

What is the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP)?

The Pan-Canadian Assessment Program is a two-hour written test that measures the knowledge and skills of 13-year-old Canadian students in three subjects: reading, math, and science.

The test was developed by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC).

This year's assessment will focus mainly on reading. Two-thirds of the students will complete a reading test; the other third will be tested on math and science. (The students and the tests they take will be selected at random.)

What is the purpose of the PCAP assessments?

The PCAP assessments have two main purposes: to help the government make informed decisions about education and to determine how prepared 13-year-old students are for the academic challenges of high school.

Each province and territory has its own system of education, and school programs differ from one part of the country to another.

However, all Canadian students study reading, math, and science, and PCAP assessments will identify the knowledge and skills in those subjects that are common to students across the country.

Who will take part in the PCAP assessment?

About 30,000 students from more than 1,500 schools across the country will participate. The assessment will be given to both English- and French-language students.

What will students who participate have to do?

Students will complete a written test assessing their knowledge and skills in reading, math and science.

Students will also respond to a questionnaire that asks about their interests, attitudes, and classroom activities.

Do students need to prepare for this assessment?

No. Students do not need to study for this assessment. However, parents and students may choose to review some sample questions. These will be available to you, through your school, before the assessment takes place.

Will the results affect students' marks?

No. The results will not affect students' academic records in any way. The results will be compiled only for provinces and territories, not for individual schools, students, or districts.

Will the assessment be fair to all students?

Yes. Teachers from across the country have developed and reviewed this test. The assessment is designed to give all students a chance to show their knowledge and skills. It has been tested for bias based on culture, gender, and regional differences and has been found to be fair, appropriate, and bias-free.

A Personal Note to Students

Thank you, in advance, for taking part in PCAP-13.

When you take this test, you will help us make education better for all students in Canada.

We're counting on you.

Please do your best!

For more information on PCAP-13 (2007), please visit <http://www.cmec.ca>. Click on "Assessments" and then "PCAP."



PAN-CANADIAN ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (PCAP)

PCAP-13

Reading, Mathematics, and Science
Assessment (2007)

Information for Parents and Students

Funds for the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program have been provided by participating provinces and territories through the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada.

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