

National trialling for Assessment Resource Banks tasks: Information sheet

Thank you for considering trialling tasks for the Assessment Resource Banks for the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER).

Background

The Assessment Resource Banks consist of banks of formative assessment resources in English, mathematics and science. These resources are provided free to New Zealand schools by the Ministry of Education. A password is needed to access the resources. NZCER is contracted by MOE to develop resources and deliver them to schools.

Part of the process for developing resources for the ARBs is trialling tasks with New Zealand students. Currently we are moving to tasks that are completed on-line (although many will still have the option to complete as pencil and paper tasks). This means that there have been some changes to the ways we trial tasks.

National trials

Tasks are trialled in two ways; as part of a trial set sent to a selection of schools/classes, or with smaller groups in classrooms. Your school/class is being asked to take part in the national trial.

For national trials teachers will be provided with a link that allows access to the trial set.

Teachers will be provided with a separate instruction sheet for carrying out the trial.

Teachers will be invited to give feedback about the tasks.

Purpose of national trials

There are five main purposes for trialling the assessment tasks with your students:

1. To check that the questions work in the way intended;
2. To provide data to inform the writing of the teacher support material, i.e. to assist teachers and students in their formative assessment practices;
3. To provide exemplars of student work;
4. To provide suggestions for ways to use the assessment task; and
5. To provide feedback about the difficulty level of each question.

About the research process

All ARB resources are well researched before they are made available to schools. Trialling tasks is one aspect of the research.

All trial students' responses are collated and analysed to gain an overall picture of common responses, and this forms the basis for notes to support teachers to use the resource formatively.

If a task does not provide useful data it will either be rejected, or adapted and in some cases re-trialled.

The on-line environment provides greater flexibility to the way teachers use the resources. In most cases teachers will be asked to complete an on-line survey to describe how they used the resource. This will provide useful information for Purpose 4.

All ARB resource developers have a teaching background and have considerable knowledge and expertise of the curriculum area they are working in and in assessment.

Consent

Participation of the school/class is regarded as consent to take part in the trial. No formal parent/student consent is necessary as the work is undertaken as part of normal school work.

Schools' and classes' participation in the trialling is taken as permission to use the student responses in the ways described above.

Student work from the trial will be stored on a password protected website only accessible to the ARB resource developers. Any hard copies of student scripts will be stored at NZCER for 5 years. To maintain confidentiality student names are not collected.

Further to the uses described above, at times individual student's work may also be used in the following ways:

- To illustrate a category of response in the ARB teacher support material, written articles, and presentations; and/or
- To provide examples for participants to discuss during practical workshops.

No schools, classes or individual students will be identified when student work is used either directly or when informing general statements.

If you have any questions about the trials please contact the ARB team

Thank you

The ARB resource development team

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