

**P**rimary

**S**cholarship

**P**rogram



Get ready...  
go!

# Information for parents/guardians

## What is the Primary Scholarship Program?

The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) produces the Primary Scholarship Program (PSP) for use by schools that wish to:

- ❖ offer scholarships at primary school levels
- ❖ use the tests for entry placement.

ACER **does not** award scholarships and **does not** report to parents.

Schools decide when they will hold the test. Some hold it on what is known as the main date. Others choose an alternate date that is convenient for them.

## Main date testing

On the *main date* a number of schools Australia-wide hold ACER tests for both primary and secondary scholarships.

Candidates can apply for more than one school when the PSP is on the main date.

However, candidates:

- ❖ must register for **each** school and pay a **separate fee for each school**
- ❖ sit for the PSP once only on that day, normally at their first preference school.

ACER sends the results of the PSP to *each* school applied for.

## Alternate test dates

In this case candidates register for the school of their choice to sit the PSP on a date, other than the main date, determined by the school.

## Important points

All schools, whatever the date of their test, will:

- ❖ determine their own fees
- ❖ publish the closing date for applications
- ❖ provide details about the date, time and location of the PSP.

# Information for candidates

## General advice

- ❖ Listen carefully to the supervisor.
- ❖ Read the instructions on the front cover of each test. Read each test question carefully before you answer it.
- ❖ Do not rush. But if you find one question too difficult do not spend a long time on it. Leave it out, but make sure you mark your next answer against the right question number. Each question is of equal value.
- ❖ If you cannot decide between two answers, mark the letter you think is most likely to be correct. No marks will be deducted for incorrect answers.
- ❖ You may have time to go back to questions that you left out or were not sure about, but in the meantime you have done the best you can.

## How to answer multiple choice questions

For the Reading and Viewing paper and the Mathematics paper the answers are written on a special piece of paper called an OMR (Optical Mark Read) sheet. Except for four of the Mathematics questions, all the questions are multiple-choice.

For each question there are four small ovals labelled, **A**, **B**, **C** and **D**. Use an **HB** or a **B** pencil to mark clearly the oval of your choice. You do not have to colour in the oval exactly, but make sure your mark is clear. If you wish to change your answer, carefully rub out the first mark and then clearly pencil in your new choice.

For this question the student chose answer **B**.     **A**    **B**    **C**    **D**

# Sample questions

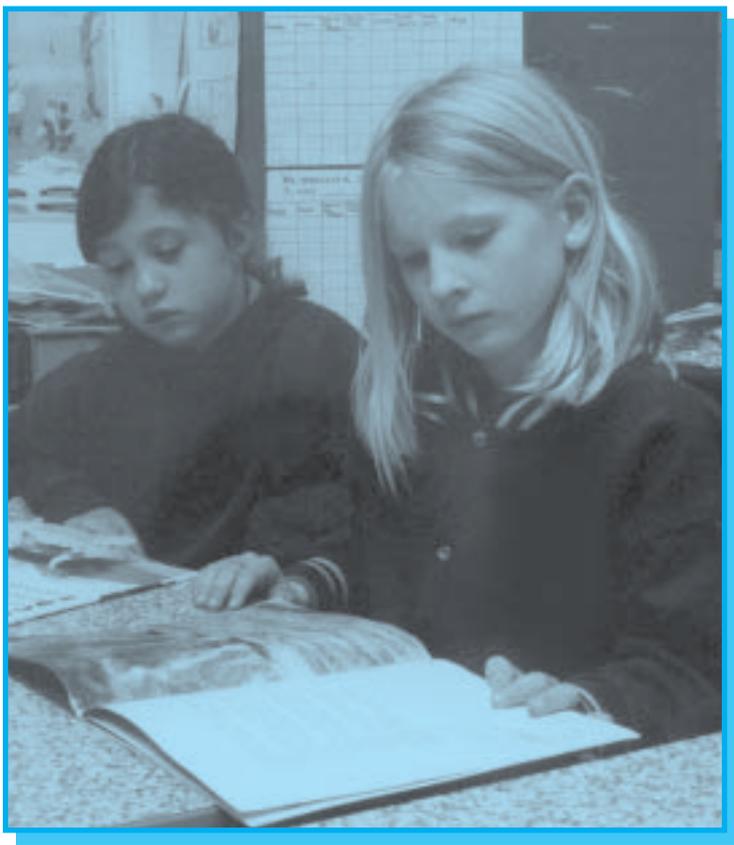
## Test 1: Reading and Viewing

30 minutes

In this section of the test there are several short passages for you to read. Each is followed by some multiple-choice questions. You select from the alternatives (**A**, **B**, **C** or **D**) the one you think best answers the question. There are 25 questions in total.

Here are some hints on how to answer the **Reading and Viewing** passages.

