

PAT: Punctuation and Grammar

We are pleased to introduce an important addition to your literacy assessment toolbox—the Progressive Achievement Test: Punctuation and Grammar.

This test assesses student ability to recognise and use grammar and punctuation—not in a prescriptive way but in context and to aid meaning. It is based on the PAT–SPG test published by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and modified for New Zealand use.

Features at a glance

- Designed for Year 4–10 students
- Multiple-choice for easy, accurate marking
- Questions are aligned with the *Literacy Learning Progressions* and fall into three categories: punctuation, grammar use, and grammar knowledge
- Able to be reported using scale scores or stanines
- Seven tests of varying difficulty, which can be administered simultaneously
- Able to be hand-marked or marked by the NZCER Marking Service
- Able to track progress from year to year

KEY FEATURE:

After student results have been marked, the PAT: Punctuation and Grammar Teacher Manual gives teachers recommendations and information about interpreting student results for students and whānau and about using the results for further teaching and learning.

Why is it important to assess punctuation and grammar?

Punctuation and grammar play vital roles in conveying the meaning of written text. *The New Zealand Curriculum* places meaning at the heart of reading and writing. PAT: Punctuation and Grammar is not a return to prescriptive teaching—rather the emphasis is on the **use** of punctuation and grammar in context and on their use as tools to communicate meaning.

The questions were developed to assess the skills students need in order to make meaning as they read, write meaningful texts, and understand the patterns of standard New Zealand English. The questions are aligned with the *Literacy Learning Progressions* and will help teachers assess whether their students are meeting the reading and writing demands of *The New Zealand Curriculum*.

By having an assessment that highlights punctuation and grammar, teachers can see the extent to which their students are developing a body of knowledge about how language works.

“Grammar is a piano I play by ear. All I know about grammar is its power.” – American author Joan Didion

9 Which information should be put in brackets () in the following sentence?

The largest kiwi measures almost half a metre 50 centimetres high.

- A kiwi
- B measures
- C half a metre
- D 50 centimetres

10 Which word completes the following sentence?

Oliver can play either at the park _____ at home.

- A or
- B and
- C both
- D neither

11 An apostrophe (') is missing from the sentence below. Where should it go?

A B C D
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
Filipe isnt allowed to eat peanuts, eggs, or soy beans.

12 Which punctuation goes at the end of the following sentence?

When did Ruby want to go to the shop_

- A comma (,)
- B full stop (.)
- C question mark (?)
- D exclamation mark (!)

32 Square brackets [] show an insertion by an editor to clarify meaning. Which sentence below uses square brackets correctly?

- A Last in the parade [but not least] was the City Pipes and Drums Band.
- B On our excursion we went to a film museum, a real TV studio [our favourite part], and a cinema complex.
- C The cultural festival featured dance groups from Papua New Guinea, Aotearoa [New Zealand], and Kiribati.
- D Popular children's games at the time included red rover, tunnel ball, and follow the leader [not to mention individual activities like yoyos].

33 Which sentence below should end with a question mark?

- A To whom do I have the pleasure of speaking.
- B Who was who in the crowded street was anyone's guess.
- C "Which" and "what" are often used to ask questions in English.
- D "Whose", "whom", and "who" are all interrogative pronouns in English.

34 Which word or words complete the following sentence?

- _____ our careful plans, the bus arrived after the plane had left.
- A In spite of
 - B Regardless
 - C Even though
 - D Despite the fact

35 Which apostrophe (') is correct in the following sentence?

A B C
↓ ↓ ↓
The childrens' playground should've been one of the town councils' proudest
D
↓
achievement's.

These are PAT: Punctuation and Grammar questions. The questions on the left are in test 2, which is aimed at Year 5, and those on the right are from test 6, for Year 9.

Test components

The **teacher manual** contains everything you need to know about the test: its purpose; its content (especially in relation to *The New Zealand Curriculum* and the *Literacy Learning Progressions*); instructions on administering and marking the tests; and useful recommendations such as how to report and use student results and how to communicate these results to students and their whānau. A technical section takes you through the development of the test and includes details on the construction of the PAT: Punctuation and Grammar scale. As in other PATs, Part C of the manual provides all the conversion tables, student reports and scale descriptions. Teachers will find the scale descriptions particularly useful for further teaching and learning, especially when used alongside the student reports.

