



PAT Reading Trial

Years 2–3, Years 5–10.

Test administration instructions



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TRIAL INFORMATION

Purpose

This trial is vital to ACER's continuous improvement of PAT Reading adaptive. Following the trial, statistical analyses and feedback from participating schools will be used to identify content that has worked well and is suitable for release.

We depend on the goodwill of schools to help us with this part of the assessment development process and appreciate your participation.

Trial period

The trial runs from **Monday 1 June** to **Friday 31 July**. The trial tests can be completed at any time between these dates.

Participating year levels

Students in Years 2–3 and Years 5–10 can participate and will be assigned a trial test based on their current year level.

Content

The number of questions on each test varies by year level:

- **Years 2, 3, 5 and 6:** 25 questions.
- **Years 7–8:** 26 questions.
- **Years 9–10:** 30 questions.

The trial tests contain a selection of new content that we need to try out with a similar population to the one that will ultimately sit the final test, to make sure the content works well. The trial tests may be shorter than the final tests and are not necessarily representative of the whole test construct. This means that there can be a disproportionate number of questions relating to a particular strand or that one trial test might be slightly harder or easier than another.

The trial tests are **not** computer adaptive.

Recommended test time

- 40 minutes for all year levels, including practice questions.

Practice questions

All trial forms contain **four** practice questions. The purpose of these questions is to show students how to answer the different types of questions they may see on their test, so we recommend that teachers lead their students through these questions as a group.

Trial test assignment

ACER is responsible for the assignment of trial tests to students. Please note:

- If a student can no longer participate, you can unassign the trial test in your account.
- If you've added a new student and would like them to participate, please send their details securely via our [submit a request](#) form or phone: **1300 006 577**.

There are multiple trial tests, each containing different content. Each participating student will be assigned only one reading trial test. Within each year level, students will receive a mix of trial tests to support the collection of a diverse data sample.

Results

Instant **raw score reports** will be available through your online school account.

Please note, however, that the purpose of the trial is to **test the questions**, not to assess individual students.

The reports will show:

- each student's correct and incorrect responses, and
- the percentage of students in your selected group who answered each question correctly.

We do not recommend reviewing the questions in detail with students nor going through the answers.

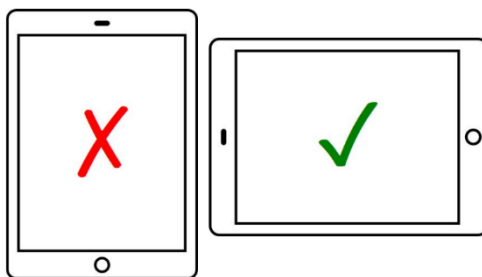
At this stage, we do not yet know how well the new content will perform, and some content may not be suitable for inclusion in the final assessment. It does, however, provide valuable practice for both students and teachers. It also gives schools the opportunity to directly shape future tests by providing feedback.

Teacher expectations and feedback

At the conclusion of the trial, you will be emailed a short feedback survey. This should be completed by each teacher who administered the test. Teacher feedback is one of the most important and valued aspects of the trial process.

PRIOR TO TESTING

- ❑ Students can complete the test on a **tablet** or on a **laptop** or **desktop computer**.
- ❑ Tablets should be held in **landscape** orientation (i.e., horizontally) at all times. Holding the tablet in portrait mode may prevent test content from appearing as intended.



- ❑ **iPad minis must not be used**, as the screen is too small.
- ❑ Ensure that all students are listed within your school's online account and have been assigned a trial test.
- ❑ Schedule your testing date and time. ACER recommends that tests are administered in the morning and not immediately before or after an exciting school event.

Run the **browser exam** <https://oars.acer.edu.au/browserexam/> on a student device to check whether your school's setup meets the minimum technical requirements. Alternatively, send the technical requirements to your school's IT technician. See below.

- ❑ Make note of your school's online account login page.
The page URL should be saved on student devices made available via the school's intranet.
The web address will be similar to: <https://oars.acer.edu.au/your-school-name>.
- ❑ Download or print a list of your students' login details from the **Students** page within your school's online account.
- ❑ Determine whether some students require changed testing provisions due to specific learning needs. We kindly ask you to advise us at school.support@acer.org of any adjustments provided to your students so we can take these adjustments into account when analysing your school's test results.

