

GENERAL ACHIEVEMENT TEST 2023

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

The General Achievement Test (GAT) assesses your skills in mathematics, science, technology, the arts and humanities.

The GAT also assesses your skills against new literacy and numeracy standards, which were introduced last year.

Sitting the GAT is an opportunity to demonstrate your literacy and numeracy skills – essential skills that show you're ready to move on to further study, training or employment. It will give you confidence that your skills are at the right level to support you, whatever you choose to do after school.

GAT results are also important for checking that VCE external assessments and school-based assessments have been accurately and fairly assessed, and can be used if you have a Derived Examination Score (DES) approved.

The GAT will take place on **Thursday 15 June** in two parts:

- **Section A** assesses skills in literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy.
- **Section B** assesses general knowledge and skills in mathematics, science, technology, the arts and humanities.

Section A: Literacy (Reading and Writing) and Numeracy

9:00–9:15 am	Reading time
9:15–11:15 am	Writing time to complete Section A, which has: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• one writing task with two parts• 50 numeracy multiple-choice questions• 50 reading multiple-choice questions

Break: 11:15 am–1:15 pm

Section B: General knowledge and skills

1:15–1:30 pm	Reading time
1:30–3:00 pm	Writing time to complete Section B, which has: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• one extended writing task• 25 mathematics, science and technology multiple-choice questions• 25 arts and humanities multiple-choice questions

Who is required to sit the GAT?

- If you're enrolled in one or more VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3–4 sequence, you are expected to complete Section A and B of the GAT.
- If you are enrolled in one or more VCE VM Unit 3–4 sequence or Senior VCAL Unit, you're expected to complete Section A only, unless you have previously met the standards.
- If you're an International Baccalaureate student in your final year of studies and you want a notional Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) calculated, you will need to complete Sections A and B.

What to bring

You may take an English and/or bilingual printed dictionary into both sections of the GAT, but not a thesaurus or a combined thesaurus–dictionary. Electronic dictionaries are not permitted.

A scientific calculator is permitted in both sections of the GAT.

You will need pens, pencils and an eraser to complete the GAT.

Do I need to study for the GAT?

You don't need to do any special study for the GAT. Questions are based on things you will have already learnt throughout school and things you may have experienced in life. For example, a writing question might ask you to draft a letter to an employer and a numeracy question might assess your ability to understand your hourly pay rate.

You can view sample questions and past GAT papers on the VCAA website.

Support and special examination arrangements

If you have an illness, injury or disability you can apply for special examination arrangements such as rest breaks or extra working time, to help you do the GAT. Talk to your school which can apply to the VCAA on your behalf.

If reasonable or appropriate arrangements can't be made or you miss the GAT because of an unexpected injury, illness, personal trauma or other serious event, the VCAA may give you an exemption. Your school can ask for an exemption on your behalf.

Getting your results

In December you'll receive a GAT Statement of Results as part of your overall results package, which will indicate whether you have met the literacy and numeracy standards.

If you don't meet the literacy and numeracy standards in 2023, you can resit the GAT in 2024.

Tips for completing the GAT

Read all information carefully.

Follow the rules for sitting the GAT. You can read the rules in this document or online at vcaa.vic.edu.au/GAT.

Complete the tasks in the order they appear in the question book.

It is important you attempt all sections of the GAT. Even if you do not complete a section in the time allocated, you should move onto the next section when indicated during the test.

Try to pick out the key ideas and information in each question.

For multiple-choice questions, try to quickly reject choices that appear to be wrong, then read the question again, and select the answer most likely to be right. You won't lose marks for incorrect answers.



Rules for students

You are required to observe the following VCAA examination rules for the conduct of the GAT, in addition to the day-to-day rules of your school and the venue.

VCAA rules shall apply with appropriate and reasonable modifications to students with illness, injury or disability.

Supervisors are issued with directions for the administration of the GAT and are required to report all alleged breaches of these rules to the VCAA. Supervisors have the right to check any materials that are taken into an examination room.

- 1** You must not cheat or assist other students to cheat, including taking any action that gives or attempts to give you or another student an unfair advantage.
- 2** You must not allow, induce or assist any other person to present for the GAT in your place.
- 3** You must not present for the GAT in another student's place.
- 4** You must not present for the GAT under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- 5** You must obey and observe all instructions or directions given by the supervisor.
- 6** You must provide reasonable assistance to any investigation by the VCAA in relation to a suspected breach of the VCAA rules.
- 7** You may bring only materials and equipment approved for the GAT into the examination room.
- 8** You must not possess mobile phones and electronic devices that are capable of storing, receiving or transmitting information or electronic signals, such as recorded music and video players, organisers, dictionaries and computerised watches, during the GAT.

Rules for students – continued

9	Students caught with any device defined in rule 8, upon the direction of a supervisor, must surrender that device for inspection. Any confiscated device may be retained, pending any investigation into an alleged breach of VCAA rules. Students must provide reasonable assistance to the VCAA or its agents to examine the device.	15	You must not begin to write or mark your paper or response material in any way, or use a calculator, until advised by a supervisor that writing may commence.
10	You must not bring into or possess in the examination room any drinks or food, except under special circumstances as approved and directed by the VCAA. Bottled water is permitted in the examination room under approved conditions.	16	You must raise your hand if you wish to communicate with a supervisor.
11	You must not communicate with any other student while the GAT is being conducted.	17	You must not leave your place until permitted by a supervisor.
12	You must not cause any nuisance, annoyance or interference to any other student during the GAT.	18	You will not be permitted to leave the examination room until 30 minutes after the start of writing time.
13	You must not remove or tear out any part of a question or answer book.	19	You will not be permitted to leave in the last five minutes of each GAT session.
14	You must not remove any response material, used or unused, from the examination room.	20	You must cease writing when instructed to do so by a supervisor.
		21	You must remain silent and seated in your place at the end of the GAT session until response materials have been collected and checked, and an announcement is made permitting students to leave the examination room.

For more information visit vcaa.vic.edu.au/gat