

What is the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP)?

The Pan-Canadian Assessment Program is a written test that measures the knowledge and skills of Grade 8 (in Quebec, Secondary Two) Canadian students in three subjects: science, mathematics, and reading.

The test was developed by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC).

This year's assessment will focus mainly on science. However, all students will also respond to mathematics and reading questions.

What is the purpose of the PCAP assessments?

The PCAP assessments have two main purposes: to help policy-makers make informed decisions about education and to determine how prepared Grade 8 (Secondary Two) students are for future academic challenges.

Each province and territory has its own education system, and school programs differ from one part of the country to another.

However, all Canadian students study science, mathematics, and reading, and PCAP assessments identify the knowledge and skills

in those subjects that are common to students across the country.

Who will take part in the PCAP assessment?

About 40,000 Grade 8 (Secondary Two) students from more than 1,500 schools across the country will participate. The assessment will be given to both English- and French-language students.

What will participating students have to do?

Students will complete a written test that assesses their knowledge and skills in science, mathematics, and reading.

Students will also fill out a questionnaire that asks about their interests, attitudes, and classroom activities.

Do students need to prepare for this assessment?

No. Students do not need to study for this assessment. Normal classroom activities in these subject areas provide ample preparation for this assessment.

Will the results affect students' marks?

No. The results of this assessment will not affect students' academic records in any way. The results will be compiled only for jurisdictions, not for individual schools, students, or districts.

Will the assessment be fair to all students?

Yes. Teachers from across the country have developed and reviewed this test. The assessment is designed to give all students a chance to show their knowledge and skills. It has been tested for bias based on culture, gender, and regional differences, and has been found to be fair, appropriate, and bias-free.

A Personal Note to Students

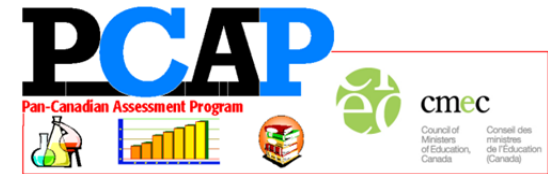
Thank you, in advance, for taking part in PCAP 2013.

When you take this test, you will help us make education better for all students in Canada.

We're counting on you.

Please do your best!

For more information about PCAP 2013, please visit <http://www.cmec.ca>.



PAN-CANADIAN ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (PCAP)

**PCAP 2013
Science, Mathematics, and Reading
Assessment**

**Information for Parents,
Guardians, and Students**

Funds for the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program are provided by participating jurisdictions through the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada.

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