Technical requirements

- Minimum browser resolution: **1280 width x 800 height**.
- Minimum tablet screen size: **10.2 inches**.
- Minimum DSL or cable internet connection: **256 Kbps**.
- Compatible computers and devices: PC or laptop, Apple Mac, iPad (not iPad Mini), other tablet devices.
- Compatible web browsers (latest versions): Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, Microsoft Edge.
- The following domains must be whitelisted/permitted by the network firewall or security settings:
 - acer.org/
 - acer.edu.au/
 - delivery.acer.edu.au/
 - delivery2.acer.edu.au/

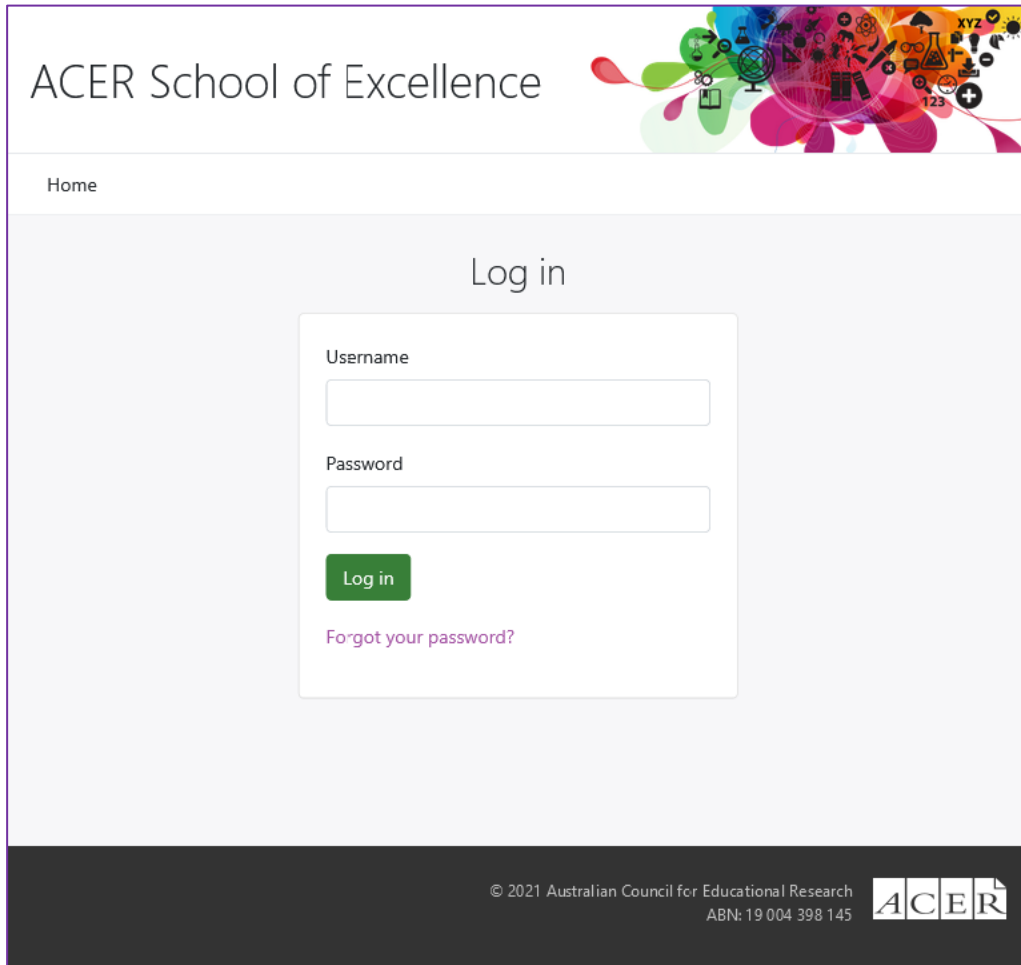
ON TESTING DAYS

Notes

- ACER's trial tests should be administered under standard testing conditions with invigilation.
- Students are not automatically timed out. You must monitor and manage the time, including accommodating toilet breaks or other interruptions that may occur.
- Administer the test in a quiet environment with consistent instructions.
- There are no audio instructions within this test.
- Student responses are automatically saved each time they navigate to another question.
- If technical problems cause the need to postpone the completion of tests, the browser may be closed without losing progress.

STARTING THE TEST

Once students are seated at their computers or devices, instruct them to load your school's online account login page. Example: <https://oars.acer.edu.au/your-school-name>.



ACER School of Excellence

Home

Log in

Username

Password

Log in

[Forgot your password?](#)

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ACER

Instruct students to enter their usernames and then click **Log in**.

Note: Usernames and passwords are case sensitive.

Once students have logged in, say:

Please follow my instructions and do not click through the screens unless you are told to do so. Please enter the username and password given to you and then tap Log in.