The **student test booklets** contain the test questions. Students do not write in these booklets, so they can be used multiple times.

Students use a printed **answer sheet** appropriate to their test booklet.

Teachers can mark the test by hand and complete an Individual Student Report (templates are contained in the teacher manual.)

Alternatively, your school can use the NZCER Marking Service and teachers can enter in student responses or send completed answer sheets to be uploaded to the site. This service marks and analyses results and produces online reports for schools.

www.nzcer.org.nz/tests/nzcer-marking-service

Email: assessmentsservices@nzcer.org.nz for further details.

(Note: the use of the Marking Service is additional to the cost of the test.)

Pricing

The cost of all components of the test can be found in the order form on the back of this brochure.

How to buy the test

You can order the test by filling out the order form on the back page and faxing it to our sales team at 04-384 7933 or emailing a copy to

sales@nzcer.org.nz

Or you can order online at

www.nzcer.org.nz/tests/school-tests-and-services

“Without [punctuation] there is no reliable way of communicating meaning...” – Lynne Truss, author of *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*.

Ongoing support and advice

We have a great team who are able to provide a range of ongoing assessment support and advice.

For advice about the use of this test, including possible workshops, next steps and conversations around making sense of your school assessment contact

educationadvisor@nzcer.org.nz

Or call Cathie Johnson on 04-802 1623

For queries directly related to the NZCER Marking service (subscriptions, setup, technical, data and reports) contact assessmentsservices@nzcer.org.nz

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9/13

School	Person ordering
Full street address	Email
	Phone number
	Customer number
All prices are GST inclusive	Order number

Code	Item	Price NZD (incl.GST)	Quantity
TEACHER MANUAL			
709M2	Teacher Manual 2014 Update	29.90 each	
TEST BOOKLETS			
709B1	Student Booklet – Test 1	4.50 each	
709B2	Student Booklet – Test 2	4.50 each	
709B3	Student Booklet – Test 3	4.50 each	
709B4	Student Booklet – Test 4	4.50 each	
709B5	Student Booklet – Test 5	4.50 each	
709B6	Student Booklet – Test 6	4.50 each	
709B7	Student Booklet – Test 7	4.50 each	
ANSWER SHEETS			
709AS1	Test 1 (pack of 10)	2.25	Packs
709AS2	Test 2 (pack of 10)	2.25	Packs
709AS3	Test 3 (pack of 10)	2.25	Packs
709AS4	Test 4 (pack of 10)	2.25	Packs
709AS5	Test 5 (pack of 10)	2.25	Packs
709AS6	Test 6 (pack of 10)	2.25	Packs
709AS7	Test 7 (pack of 10)	2.25	Packs

Code	Item	Price NZD (incl.GST)	Quantity
MARKING KEYS			
709K1	Test 1 - each	4.00	
709K2	Test 2 - each	4.00	
709K3	Test 3 - each	4.00	
709K4	Test 4 - each	4.00	
709K5	Test 5 - each	4.00	
709K6	Test 6 - each	4.00	
709K7	Test 7 - each	4.00	
STARTER KITS (contain teacher manual, plus one of each test booklet, answer sheet, and marking key)			
709SK1-3	Starter Kit Tests 1-3	55.00	
709SK1-5	Starter Kit Tests 1-5	72.00	
709SK1-7	Starter Kit Tests 1-7	85.00	
709SK4-5	Starter Kit Tests 4+5	45.00	
709SK6-7	Starter Kit Tests 6+7	45.00	
Total (incl.GST)			

RECOMMENDED YEAR LEVELS FOR EACH TEST			
Year 4	Test 1	Year 8	Test 5
Year 5	Test 2	Year 9	Test 6
Year 6	Test 3	Year 10	Test 7
Year 7	Test 4		

NOTE: The use of photocopied test material (including answer sheets) is a breach of copyright.