![ACER]

PAT testing at home
Information for parents and guardians

About PAT

ACER's Progressive Achievement (PAT) assessments are designed to support schools in collecting meaningful information about students' abilities in a range of learning areas.

Schools use PAT to identify where students are in their learning, target teaching to meet their individual needs, and monitor learning progress over time. As a standardised assessment, PAT is intended to be delivered in the school environment under teacher supervision and ACER does not allow the purchase or use of PAT by tutors, parents, or other non-school entities.

But with students once again learning remotely, ACER is supporting schools to administer PAT online at home.

Please refer to the information below to assist in administering these tests with your child. By following these instructions and those provided by your child's teacher, you can help them better understand the individual needs of your child.

Preparation

Ensure that you have been provided the following details by your child's teacher:

- Login page URL or link
- Your child's username (case sensitive)
- Your child's password (case sensitive)
- Planned time and duration of the tests

Please test that the login details are working. Your child's name should be displayed at the top of the page after logging in.

Please notify your child's teacher of any problems ahead of the scheduled testing time.

Check the technical requirements listed below to make sure that your child's device is compatible with ACER's online assessment system.

Notes

ACER's online assessments should be completed independently and under supervision.

Students are to complete the tests without the questions or answers being read aloud to them. This will help to ensure that the results from the test are accurate and useful for their teacher in identifying the appropriate resources to meet their needs.

Students are permitted to use pen/pencil and paper to make notes during the test. No other materials are permitted.

Younger students completing Test 1 or Test 2 may require additional support to ensure they can properly navigate the assessments and submit their responses.

Your child's responses are automatically saved each time they navigate to another question. If technical problems cause interruptions, students may close the browser without losing their progress.

Please notify your child's teacher of any technical problems if they occur.

Completing the assessment

Once your child is seated at their computer or device, instruct them to load their school's online assessment login page and enter their username and password.

When ready to begin, instruct your child to open their test.

Read through the **Directions** with your child, then say:

> *Work as carefully as you can. Do not spend too long on any one question, even if it is hard. After you complete the last question, review your work and check that you have answered all of the previous questions. Once you have completed your test, click **Finish** on the last page. Do you have any questions?*

Check that they understand the instructions and answer any questions they have about the test.

Then say:

> *Click **Start** test to begin.*

For students completing PAT Early Years Maths or PAT Early Years Reading, allow enough time for your child to attempt every question.

When your child has completed the test, say:

> *Please click **End** in the navigation bar and then click **Finish**. Please click **Finish** again to log out.*

For students completing any other PAT test, after 35 minutes, say:

> *You have five more minutes to complete the test.*

After a further five minutes, say:

> *Please click **End** in the navigation bar and then click **Finish**. Please click **Finish** again to log out.*

System requirements

OARS is a web-based platform and does not require you to install any software.

The minimum technical requirements to access and effectively utilise OARS are described below.

To avoid or minimise problems, please ensure that your technical infrastructure (including network, devices and browsers) meets or exceeds these requirements.

Browser exam

ACER's automated browser exam is intended to help quickly identify potential issues that may affect your ability to administer the online assessments.

Browser exam URL: https://oars.acer.edu.au/browserexam/#/

The browser exam provides diagnostic information specific to the time the page is accessed and to the network, device and browser used. It is recommended that you run the browser exam from your child's computer or device. Note that the recommendations provided are based on your internet bandwidth at the time the browser exam is run.

Computers and devices

Minimum screen resolution

1024 width × 768 height

Compatible computers and devices

Desktop PC

Laptop PC

Apple Mac

iPad (but not iPad Mini)

Google Chromebook

Other tablet devices with a minimum screen resolution of 1024 width × 768 height

Internet and network

Minimum DSL or cable internet connection

56 Kbps

The following domains must be whitelisted/permitted by the network firewall or security settings:

acer.org/

acer.edu.au/

delivery.acer.edu.au/

delivery2.acer.edu.au/

Web browsers

Compatible web browsers

Google Chrome (latest version)

Mozilla Firefox (latest version)

Safari (version 10 or above)

Microsoft Edge

Browser settings and features

Cookies must be enabled within students' browsers in order to administer ACER's online assessments via OARS. This can be done from within the browser's Settings or Options menu.

The OARS platform does not 'lock' the browser or restrict access to other websites, nor does it block the use of browser extensions or plug-ins that may assist students in responding to test questions.

You should monitor your child's screen as part of test invigilation.

Troubleshooting

Your child will receive the following error message if their internet connection is interrupted during the test.

> **Saving response to previous question has failed.**
>
> Before you can continue with the test, you must try and save the response by clicking the "Try Again" button or going back to the previous page and trying again.
>
> [Try again] [Back to previous question]

This may be a momentary problem and clicking **Try again** will resolve the issue.

If the problem persists, please check your internet connection.

Follow the simple troubleshooting steps below to quickly resolve some common problems, such as slow response times, display or functionality issues. These may work individually or in combination, so it is important to try all of the steps if problems persist.

If these troubleshooting steps do not resolve the problem, please contact your child's teacher.

Due to privacy and data protection requirements all requests for assistance must be directed to your child's school.

ACER is unable to provide support to parents administering PAT assessments at home as we can only verify the identity of school staff registered as users of ACER's assessment platform.

Troubleshooting steps

Run the OARS browser exam on your child's device to immediately identify possible causes of the problem.

Log out of the system (https://oars.acer.edu.au/logout) and log in again.

Perform a 'hard refresh' of the browser

> Windows: press CTRL + F5
>
> Mac/Apple: press CMD ⌘ + SHIFT + R

Clear the browser cache, close the browser and re-open

> Windows: press CTRL + SHIFT + DEL
>
> Mac/Apple: press CMD ⌘ + SHIFT + DEL
>
> Or open the browser Settings or Options menu and select Clear browsing data/history.

Enable cookies from the browser Settings or Options menu

> Load the page in a different web browser.
>
> Load the page on a different device.

Shut down and restart the device.