The NSW Department of Education invites NSW non-government schools to participate in Validation of Assessment for Learning and Individual Development.

**VALID** provides syllabus-based frameworks and online tools to support teachers to create a more holistic picture of student achievement and progress in the Science KLA.

**VALID** delivers three online tests: **VALID Science & Technology 6**, **VALID Science 8** and **VALID Science 10**.

The **VALID** tests allow schools to map their students’ progress in the Science KLA against the assessment framework that spans Stages 2 to 5. The assessment framework describes six levels of achievement based on the educational theorem known as Structure of Observed Learning Outcomes (SOLO).

The focus of the three assessments is the associated stage content and skills as described in the Science Years K-10 Syllabus. Students will be tested on their:

- knowledge and understanding of science
- knowledge and understanding of technology and the design process (for Year 6 only)
- understanding and skills in the process of scientific investigation
- ability to evaluate evidence, make judgments and think critically
- ability to access information and communicate scientific ideas using a variety of strategies.

Assessment items are framed in real-life situations related to self, the family and the community. The items give students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding at both local and global levels.

The test also includes survey questions which assess the values and attitudes outcomes of the science syllabus. All three **VALID** tests are interactive, online, multimedia diagnostic assessments. The tests contain both:

- extended response tasks, which provide an opportunity to assess higher order thinking and deeper understanding of a scientific concept or big idea. Secondary students attempt three extended response tasks. Primary students attempt two tasks.
- short response and multiple choice items presented in graphics, audio and/or text. All items in a set are contextually linked to the stimulus.

The indicative time for each of the secondary tests is 70 minutes whilst the primary test is 60 minutes. Students are able to choose their own pathway through the item sets. Each student requires a computer with access to the internet and ear buds/headphones for the test.

Students can complete the tests in multiple sessions throughout the testing window, that is, all classes do not have to complete the test simultaneously.

To maximise the benefit of participating in **VALID**, the expectation is that the full cohort(s) for a school will be registered for the test(s).

**Test windows for 2018 are:**

- **VALID Science 10**
  3 September – 14 September (inclusive)
- **VALID Science 8**
  29 October – 9 November (inclusive)
- **VALID Science & Technology 6**
  3 September – 14 September (inclusive)

Full details regarding the administration of the tests are provided in the Administration manual which will be distributed to participating schools after registration.
Marking of extended response tasks

VALID Science & Technology 6 and VALID Science 10 involve in-school marking of the extended response tasks.

Teachers at schools participating in VALID Science & Technology 6 and/or VALID Science 10 need to undertake NESA registered professional learning in the differentiation of the quality of student responses. This professional learning is provided online during the marking window. There is no limit to the number of teachers who can undertake the training and/or marking per school and there is no cost for completing this professional learning.

As the marker training modules are task specific, it is highly recommended that different teachers are allocated to each task. In larger schools, a minimum of three teachers is recommended for Year 10 and a minimum of two teachers for Year 6. The VALID team will arrange assistance with marking of tasks for schools with cohorts of 30 or less for Year 6 and 60 or less for Year 10.

Teachers who complete the training will be credited with five hours of professional learning. The training course is presented in small modules and can be undertaken in several sessions if required.

Following the professional learning, teachers analyse and mark the student responses for their school. As an indicator, teachers usually mark around 60 responses per hour. At the completion of the in-school marking operation, schools will receive preliminary results prior to the release of the full data analysis package on the School Measurement, Assessment & Reporting Toolkit (SMART) or Scout.

Please note that non-completion of the marking will result in the provision of a simple report with the raw scores for the short response section and no further data analysis will be provided.

VALID Science 8 is externally marked for all participating schools.

Marker training and in-school marking windows for 2018 are:

- VALID Science and Technology 6 and VALID Science 10 from 19 September to 21 October
- VALID Science 8 is marked externally during November.

Reporting of VALID results

The full results of VALID are reported to all participating schools through the School Measurement, Assessment & Reporting Toolkit (SMART) or Scout, which provides teachers with quality feedback on students’ knowledge, understandings and skills, and identifies possible areas for future teaching and learning. Survey results reported at school and state levels are also provided through SMART/Scout.

Individual information about student performance is provided to students and parents through the Individual Student Report. These will be provided to all participating schools for Years 6, 8 and 10.

Link to VALID SAMPLE test
http://sample.valid.nsw.edu.au
Username = testing    Password = testing

Registration
To register your school for VALID go to:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/valid-ngov18
Registrations close on 10 August 2018.

Cost per student for each VALID test: $10.00 (plus GST).

The cost per student covers all online testing, registered marker training for Years 6 and 10 or external marking for Year 8, individual student reports and access to the full data analysis on SMART/Scout.

An invoice for the number of participating students will be sent to schools in November/December.

VALID school test administrator(s)

The registration form asks the school to nominate two people to whom all future test-related and/or marking communications should be directed. It is important to note that the majority of future communications will be made electronically. Schools may nominate different teachers as administrators of the primary and secondary VALID tests.

For more information contact the VALID team:
(02) 9561 8280 or valid.program@det.nsw.edu.au

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