



Information for Parents, Guardians, and Students

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

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

This assessment was developed by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC).

PCAP 2023 will have science as the major domain, and reading and mathematics as the minor domains.

In spring 2022, field testing of the new science items will be administered across Canada in order to assure the validity of PCAP 2023.

What is the purpose of PCAP?

The PCAP assessment has two main purposes: to **investigate how prepared Grade 8/Secondary II students are for future academic challenges**, and to help policy-makers **make informed decisions about education across Canada**.

Each province and territory has its own education system, and, as such, school programs differ from one part of the country to another. However, all Canadian students study science, reading, and mathematics, and PCAP identifies the knowledge and skills common in those subject areas.

Who will take part in the PCAP assessment?

Approximately 30,000 Grade 8/Secondary II students in close to 1,600 schools from across the country will participate in PCAP 2023, and a sample of over 2,600 students will participate in the PCAP field test this spring. The assessment will be administered to both anglophone and francophone students.

What will participating students have to do?

Students will complete an **online assessment** that assesses their **knowledge and skills in science**. The assessment will take about 90 minutes to complete.

An additional 30 minutes will be required for students to complete a contextual questionnaire intended to collect information on students' characteristics and attitudes toward learning.

Do students need to prepare for PCAP?

No. **Students do not need to study for this assessment**. Normal classroom activities in science classrooms 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 provinces/territories, not for individual schools, students, or districts.

Will the PCAP assessment be fair to all students?

Yes. Teachers from across the country have developed and reviewed this assessment. It is designed to give all students a chance to show their knowledge and skills. PCAP 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 the PCAP 2023 field test.

When you participate in this assessment, you will help us improve education for all students in Canada.

We're counting on you.

Please do your best!