Students will see a screen listing all assessments currently assigned to them:



Each student's name will be displayed at the top of the welcome page.

Check that all students are logged in with the correct details.

Say:

Please raise your hand if the name at the top of the page is not your own.

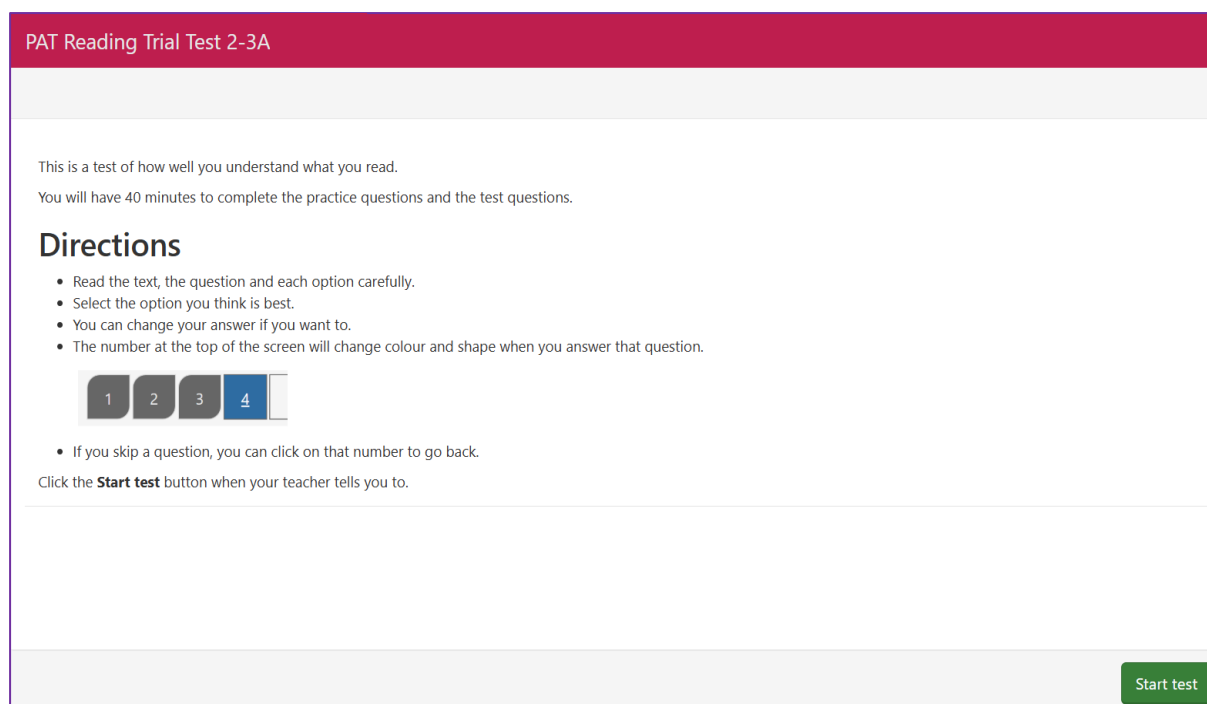
Once you have ensured all students are logged in with the correct names, they may open the test.

Say:

Please click PAT Reading Trial Test.

Directions page, practice questions and starting the test

After opening their test, students will see the following instructions:



The screenshot shows the 'PAT Reading Trial Test 2-3A' interface. At the top, there is a red header with the text 'PAT Reading Trial Test 2-3A'. Below this, the instructions are as follows:

This is a test of how well you understand what you read.
You will have 40 minutes to complete the practice questions and the test questions.

Directions

- Read the text, the question and each option carefully.
- Select the option you think is best.
- You can change your answer if you want to.
- The number at the top of the screen will change colour and shape when you answer that question.

Below the list is a navigation bar with five buttons labeled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The number 4 is highlighted in blue, while the others are grey.

- If you skip a question, you can click on that number to go back.

Click the **Start test** button when your teacher tells you to.

At the bottom right of the page, there is a green button labeled 'Start test'.

Say:

I will read through the directions shown on your screen. Please listen carefully and read silently along with me so you understand the instructions. Please do not begin the test until you are told to do so.

Do:

Dictate the directions on screen to your students.

Then say:

Click Start test to open the practice questions. We will read through these practice questions together before we begin the test.

Make sure to pause on the Information (i) page at the end of the practice questions. When students are ready to begin the test, say:

Work as carefully as you can. The test will take approximately 40 minutes. After you complete the last question, review your work and check that you have answered all the previous questions. Once you have completed your test, click Finish on the last page. Are there any questions?

