your decision as to whether you pass on this information to another school when you leave ISS.

ACER has to comply with relevant Australian privacy law ("the Privacy Law") and its privacy policy. A complete statement detailing an individual's rights and how they may be exercised is attached below.

Please contact the relevant Principal if you have any questions or concerns about the ISA's

Kind Regards
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Privacy Statement

Dear Parent

Your child's school has chosen to administer the International Schools' Assessment ("the Assessment") to its students. The Assessment is an assessment program designed by The Australian Council for Educational Research Ltd (ABN 19 004 398 145) ("ACER") for students in international schools and schools with an international focus in grades 3 to 10. The aims of the Assessment include: to measure students' performance in relation to scales that describe levels of proficiency in mathematical literacy, reading, writing and/or scientific literacy performance in relation to other international school students at the same grade level. De-identified data from the Assessment may be used for the purpose of research by ACER ("the Aims").

Personal information is that information or opinion that tends to identify a particular individual such as name and date of birth. In pursuit of the Assessment your child's school will disclose your child's personal information to ACER which now stores it for the purpose of administering and reporting on the results of the Assessment in pursuit of the Aims ("the Purpose"). ACER will only collect, use, store or disclose your child's personal information in pursuit of the Purpose. The collection of your child's personal information by ACER was not required by law. Principally, if that information is not provided your child will not be able to participate in the Assessment and assist in achieving the Aims or any special consideration or accommodation in respect of the Assessment may not be able to be granted.

Disclosure of your child's personal information

In pursuit of the Purpose ACER will disclose the results of your child's participation and any other of your child's personal information it holds to your child's school. By permitting your child's participation in the Assessment you have consented to such disclosure. Should you not wish to consent please contact the relevant school or pursue your right to complain as set out in the 'Your Rights' section below.

Please note:

1. that under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (an Australian privacy law by which ACER is bound) ACER is bound to ensure that, if your child's school is not in Australia or an external territory ACER should take steps to ensure the school complies with relevant Australian Privacy law;
2. but if you consent to the disclosure of your child's personal information to its relevant school e.g. your child's results, ACER will not have to take steps to ensure compliance by your child's school;
3. the country of your child's school may not have similar privacy laws or measures by which you may pursue any of your or your child's rights in respect of privacy as that of Australia.

Sensitive information

Sensitive information is information that, for example, relates to an individual's health, race or ethnic origin or religious beliefs. The most usual occasion sensitive information is collected for the Purpose is if special accommodation is requested for a student in respect of the Assessment for health reasons including a medical condition or intellectual impairment. You do not have to consent to the collection of such sensitive information.

But by supplying such sensitive information to your school or ACER in relation to the Assessment you have consented to the collection of the same by the school and ACER. By such consent the relevant sensitive information will be stored and used by ACER for the Purpose. If you do not consent or object in any way you may complain to ACER as set out in the 'Your Rights' section below.

Your rights

ACER takes seriously the protection of your and your child's personal information. ACER will abide by the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth).

You and your child has the right to:

1. inspect his or her personal information;
2. request amendment of personal information; and
3. make complaint in respect of a breach of your child's privacy.

To exercise any or all of the above rights please review ACER's privacy policy locatable at: <http://www.acer.edu.au/privacy> which sets out the processes of how you may attend to the same.

Yours faithfully

Glenda Robertson and Ray Philpot
ISA Project Directors