# Test preparation materials

Schools and teachers should adopt appropriate test preparation strategies that familiarise students with the test process and question formats, but do not excessively rehearse students so that results reflect prepared work rather than students’ own abilities.

The best preparation schools can provide for students is teaching the curriculum, as the tests reflect core elements of the curriculums of all states and territories.

In **spelling**, focus on teaching the spelling system and how it works. Students need to know how the system works to be able to manage the NAPLAN spelling items. It is important to know that there is no NAPLAN spelling list of words that have to be learnt. It is highly unlikely that the same words will be tested again. It is very likely that the same aspects of the spelling system will be assessed using different words.

Prepare for **the writing task** with a broad program of writing that involves students writing for a range of purposes in range of contexts. Focus on teaching students how to select one “BIG idea” and then craft it. Good writing is about communication of ideas. Students have powerful ideas that they want to write about.

In **numeracy**, provide opportunities for students to read and interpret word problems. Focus their attention on what the question is asking and have them restate the problem in their own words. Students should try to recall a similar problem they have solved and the strategies they may have used. They should also look for any relationships between the numbers presented in the problem.

Students also need experience in interpreting information graphics such as diagrams, graphs and tables, as these are often used in mathematics to support or elaborate information presented in text form. To increase students’ range of problem-solving strategies, provide opportunities for them to discuss and share their ideas.

Teach and encourage students to estimate their answers to questions before beginning calculations or selecting options in multiple-choice questions and to consider the reasonableness of their answers.

Example tests developed by ACARA are available on the NAPLAN website at: [www.nap.edu.au/naplan/the-tests.html](http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/the-tests.html)

A variety of online resources, including practice questions and resources to support the development of literacy and numeracy skills, are available for download from the QSA website at: [www.qsa.qld.edu.au/8017.html](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/8017.html)