

# Years 3–4 assessment techniques and conditions v1.1

## Languages

This document outlines assessment techniques and response conditions to achieve range and balance within an assessment program. Schools consider the local context, and the age and capabilities of the students, when selecting appropriate assessment techniques and response conditions.

Techniques	Extended response	Test
Description	<p>An extended response assesses students' abilities to communicate using the language they are studying when interpreting, creating and exchanging meaning. When communicating, students may respond to seen or unseen questions, stimulus material, topics or issues in the language they are studying. Tasks may require students to respond to provided questions, scenarios and/or problems. An extended response supports evidence being collected to reflect students' understanding of the two strands of the Australian Curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicating: using language for communicative purposes in interpreting, creating and exchanging meaning</li> <li>• Understanding: analysing language and culture as a resource for interpreting and creating meaning.</li> </ul>	<p>A test assesses students' responses that are produced independently, under supervised conditions and in a set timeframe. A test ensures student authorship.</p>
	<p>A speaking assessment requires students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engage in communication</li> <li>• exchange meaning and provide a response using formulaic language</li> <li>• respond to the stimulus</li> <li>• use familiar contexts.</li> </ul> <p>A writing assessment requires students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• write on familiar issues in response to stimulus material, e.g. simple written texts or audiovisual material</li> <li>• share ideas in imaginative texts and use evidence to support views</li> <li>• comprehend after reading or listening to texts to compose a response.</li> </ul> <p>When completing an extended response, students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use strategies to select vocabulary, language and grammar elements</li> <li>• use developing metalanguage and language elements to communicate ideas</li> <li>• interact with others for a range of purposes.</li> </ul>	<p>A test requires students to respond to one or more assessment items. These items are based on questions or tasks that are typically unseen. Questions or tasks may be based on stimulus material.</p>



Techniques	Extended response			Test
	<p>Students are also assessed on their ability to analyse language and culture as a resource for interpreting and creating meaning.</p> <p>An extended response assesses students' abilities to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• systems of language</li> <li>• language variation and change, and</li> <li>• role of language and culture.</li> </ul> <p>An extended response focuses on the communication and exchange of ideas and information. Students can locate and evaluate while making connections between language, topics or stimulus materials and cultural practices.</p> <p>When completing the task, students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrate meaning</li> <li>• compare ideas</li> <li>• reflect on learning the language and its culture.</li> </ul>			
<b>Formats</b> (examples only)	<p>Formats requiring students to use the language they are studying include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• written <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– simple description or explanation</li> <li>– instruction, plan or procedure</li> <li>– short scripted play or animation</li> <li>– labelled pictures, diagrams and/or photographs</li> <li>– poster</li> <li>– greeting card</li> <li>– letter</li> <li>– diary/journal entry</li> <li>– picture book</li> <li>– commentary on a series of pictures or cartoons</li> <li>– response to stimulus</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Formats requiring students to analyse, explain and/or reflect on the language/culture they are studying include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• written <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– annotated picture, diagram, sketch and/or photograph</li> <li>– response to stimulus</li> <li>– reflective diary/journal entry</li> <li>– letter</li> </ul> </li> <li>• spoken/signed or multimodal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– visual recording with audio commentary</li> <li>– song performance with actions</li> <li>– slideshow.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Combination responses enable students to respond to unseen questions that provide opportunities to sustain communication, exchange meaning and give a spontaneous personal response to stimulus.</p> <p>Combination formats include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• written <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– text analysis — answering unfamiliar questions about language stimulus text, in full sentences in English</li> <li>– language text — responding to a provided stimulus or situation, in the target language</li> <li>– simple explanation of a topic, process or practical activity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Formats include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• short response items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– annotated picture, diagram, sketch and/or photograph</li> <li>– simple description or explanation</li> <li>– instructions/plans, procedures</li> <li>– commentary on a series of pictures or cartoons</li> </ul> </li> <li>• response to stimulus.</li> </ul>

Techniques	Extended response		Test
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- digital storybook</li> <li>• spoken/signed or multimodal               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- conversation</li> <li>- oral poster presentation</li> <li>- song performance with actions</li> <li>- roleplay.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spoken/signed or multimodal               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- student-centred language conversation</li> <li>- explanation of a topic, process or practical activity.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Conditions	<p>Suggested length:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• written responses 25–50 words (or characters, in a character-based language)</li> <li>• spoken/signed or multimodal responses up to 45 seconds.</li> </ul>		<p>Suggested time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• up to 40 minutes, plus 10 minutes perusal.</li> </ul> <p>Suggested length:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• up to 50–100 words</li> <li>• audio/audiovisual stimulus texts in the target language may               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be heard up to three times</li> <li>- be delivered more slowly than background speaker pace, including judicious pausing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Notes
Responses can be written, spoken/signed or multimodal (integrating visual, print and/or audio features), recorded or live and may be presented digitally.
Schools must consider students' point of entry (P–10 or 7–10) when making decisions about the appropriateness and complexity of assessment techniques and conditions.
* Length of student responses should be considered in the context of the assessment. Longer responses do not necessarily provide better quality evidence of achievement.