- ❖ First of all, you should read the passage right through carefully, before you try to answer any of the questions.
- ❖ Multiple choice **Reading** questions *often* look like the practice questions you are about to do.
- ❖ You are given the first part of a statement (sentence) and then you have to choose the correct ending to complete the statement.
- ❖ Some multiple-choice questions are real questions. There is a question with a question mark. Then there are several (usually four) possible answers. Consider each answer in turn and then choose the one that you believe is correct.



Here is an example of a **Reading and Viewing** passage and four questions about it:

## Letters to the editor

Both of these children have written letters to a magazine about bullfighting. Read them and then answer the multiple-choice questions.

*Dear Editor*

*I think bullfighting is a cruel sport because the bulls get hurt, and usually they are killed. I saw a bullfight on television and the bull looked scared and then angry. I don't think it is fair on the bull.*

*James (aged 8)*

*Dear Editor*

*I am from Spain and I have been to lots of bullfights. They are very exciting and special events in my country. I once saw a matador get caught on the bull's horns. It was scary. I think matadors are brave and skilful.*

*Luis (aged 9)*

### We will show you how to answer the first question

- 1** The two letters have
- A the same ideas about bullfights.
  - B come from Spain.
  - C only mentioned bulls.
  - D different ideas about bullfights.

#### Try out all of these choices like this:

The two letters have the same ideas about bullfights.

The two letters have come from Spain.

The two letters have only mentioned bulls.

The two letters have different ideas about bullfights.

### Now read the passage again to find which is the correct statement.

The answer is **D**: The two letters have different ideas about bullfights.

### Now try the next three questions by yourself

- 2** James thinks bullfighting is cruel because
- A the matador might get hurt.
  - B you only see it on television.
  - C he is not from Spain.
  - D the bull suffers pain.
- 3** By 'special event' Luis means
- A something he does not like.
  - B something that is not ordinary.
  - C something that happens every day.
  - D something that happens in another country.
- 4** Luis' letter tells
- A how the bull feels.
  - B what Spain is like.
  - C why he enjoys bullfights.
  - D what the main sport in Spain is.

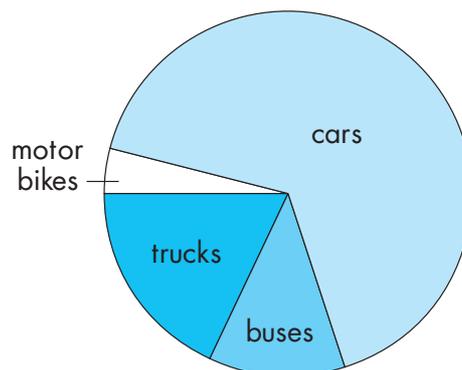
**Mathematics** has 16 multiple-choice questions and four short answer questions.

The multiple-choice questions are word problems. You need to use one or more of the mathematical skills that you have learned to help you work out the answer. For example, one way to work out the answer to question 2 below is to subtract and then divide. (There may be several different ways of working out an answer.) You might need to do some working out on scrap paper. It does not matter what method you use to arrive at your answer. But remember to check all of the alternatives to find the correct answer.

In the short answer questions you work out your answer on the paper and then copy your *answer only* onto the answer sheet.

Here are some examples of PSP **Mathematics** questions for you to try.

- 1 Kate and Tom left home at a quarter to ten in the morning to go roller-blading. If they arrived home at half past four in the afternoon, how long were they away?
  - A four and three quarter hours
  - B five and a quarter hours
  - C six and three quarter hours
  - D seven and a quarter hours
  
- 2 Ling bought three ice-creams and was given 20c change from his \$5 note. How much did each ice-cream cost?
  - A \$4.80
  - B \$4.40
  - C \$1.80
  - D \$1.60
  
- 3 A farmer kept a small number of sheep and ducks on her property. If there were 94 legs and 34 heads in total, this means that there were
  - A 13 sheep and 21 ducks
  - B 16 sheep and 18 ducks
  - C 17 sheep and 17 ducks
  - D 20 sheep and 14 ducks
  
- 4 The pie chart below shows the different types of vehicle on Gladville’s roads last month. In order from most to least, the chart shows
  - A cars, buses, trucks, motor bikes
  - B cars, trucks, motor bikes, buses
  - C cars, trucks, buses, motor bikes
  - D motor bikes, buses, trucks, cars



5

MORNING BUS TIMETABLE				
Depot	6.00 am	6.20 am	6.40 am	7.00 am
Rowan St	6.05 am	6.25 am	6.45 am	7.05 am
Swan St	6.07 am	6.27 am	6.47 am	7.07 am
Ibis Ave	6.14 am	6.34 am	6.54 am	7.14 am
Station	6.17 am	6.37 am	6.57 am	7.17 am

What is the time of the latest bus Ian can catch at Rowan St to get to Ibis Ave by 6.55 am?

