Excellence in Critical and Creative Thinking (CCT)

Education State Sample Assessment Program

2022 Information Guide for Schools

Q. What are the benefits of participating?

This assessment program gives Victorian schools the opportunity to be involved in the annual assessment of the Education State Target, Critical and Creative Thinking. The Education State targets are a set of ambitious targets for improving all Victorian students’ outcomes in achievement, wellbeing and equity, as well as initiatives to support excellence in teaching and learning. Understanding the annual performance of Victorian students will help in measuring the Education State target that supports improvement in critical and creative thinking across ten years.

 Q. Will my student or school results be published?

The results of individual schools or students will not be published. Annual assessment data is analysed to determine the percentage of students at Year 6 and Year 10 who are achieving ‘excellence’. A statewide result for Excellence in Critical and Creative Thinking will be published, however, no disaggregation between schools, school sector or student will take place. The Principal of the participating schools will receive feedback on the performance of their students as a cohort, not individual results.

Q. When will the assessments take place?

The assessment is scheduled to be undertaken by selected students at their home school during the period between **weeks 2 - 4 in Term 3 (18 July to 5 August 2022).** Schools will be contacted in the lead up to the assessment period to schedule a suitable test day. Every effort will be made to accommodate school date preferences. Schools will be advised, if necessary, closer to the assessment dates if there are COVID-19 related issues.

Q. How long will the assessment take?

It is expected that the online assessment will take approximately **75 minutes** in total, including practice items and introduction to the tasks.

Q. Where will the assessments be undertaken?

CCT assessments will be completed online at the school, using school computing equipment/devices.

Q. Are you assessing only our highest achieving students?

No. As the target is a measure of excellence across Victoria, a representative sample is required of all students in the specified year levels, from all levels of ability.

Q. How will students be selected?

Schools that have been selected to participate will be required to provide a list of students from the selected year level. A random sample of approximately 25 year 6 or 10 students from your school will be drawn for participation. No participation requirements exist, beyond the student being in the correct year level and a student in Victoria for at least one year.

Q. Will students with a disability be able to participate?

It is intended that an inclusive approach to participation be adopted in selecting the sample in relation to students with a disability. Students with a disability who have access to an aide will be able to have their aide assist them to undertake the assessments.

Q. Will students with English as an Additional Language (EAL) be able to participate?

It is intended that an inclusive approach to participation be adopted in selecting the sample in relation to students with English as an Additional Language (EAL). As the targets are intended to measure Victorian performance, it is proposed that only students who have been in a Victorian educational setting for at least one year will be selected to participate, irrespective of EAL status.

Q. How often will students be assessed?

This commitment is for one 75-minute time slot in 2022 only. The assessment program seeks to measure the annual performance of Victorian students in CCT so that improvements can be tracked over the 10 years.

Q. What CCT assessment is being used?

An assessment tool has been developed to establish baseline data for Critical and Creative Thinking. This tool includes visual and written problem questions and was developed for the Department of Education and Training and VCAA by the Australian Council for Educational Research.

Q. What do the tasks look like and how are they administered?

Each task is designed to be completed by an individual student. There are no group tasks.

Selected examples from the psychometrically validated VCAA critical and creative thinking assessment tasks can be accessed through FUSE at the following links for levels [1-2](http://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/?95CRNC), [3-4](http://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/?R28YQH), [5-6](http://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/?PW9X49), [7-8](http://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/?7CQKPP) and [9-10](http://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/?XZ4R45).

Each task has an electronic interface that includes some stimulus material and a series of questions. Most of the questions require a short written answer. There are also multiple-choice and drag-and drop questions.

Q. Who will facilitate the assessment session at my school?

The VCAA will provide trained Assessment Supervisors to facilitate the testing session at each school. Assessment Supervisors will be responsible for communicating with the nominated school contact person as required, marking students from a roll and providing students with system logins, assisting with student enquiries and contacting the technical helpdesk if required.

Q. What IT equipment is required for students to sit the assessment?

The assessment is taken via an online platform and internet connection will be required. Schools will need to ensure that each student has a suitable computer/device to undertake the test.

Q. What are the technical requirements required to run the online assessment?

Internet access will be required to undertake the online assessment. The specific system requirements to run the assessments are as follows:

• Internet browser: Latest version of Firefox, Safari, Opera or Chrome (NOTE: Internet Explorer is not recommended, as images and sound will not function correctly)

• Screen resolution: 1024x768 or higher (for notebooks and devices to avoid scrolling)

• Active Internet Connection: 2200kbs 30-40 students

 Q. What if there are issues with the online platform?

A technical helpdesk will be provided for schools and Assessment Supervisors to contact during the assessment period.

Q. How will ‘excellence’ be measured?

In 2016, a benchmark of ‘excellence’ was established and the percentage of students who have achieved, reached or exceeded the benchmark of ‘excellence’ across the state will be calculated based on this benchmark. The school report sent to participating Principals will include their student cohort result in relation to the benchmark.

Q. Who do I contact for more information?

If you have any further questions regarding this process, please contact the Education State Sample Assessments Project Team via vcaa.education.state@education.vic.gov.au or (03) 9059 4172 at the VCAA.