

School Performance in Statewide Test and Examinations

The school has participated in various statewide test and examinations during the year. Below are the reports for the Basic Skills Test, Primary Writing Assessment, Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program and English Language and Literacy Assessment.

Introduction

1. Basic Skills Test (BST)

Basic literacy and numeracy skills are the foundation for young person's future education. The NSW Government is committed to improving the literacy and numeracy levels of school students across the State. The Basic Skills Test is an important part of the Government's Literacy and Numeracy Plan and gives parents and teachers a detailed picture of child's development.

Students from Year 3 and Year 5 participate in the Basic Skills Test, which is usually held in August. The test covered aspects of literacy and numeracy, including reading, language, number, measurement and space. The results are shown in skill bands, which indicate the levels of achievement. The skill band range from one (lowest mark) to five (highest mark) in year 3 and one (lowest mark) to six (highest mark) in year 5.

2. Primary Writing Assessment (PWA)

The primary Writing Assessment is another part of the Government's Literacy Numeracy Plan. It is a criterion-referenced test. This means that your child's writing is assessed against criteria that describe how well the writing achieves the purpose of the task.

This kind of assessment is able to identify what your child's writing has or has not demonstrated and teachers can use the information provided to adjust their teaching strategies and programs to meet the individual needs of their students. The test consist of two tasks, a factual writing task and a literary task.

Students from Year 3 and Year 5 are tested, usually in July. Like Basic Skills Test, the results are shown as achievements in one to six bands with band six indicating higher marks.

3. Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP)

The Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP) is a curriculum-based assessment, testing students' skills in particular aspects of numeracy. SNAP is also part of the Government's Literacy and Numeracy Plan.

Year 7 students participate in the test and also year 8 students are tested as part of retest. The knowledge and skills in the following areas are tested:

Number – using numbers and calculations in a variety of situations

Measurement – making and comparing measurements involving length, area, volume, mass, time and temperature.

Space – drawing shapes, working with patterns, representing 3 dimensional space and describing positions, using scales.

Data – identifying, organising and interpreting data in tables and graphs

Numeracy Problem Solving – asking and solving numeracy questions, checking solutions.

The results are given in a graphical form with low to high.

4. English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA)

The English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) provides teachers and parents with valuable information about the literacy skills of students in Years 7 and 8. These skills are necessary for students to progress in all their subjects in high school.

ELLA is part of the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Plan. ELLA is based on the curriculum studied by students in high school. The results show how each individual student performed against a standard of achievement, that is, against what they should be able to do at this level; students are not compared with each other or ranked in order.

ELLA is held on Tuesday, week 6, term 1 in every year. Year 7 students sit for the ELLA test. Our school also re-test Year 8 students. This means we are able to check on the progress students are making between Year 7 and Year 8.

Three aspects of literacy are tested through ELLA:

Writing: students write responses to two tasks; one task is factual and one is literacy

Reading: students read and respond to questions about a range of texts, including texts and diagrams that are commonly used in the key learning areas of the secondary curriculum.

Language: students respond to texts and questions about their knowledge and use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

The results of ELLA provide information to teachers about what students can and cannot do. Teachers can use this information to design teaching programs that target the needs of their students. The results are analysed to assist school planning and to monitor literacy development over time.

Al-Faisal College test results

Basic Skills Test (BST)

In Year 3, 96% of students achieved skill band 2 or higher in the literacy compared to 89% of the State and 91% achieved skill band 2 or higher in numeracy compared to 90% of the State. In the literacy component students achieved better overall in language than in reading while they performed consistently across all aspects of numeracy.

In Year 5, 93% of the students achieved skill band 3 or higher in literacy compared to 93% of the state and 97% of the students achieved bands 3 or higher in numeracy compared to 94% of the State. In the literacy component students achieved better overall in language with 44% of the students in band 6 than in reading with 22% in band 6.

Primary Writing Assessment (PWA)

In Year 3, 100% of the students achieved band 2 or higher compared to 95% of the State.

In Year 5, 100% of the students achieved band 2 or higher compared to 96% of the State.

The tables 1 & 2 below summarises the student achievements in different band groups.

Basic Skills Test (BST)

In the English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) test students perform above the State level in each of the three components. 100% of the year 7 students achieved elementary level or above in writing and reading and 98% of the year 7 students achieved at elementary level or above in language compared to 92% of the State. 100% of the year 8 students achieved elementary level or above in all three aspects of the ELLA test; writing, reading and language.

Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP)

In year 7, 100% of the students achieved elementary or higher band compare to 95% of the State. In year 8, 100% of the students achieved elementary or higher band compare to 97% of the State.

Table 3 below summarises the ELLA and SNAP test results.

Table 1: Basic Skills Test (BST) and Primary Writing Assessment (PWA) results – percentages above benchmark

2004 Test	Year 3		Year 5	
	Percentage of students achieving Band 2 or higher		Percentage of students achieving Band 3 or higher	
	School	State	School	State
BST - Aspects of Literacy	96%	89%	93%	93%
BST - Aspects of Numeracy	91%	90%	97%	94%
PWA	100%	95%	100%	96%

Table 2: Basic Skills Test (BST) and Primary Writing Assessment (PWA) results – percentages in skills bands

2004 Test	Year 3				Year 5			
	Bands 2-5		Band 1		Bands 3-6		Bands 1-2	
	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State
BST - Aspects of Literacy	96%	89%	4%	11%	93%	93%	7%	7%
BST - Aspects of Numeracy	91%	90%	9%	10%	97%	94%	3%	6%
Primary Writing Assessment	100%	95%	0%	5%	100%	96%	0%	4%

Table 3: English Language and Literacy (ELLA) and Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP) results – percentages above elementary performance

2004 Test	Percentage of students achieving elementary band or higher			
	Year 7		Year 8	
	School	State	School	State
ELLA - Writing	100%	96%	100%	97%
ELLA - Reading	100%	94%	100%	96%
ELLA - Language	98%	92%	100%	95%
SNAP	100%	95%	100%	97%