Check that the instructions have been understood. Answer any questions about the test but not the test content and make sure that students are ready to begin.

When students are ready to begin the test, say:

Click Next to begin.

After 35 minutes, say:

You have five more minutes to finish your work.

Check whether all students have completed the questions. If not, allow a few more minutes. Once students have answered all questions, say:

Please navigate to the last question and click Next. Please click Finish to log out.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter any problems when administering the tests, contact ACER for support:

Phone: 1300 006 577

Email: school.support@acer.org

Why can't my student log in?

There are several possible causes:

- Logins are case sensitive. Check that the student is entering their username and password correctly.
- Some devices and browsers will automatically capitalise some words or automatically fill login fields with saved details. The student should be able to overwrite these automatic suggestions by typing their complete details. If the problem persists, check the browser or device settings, or use another web browser.
- Check that the student is on the correct login page.
- If you have a staff login, check that the student's login details are correct by logging in to the account with your staff login details and clicking the student's name on the **Students** page.

Why is the test not appearing for my student?

The test is not currently assigned to the student. Please contact ACER to assign the test to your student.

Can I close a test if it hasn't been submitted?

Yes. If you have a staff login, follow the steps below to close a student's test:

1. Log in to your school's account using your staff login.
2. Click **Students** and locate the student's name in your list. (You will see the unfinished test listed in the **Active tests** column and marked with a pencil icon).
3. Click the check box next to the student's name and then click **Tests > Close unfinished tests**.
4. Select the test you need to close and then click **Close test**.

GENERATING REPORTS

After your students have completed their test, you can view reports through your school's online account.

A reminder that this assessment is part of a **trial**. Results should **not** be used to make important decisions about a student's learning. The questions and scoring are still being tested, and not all students complete the same set of questions. Any results generated are **preliminary** and are used to improve the assessment for future use.

The reports for the trial forms should be generated from the **Students** page of your OARS account by following the steps below:

- Log in to your school's online account: (<https://oars.acer.edu.au/your-school-name>).
- Go to the **Students** page.
- Select the group of students you want to include in the report (you may want to filter by year level and/or tags).
- Click **Select all X students**.
- Click **Generate Report**.
- Choose **PAT Reading Trial 2026**.
- Choose **Group Report**.
- Choose the test form (e.g. Form 2-3A1).
- Specify the time period (optional).
- Click **Generate Report**, Click **View Report**.

Reports can be saved as a spreadsheet by selecting **Download** and choosing **Table (Excel file)**.

You may also select **View charts** to display and print charts showing the student performance. Charts can be sorted by question number or the percentage of correct responses to each question.

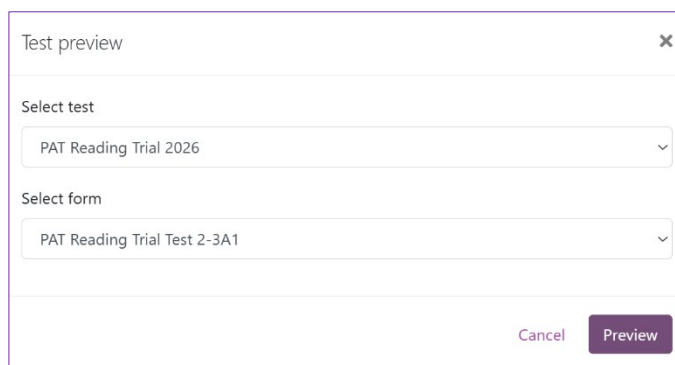
The trial reports display:

- the raw scores achieved by each student, and
- the percentage of students within the group that answered each question correctly.

Individual test questions cannot be viewed within the Group Report. However, you can preview the trial tests using the test preview feature from the **Students** section:

- Log in to your school's online account.
- Go to the **Students** page.
- Click the **Tests** button.
- Choose **Preview** from the drop-down menu.
- Choose **PAT Reading Trial 2026**.
- Choose the test form (e.g. 2-3A1).
- Click **Preview**.

The test will then appear as it was presented to students.



The image shows a 'Test preview' dialog box with a close button (X) in the top right corner. It contains two dropdown menus. The first is labeled 'Select test' and has 'PAT Reading Trial 2026' selected. The second is labeled 'Select form' and has 'PAT Reading Trial Test 2-3A1' selected. At the bottom right, there are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Preview'.

For assistance with generating reports, please contact the ACER School Support team:

Phone: **1300 006 577**

Email: school.support@acer.org