How the NAPLAN writing task is set

Writing tasks are developed by experts

Teachers and education experts from all over Australia develop several writing tasks that are considered suitable to elicit a range of responses from students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Review and trialling process

Several tasks are trialled in a sample of schools in all jurisdictions and sectors across the country.

Students observed under test conditions

Over 1000 students answer several tasks in test conditions. They are observed by trained invigilators who note any difficulties faced by students.

Decide on most suitable tasks

From the trials, invigilators provide feedback on their observations. Markers provide feedback on how students handled the responses. The marking data undergoes psychometric analyses, which shows how students fared with the questions. From this, the final questions are selected.

NAPLAN assessment day

Students from a wide range of abilities at each year level address the topic to write a developmentally appropriate response.

Psychometric analysis is the analysis of tests to ensure that scores are as reliable and valid as possible.

Invigilator noun. (education) a person who watches examination candidates.

Each May, over one million students sit the NAPLAN tests.