

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

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

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

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 reading, mathematics, and science, and PCAP assessments identify the knowledge and skills in those subjects that are common to students across the country.

What is the PCAP Mode Study?

Until now, the PCAP assessment has been conducted on paper, but there are strong arguments for converting to computer-based assessment (CBA).

Students today interact extensively with technology, both in the classroom and in their daily lives. This interaction is now a permanent, pervasive aspect of our society, and on that basis alone there is a compelling reason to introduce CBA: it is what “feels natural” for students. Yet the advantages of CBA encompass numerous other positive features. These include:

- introduction of new test elements that are unique to computers;
- increased student engagement with the test;
- better accessibility for special-needs students;
- better test security;
- increased administrative efficiency.

Who will take part in the PCAP Mode Study?

Grade 8 (Secondary II) students from about 150 schools across the country will participate. In each province the assessment will be

administered in English, French, or both, according to the province’s school system.

What will participating students have to do?

Students will complete one half of the test on paper and the other half on a computer. This will take approximately 90 minutes.

Do students need to prepare for this assessment?

No. Students do not need to study for this assessment.

Will the results affect students’ marks?

No. The results of this assessment will not affect students’ academic records in any way.

A Personal Note to Students

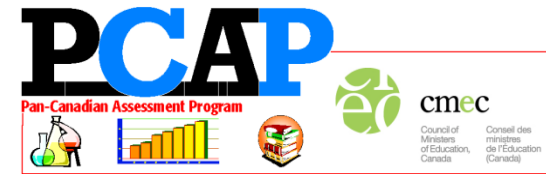
Thank you, in advance, for taking part in
The PCAP Mode Study

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
please visit <http://www.cmec.ca>.



PAN-CANADIAN ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (PCAP) Mode Study

**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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