

Year 1 Numeracy Check – Frequently Asked Questions

PREPARING TO TEST – PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

Q: Can teachers upload the students or does that have to be completed by the school administrator?

A: This will depend on the staff member's role within the school's OARS account. Some schools have multiple account administrators, and each administrator has the ability to add students to the account. In addition to the administrator role, there is also a "candidate manager role" with a lower level of permissions that can add students to the account.

Staff roles within OARS are:

- Client Administrator
- Candidate Manager and Report Generator
- Candidate Manager
- Report Generator (*cannot add/edit students*)

For more information, please see: [Staff member roles and permissions – ACER School Support](#)

Q: When can the tests be assigned on OARS so logins can be generated?

A: Student logins can be downloaded and printed as soon as the school has finished setting up all student accounts in OARS. ACER will be assigning the Year 1 Numeracy Check on Tuesday 25 August, however logins can be generated before this date as the process of assigning tests does not impact logins.

Q: Can OARS generate QR codes for student log-ins?

A: The OARS platform does not generate QR codes – only alphanumeric usernames and passwords, which are set up by the school. ACER recommends that teachers log in **for** students to support a seamless login process when administering the Year 1 Numeracy Check.

Q: Will the Year 1 Numeracy Check work on iPads?

A: Yes, the Year 1 Numeracy Check has been designed for tablet delivery. It can be delivered on laptops, MacBooks, ChromeBooks and desktop computers also.

Q: Is the test platform accessed through a website link?

A: Yes, each school has their own Online Assessment and Reporting System (OARS) account, accessed by teachers **and** students via your school's unique URL.

TEST ADMINISTRATION – GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q: Would it be best to show the students the Practice Section video demonstration on the same day they will complete the test or can it be shown earlier (for example, the day before)?

A: It is up to classroom teachers, but ACER recommends playing the Practice Section video demonstration before the students begin the Independent section. Doing it the day before or the morning of are both great options.

Q: Does the Interview section involve a student using a tablet/iPad or just a teacher with their laptop?

A: The Interview section involves the teacher asking the student each question and recording the response or observation on their device. Their device may be a tablet, their laptop, or the same device that the student used when completing the Independent section.

Whichever device is most convenient.

When conducting the Interview section, the teacher will need the printed pages from the Resource Pack, as well as blank paper, a pencil, and 17 counters of the same size and colour. The teacher will be instructed to provide the student with these resources throughout the Interview – instructions will appear on screen for each Interview task, guiding the teacher clearly.

Q: How many questions will there be in the Interview section?

A: The Year 1 Numeracy Check Independent section contains 20 questions. The Interview section contains 15 questions.

Q: On average how long does it take to complete the Independent Section and the Interview Section?

A: On average, it will take approximately 6-8 minutes for a **group** of students to complete the Independent section and 5-7 minutes for a teacher to conduct the Interview section **per student**. As with any assessment, timings will vary a little between students, but most will complete each section in about this timeframe.

Q: For the purpose of time constraints, is there any significant drawbacks of completing the Independent section as a whole class on iPads versus small groups?

A: The Independent Section has been designed for small group administration. Students need the support of a supervising adult who can readily support students with any technical issues, while ensuring that young learners engage with the assessment as intended. Consistent administration of the Year 1 Numeracy Check across classes and schools is critical to supporting psychometric analysis of the results.

Q: How does a teacher access the Interview section to record students' responses? Is it through the student's OARS account?

A: Yes, the teacher needs to log in to your school's OARS account with the **student's** username and password to access **their** Interview section. The Interview section only becomes available within the student's account after the Independent section has been completed by the student.

Q: Within the Independent or Interview sections, will testing stop at any stage due to incorrect responses?

A: No, there are no stop rules within either the Independent or Interview sections. The Numeracy Screener is designed as a short assessment, so all students attempt all items regardless of whether they answer earlier items correctly or incorrectly. This ensures we collect a complete picture of each student's understanding across the assessed skills.

Q: Can a student accidentally move forward without selecting an answer?

A: Yes, students can progress to the next question without submitting a response. We recommend administering the Independent section to small groups of up to 6 students at a time so that the teacher can supervise and monitor students' interaction with the Year 1 Numeracy Check. Sometimes students may not know the answer to a question, so skipping ahead is a reasonable 'response'. All responses (including skipped items) are visible within the Item Performance report and the Student report.

Q: If a student reverses their number, is that marked as 'correct'?

A: There is a clear marking guide that covers how to mark reversed numbers. Please refer to the information on screen within **each item** within the Interview section.

Q: Would it be suitable for ES staff to take the small groups for the Independent section?

A: Yes, that would be suitable. For the Independent section, the small groups need close supervision so students can be provided with support with any technical issues, such as logging in or navigating the platform. Staff are not to provide assistance with the mathematics content or influence students' responses. ACER recommends that all staff administering/supervising administration have attended/watched the professional learning webinar(s).

STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS & PROVIDING ADJUSTMENTS

Q: Is there guidelines for students with additional needs?

A: Whilst there are no formal guidelines, please provide necessary adjustments to students, as you would with any other class activity, such as allowing students additional time and allowing students to respond by writing/drawing on paper. Do not rephrase or re-word any questions in the Year 1 Numeracy Check as this can influence student's response.

Q: Can we reword questions, e.g. What is 7 and 1?

A: Rewording is **not** suitable. To ensure consistent administration and collection of valid responses, it is important that teachers follow the on-screen script. You may repeat questions but do not reword questions for students.

Q. When providing information about a student regarding "Additional Needs", is this defined as diagnosed or teacher judgement?

A: ... When responding to this question about each student at the end of their Interview, please consider both diagnosed and teacher judgement.

Q: Can we add Year 2s to the test that may require additional support?

A: The Year 1 Numeracy Check is only being administered to Year 1 students in this Pilot. In 2027, it will likely be possible that you can administer it to Year 2 students.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q: Is the Year 1 Numeracy Check the same or different to the PAT Early Numeracy Screener?

A: Sometimes you may see reference to the PAT Early Numeracy Screener or the Year 1 Numeracy Check. These names refer to the same product.

CRT FUNDING RELATED QUESTIONS (INCLUDING TEST ADMINISTRATION TIME)

Q: We have been allocated two days to do this, where our class will be covered. Would this be expected to be done all in those two days if that is how my school is doing this?

A: Yes, a classroom teacher should be able to complete the Year 1 Numeracy Check with their whole class within the two days allocated. Schools may schedule sessions in the way that best suits their local arrangements.

Please note that the Department sent emails to all schools on Monday 17 August regarding CRT funding. Each school will receive funding for two days of Casual Relief Teaching (CRT) coverage for each participating Year 1 teacher.

Q: We've been allocated 2 days to complete testing. Could I use the first 10ish minutes to watch Practice Section video demonstration with the whole class, then go straight into administering the Independent section with small groups of students?

A: Yes, this would be suitable. Please note that schools may decide how best to use this funding to support teacher participation. Teachers who participated in the first testing window (May 2026) for the pilot reported that effective uses of the CRT support included:

- familiarising themselves with the Year 1 Numeracy Check
- attending or watching recorded professional learning
- administering the check to students.

**FOR SUPPORT WITH ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING CRT FUNDING, PLEASE
CONTACT STUDENTLEARNING@EDUCATION.VIC.GOV.AU**