

Pan-Canadian Assessment Program

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: mathematics, science, and reading.

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

PCAP 2019 will focus mainly on mathematics. However, students will also respond to science 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 II 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 mathematics, science, 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?

Approximately 32,000 Grade 8/Secondary II students from more than 1,600 schools across the country will participate between April and May 2019. The assessment will be given to both Anglophone and Francophone students.

What will participating students have to do?

Students will complete either an on-line or paper-based assessment that assesses their knowledge and skills in mathematics, science, and reading. 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 the PCAP assessment?

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

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

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 students, schools, or districts.

Will the PCAP assessment be fair to all students?

Yes. Teachers from across the country have developed and reviewed this assessment. 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 2019.

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

We're counting on you.

Please do your best!