



Rewarding Learning



FAQs

CCEA ADAPTIVE ASSESSMENTS

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1. CCEA Adaptive Assessments

Do CCEA Adaptive Assessments cost schools money?

No, schools can administer the assessments at no cost.

What are the benefits?

Engagement in the pilot provides stakeholders with an opportunity to inform the development of assessments to best meet schools' needs.

Teachers who took part in previous pilots considered the key benefits of centrally provided assessments to be:

- cohesion with the Northern Ireland Curriculum;
- accessibility to all pupils (including SEN);
- the provision of automated outcomes and reports; and
- a limited impact on teacher workload.

What does 'adaptive assessments' mean?

Adaptive assessments give pupils a personalised and tailored experience. The assessments adjust on a question-by-question basis, increasing or decreasing in difficulty depending on whether a pupil answers a question correctly or incorrectly. This also means each individual pupil is likely to encounter a different range of questions.

What is the purpose of the 2021/22 pilot?

This year, CCEA Adaptive Assessments for literacy and numeracy will be available to Year 8 and Year 10 pupils. Outcomes and reports are available on completion of each assessment.

When can our school complete the assessments?

Assessments can be completed between Tuesday 9 November 2021 and Monday 31 January 2022.

2. Schedule Assessments

Do I need to schedule our assessments with CCEA?

In order for CCEA to best support the administration of the assessments, restrictions apply to the number of schools and pupils able to complete the assessments concurrently.

To help monitor the number of schools administering the assessments at any one time, schools must schedule their assessments.

Details on how to schedule are available in the [Getting Started guidance document](#) available on the [CCEA Adaptive Assessments](#) webpage.

Does the assessment involve a sample of pupils or the full year group?

Ideally, schools are advised to administer the assessment with the full year group, i.e. Year 8 and/or Year 10. However, this is ultimately a school decision and about what you find manageable when the assessments are operating.

Do I have to schedule the assessments to take place at the same time?

You have some flexibility in how you choose to administer the assessments. However, this decision is likely to be dependent on the ICT provision within your school. You may choose to administer the assessments to pupils during specific class time across a number of consecutive days or in a single session involving your entire year group.

3. Administer Assessments

How do pupils access the assessments?

There will be a link available via *My-School*.

Will we receive guidance on how to administer the assessments?

Yes, guidance will be issued subsequent to registration and scheduling of assessments. It will also be available on the [CCEA Adaptive Assessments](#) webpage.

What teacher input and ICT support is required?

Once pupils are logged in, they should be able to complete the assessment independently.

Do we need to have an invigilator present?

No. We ask that teachers take on an invigilator role during the assessments.

How long are the assessments?

Each assessment takes 40 minutes and uses multiple choice questions. We advise allowing up to 50 minutes to administer the assessments, as pupils are required to log in to My-School and complete a few practice questions.

Is there any prior knowledge/preparation that the pupils need to have completed?

No preparation is required prior to the assessment – just awareness that they are going to complete an assessment and they should try their best.

Should assessments be completed on PCs?

Assessments can be completed on desktop PCs, laptops, or iPads/tablets.

What material or resources will the pupils require to complete the assessment?

Pupils should have a pencil and paper to help them with working out.

Is a calculator permitted for the numeracy assessment?

Pupils are not permitted to take a calculator into the assessment. Certain questions permit the use of a calculator, and in these cases a calculator will be available on screen.

4. Reports and Outcomes

Are pupils informed of the assessment results?

Outcomes and reports will only be available to teachers.

How soon will teachers be able to access the outcomes and reports?

Outcomes and reports will be available for teachers as soon as pupils complete the assessment.

What is available within the outcomes and reports?

A range of data is available, including standardised scores, percentiles, stanines and detailed individual diagnostic reports on pupils' strengths and areas for development. This detailed data is intended to inform teaching and learning, school evaluation, and the monitoring of progress over time.

5. Help and Support

What can I do if I run into problems while administering the assessments?

Two helpdesks are available to assist you during the administration.

CCEA provides a helpdesk for schools to answer urgent queries from Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 4.00 pm (except for public holidays). Please contact either (028) 9026 1252 or assessments@ccea.org.uk.

C2k provides a helpdesk relating to hardware/IT difficulties and help with computers/laptops; please contact 0800 0931 541.

