

NAPLAN past papers: every official source by year, and a marking log

The official sources

Years	Where	What is there	Good for
2008 to 2011	ACARA: 'NAPLAN test papers and answers from 2008 to 2011'	Years 3, 5, 7, 9: reading, writing prompt, language conventions, numeracy, with answers (paper PDFs)	Content diagnosis; the writing prompts and marking guide
2012 to 2016	ACARA: 'NAPLAN test papers and answers from 2012 to 2016'	The same four tests per year level, with answers	The best content diagnostic; use the 2014 to 2016 papers first
2017 to 2026	Not released	ACARA does not provide tests after 2016 (questions reused and equated)	Anything sold as a 2025 paper is not one
Current format	NAPLAN public demonstration site (nap.edu.au)	Mini tests per year level in every online question type	Seeing the interface, drag and drop, typed answers, calculator sections
State material	NESA, QCAA, VCAA, SCSA	Parent guidance and example questions	Reading about the test; not a full test
Current-style practice	sciencewithshobha.com: Year 3, 5, 7, 9 numeracy tests; writing prompts	30 questions per year level with answers; 12 prompts with the criteria	Timed practice in the current style

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- [] Do not email, upload, publish or use in a coaching business
- [] Some images and texts in the papers belong to third parties

What changed with the online test (content did not)

	Paper tests (to 2016)	Online adaptive (since 2023)
When	May	March, 10 to 22 March 2027
Questions	Everyone sees the same paper	Branches harder or easier after the first block
Answer types	Multiple choice, short written	Typed numbers and words, drag and drop, hot spots, ordering
Numeracy Years 7 and 9	One paper	Calculator section, then non-calculator
Writing	On paper	Typed from Year 5; Year 3 still on paper
Report	Bands 1 to 10	Exceeding, Strong, Developing, Needs additional support

Using a paper test for the online test, and the marking log

Year by year

Year	Use the past papers for	Use the demonstration site and current-style tests for
3	Reading the question (word problems), the four operations, fractions, time; the writing prompts (Year 3 writing is still on paper)	Typing an answer into a box under time; the first online test the child has ever sat
5	Decimals, area and perimeter, two-step problems: mark by topic	The online types; a timed test in the current style
7	Ratio, percentages, early algebra	The calculator and non-calculator split, where Year 7 marks go
9	Pythagoras, index laws, linear graphs, probability	The harder reasoning block the adaptive test sends a strong student to
All	The writing prompts with the marking guide: the ten criteria have not changed	Two timed pieces, marked against the criteria

Marking a paper so it tells you something

- [] Mark it the same day, with the child; every wrong answer gets a reason: did not know / misread / slip / out of time
- [] Group the wrong answers by topic, not by question number
- [] Teach those topics for two or three weeks before the next paper
- [] Do not convert the raw score to a level: the old papers were banded, the current test is on a different scale

The marking log

Paper (year, level, test)	Date	Right / total	Topics wrong (reason)	Next two weeks

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