

Diagnostic Testing

The diagnostic tests were created for the benefit of the teacher and the student, to primarily determine where to place students on an academic pathway.

There are five key learning areas which are tested:

- Maths
- English
- Social Studies & Science
- Word Building

All students who have learned to read, Yr 2 through to Yr 12, should be tested for accurate academic placement. Diagnostic testing is necessary to identify any learning gaps.

The tests may reveal 'learning gaps' in your student's education. These gaps are identified by qualified staff who will then inform you and develop a learning pathway of success for the student.

Tailoring education to individual needs is a priority here at Riverside Christian College. Correct academic diagnosis is important to ensure the learning experience of Riverside students to be successful.

Riverside utilizes the ACE diagnostic tests as the primary source for developing each individual student pathway. However other testing may be required after consultation with the parent and the student during the enrolment process.

Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 National Testing

From **May 2008**, Queensland Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students were eligible to take part in the National program of Literacy and Numeracy assessment (NAPLAN). The QSA (Queensland Studies Authority) co-ordinate the administration, marking and reporting of these tests in Queensland. These tests can only be administered by registered teachers and are usually done at your nearest day school. Special consideration for DE students has been taken into consideration with this process. More information for preparation for these tests will be provided when applicable.

The program runs over 3 days, usually in May. Date to be advised for 2009. A series of tests will assess the areas of language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation); writing; reading; and numeracy (including number, measurement, chance and data, space, working mathematically, algebra function and pattern).

Results from the tests will provide important information about children's progress in literacy and numeracy. Following the tests, schools and students will receive a statement of performance in relation to the National benchmarks. These results also provide teachers with valuable data to develop more effective teaching strategies in their schools.

How can I help my students prepare?

Students need to develop a range of important skills and strategies before sitting the tests. These include being able to work individually for set periods of time, knowing how to locate information in a text, reading and interpreting questions, and writing on demand. The College will advise when sample tests become available for 2009. To view previous tests please visit

<http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/assessment/585.html>

SAT Reasoning Test

The SAT Reasoning Test is a standardized test for College admissions in the United States. This test is also recognized at an international level. It is available for senior students in countries all over the world to gain an internationally recognised equivalent university entrance rank/score.

The SAT(Scholastic Aptitude Test) measures the critical thinking skills that demonstrate how well you analyze and solve problems. The test is composed of three sections:

- **Critical Reading** which has sentence completion and passage-based reading
- **Mathematics** which is based on the maths that university-bound students typically learn during their high school years
- **Writing** which has multiple-choice questions and a written essay.

Testing dates and your closest Test Centre can be viewed on-line

http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_code/codeSearchSatTest.jsp

The site below can also provide valuable information in preparing for the Reasoning Test. Everything from how long, to what it will look like, to the kinds of questions that will be asked. There is a 'question of the day.' It even instructs you how to prepare for the essay question with examples. All information regarding the SAT can be found at the following web address:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/index.html?student>

Riverside campus is a registered SAT Test Centre. The College is open for testing twice a year, June and November. This can be viewed on-line at aforementioned site.

If you would like any help with University registrations or more details regarding the SAT, please contact Nisha Van Wyk at the College.

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