



SUBJECT GUIDE ENGLISH

SKILL AREAS

Learners are required to locate, identify, explain, interpret, infer and analyse information in and about texts. The skill areas assessed are:

- Text comprehension
- Writer's craft
- Syntax
- Vocabulary.

CONTENT

ICAS – English assesses reading and language skills in a range of contexts. The following aspects of texts are assessed and reported: text comprehension—reading for meaning—in literary and factual texts; the writer's craft in selecting particular text types, vocabulary and techniques; syntax; and vocabulary. The questions require learners to locate, identify, sequence, explain, interpret, analyse and infer information in and about texts.

Learners read a variety of texts which narrate, describe, explain, argue, persuade and review. These include extracts from picture books, novels, poems, play scripts, transcripts of interviews, letters, diary entries, advertisements, web pages, feature articles, opinion pieces and comic strips. These texts cover a range of topics and may include tables, diagrams, maps and other visual information.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

GRADEYEAR	PAPER	QUESTION BREAKDOWN	DURATION
2	Introductory	30 multiple choice	40 minutes
3	A	35 multiple choice	45 minutes
4	B	35 multiple choice	45 minutes
5	C	40 multiple choice	50 minutes
6	D	40 multiple choice	50 minutes
7	E	45 multiple choice	55 minutes
8	F	45 multiple choice	55 minutes
9	G	50 multiple choice	1 hour
10	H	50 multiple choice	1 hour
11	I	50 multiple choice	1 hour
12	J	50 multiple choice	1 hour

HOW IS ICAS DIFFERENT?

ICAS is developed annually by a team of highly experienced assessment developers and psychometricians, with rigorous reviews at each stage of construction. Subject matter experts develop new ICAS questions each year, drawing on their in-depth understanding of the way learners learn. All ICAS assessments are reviewed by experienced teachers to ensure that they accurately assess learners' skills and are relevant to what they are learning at school.

This ensures that ICAS is:

- valid
- consistent from one assessment cycle to the next
- appropriately targeted for the learners being assessed
- objective and reliable
- fair (effect of gender, language background, cultural background is minimised through sensitivity reviews)
- constructed using appropriate examples and authentic contexts
- represented in a visually appealing way to capture learner attention and interest
- underpinned by methodologies from psychometric measurement theory.

“ICAS English tests use a wide range of engaging stimulus texts that are appropriate to the level of the learners. The questions test a wide range of skills from basic factual recall to more sophisticated higher order thinking skills, such as inference and drawing conclusions. Meticulous attention to accuracy underpins every ICAS English test and this ensures that learners, teachers and parents can have confidence in the results.”

Greg Reid

ICAS International Assessment Expert, Literacy
UNSW Global

SKILLS ASSESSED



ENGLISH

- Text comprehension
- Writer's craft
- Syntax
- Vocabulary



MATHEMATICS

- Algebra and patterns
- Chance and data
- Measures and units
- Number and arithmetic
- Space and geometry



SCIENCE

- Observing and measuring
- Interpreting data
- Applying data
- Investigating
- Reasoning and problem solving



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

- Common operating systems and hardware
- Graphics and multimedia
- Internet and email
- Programming and scripting
- Spreadsheets and databases
- Word processing

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