- A 6.14 am
- B 6.20 am
- C 6.40 am
- D 6.45 am

6



The number missing at X is

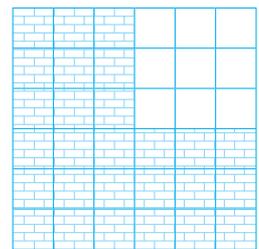
- A 185
- B 187
- C 192
- D 197

7 Aaron is to pave the area of the large square minus the area of the white square.

Each small square in the diagram has an area of 4 square metres.

What area will Aaron have to pave?

- A 108 square metres
- B 144 square metres
- C 432 square metres
- D 567 square metres



8 Chen says, 'In seven years, I will be half as old again as I am now.'

How old will Chen be two years from now?

- A 9
- B 14
- C 16
- D 21

Here are examples of each of the questions on the four operations – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

- 1 Add the numbers 2803, 692 and 54
- 2 Multiply 406 by 7
- 3 Subtract 58 from 123
- 4 Divide 234 by 9

## Test 3: Writing

40 minutes

You will be asked to do two short pieces of writing in a special answer booklet. For each task you will have 20 minutes. Your supervisor will tell you exactly what to do.

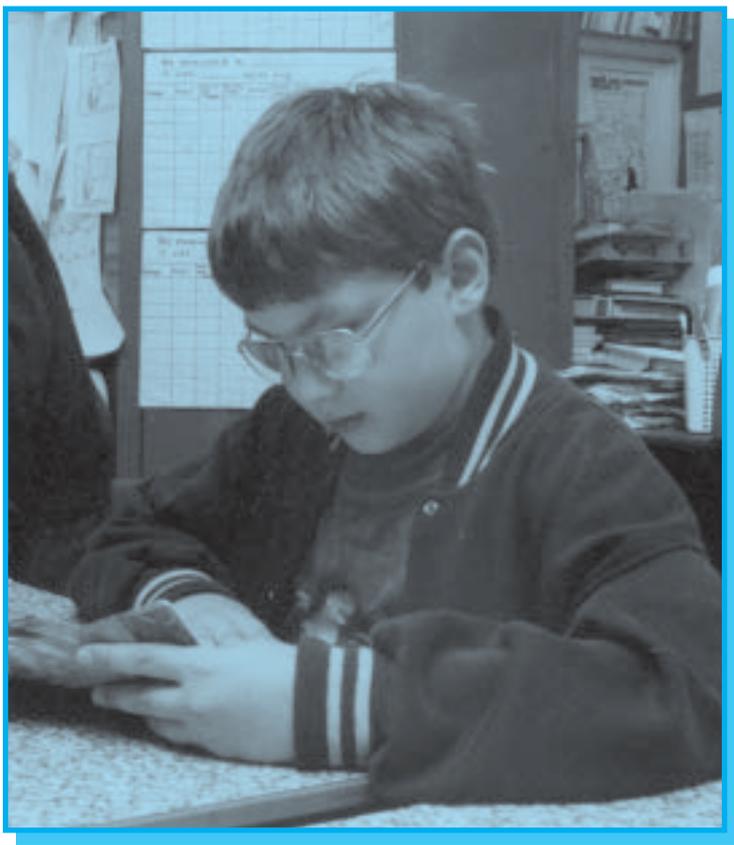
One piece of writing will invite you to tell a **true** or an **imaginary** story. Try to capture your reader's attention with a story that you think is a really interesting tale to tell. It might be funny or strange or exciting or it might be written in an unusual way. Read the topic and think about it for a few minutes and then let the ideas flow.

The other piece will ask you to give your **opinion** about something that is of general interest to primary school children. You do not need to learn about a particular topic beforehand. The important thing is for you to give your opinion on the question and to back it up with some reasons.

Remember to write on the topics you are given in the test. Don't memorise a story you have written beforehand at school. You will do much better if you keep to the set topics.

It is a good idea to plan your work before you write your pieces. You will find planning spaces in your answer booklet.

Try to make your writing clear, lively and interesting to read. Your writing will be assessed on what you have to say, how well you organise your thoughts and how well you express yourself.



*Get ready... go!*

# Answers to the questions

## Reading and Viewing

1 D   2 D   3 B   4 C

## Mathematics

1 C   2 D   3 A   4 C   5 D   6 C   7 A   8 C

and (four operations)   1 3549   2 2842   3 65   4 26

## On the day of the test...

### Bring

- ✓ two HB or B pencils
- ✓ one good eraser
- ✓ a blue or a black pen or black pencil for the Writing Test
- ✓ something to eat in the break

### Don't bring

- ✗ ruler
- ✗ calculator
- ✗ books
- ✗ paper
- ✗ beeper watch

**Good Luck!**



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