

ICAS PRACTICE BOOKLET · YEAR 5

You're ready for this.

A practice booklet for Year 5 students
getting ready to sit ICAS Paper C.

My name

My school

My year level

Sitting date

[icasassessments.com](https://www.icasassessments.com)

Hello, Year 5 student.

This booklet is yours. Write in it, circle things, work out problems in the margins. It's here to make ICAS feel familiar before you sit Paper C, so the real questions feel like ones you've seen before.

A few things to know.

- ▶ ICAS Paper C has English, Mathematics and Science papers — they each run separately, so you only sit one subject at a time.
- ▶ Each paper is multiple choice. There are no marks for spelling or handwriting — you just choose the best answer.
- ▶ Questions get harder as you go through the paper. The first ones are designed so most students can answer. The later ones are designed to stretch the strongest.
- ▶ There is no penalty for guessing. Always pick an answer, even when you aren't sure.
- ▶ Every student who sits gets a certificate. The more questions you answer well, the higher the certificate.

How long does this booklet take?

About 45 minutes to work through the practice questions, plus a few more minutes to check your answers at the back. You don't have to do it all in one sitting — split it across two or three days if you like.

How an ICAS question works.

Every ICAS question has three parts. Spot them as you read.

1. The stimulus.

A short text, table or scenario you have to read or look at first. Don't skim it — you'll need to come back to it.

2. The question.

What you actually need to answer. Underline the key word — it tells you whether to compare, calculate, infer, predict, or just identify.

3. The answer choices.

Usually four, sometimes five. Only one is the BEST answer. If two look close, find what makes them different — the difference is what the question is testing.

You'll sit ICAS online.

ICAS is done on a computer or tablet. As well as picking from A/B/C/D, you might click a word in a sentence, click a spot on a picture, drag items into groups, or type a short answer into a box. The thinking is the same — just the way you tap in your answer is different. Your teacher will show you the practice screens before sitting day.

A strategy worth remembering.

If you don't know an answer straight away, cross out the choices you know are wrong first. Then choose the best from what's left. ICAS has no penalty for wrong answers — always pick something.

WARM-UP · ENGLISH · PAPER C

Reading.

Read the passage below carefully. Then have a go at the questions on the next page.

Stage fright.

Jacob couldn't remember his lines. His teacher, Miss Cooper, looked at him from the side of the stage. She mouthed the words at him, but he couldn't understand them. His palms were sweating. The audience was looking at him. Someone cleared their throat nervously. Jacob closed his eyes, wishing he could be somewhere else.

The Strange Adventures of Mr Cubbins was Jacob's favourite book. So much so that he'd convinced the class that they should make it into a short play for their end-of-year drama project. They'd spent weeks writing a script and designing the stage sets and costumes, and when it came time to pick people to play the parts, everyone agreed that Jacob should be Mr Cubbins. It was only natural.

Yet here he was on stage, not even sixty seconds into the start of the play and already it had gone wrong. He could feel all the eyes staring at him. Out of the corner of his eye he saw Miss Cooper getting ready to push Ronnie, who also knew the part, onto the stage to replace him.

Think, Jacob, think. What does the very first page of the book look like? With his eyes closed, he saw the tree on that page with its bright green leaves and big orange fruit. He saw Mr Cubbins in his hat and ... somehow ... the words came!

'I've always known I was different,' Jacob began. 'Not special, but different, and on a certain day in March ...'

He could feel the audience's smiles, and now the performance had truly begun.

Question 1 · Paper C · Q1 · Text Comprehension – Inference

'She mouthed the words at him, but he couldn't understand them.' Jacob couldn't understand Miss Cooper because

- (A) she wasn't speaking aloud.
- (B) he wasn't looking at her.
- (C) the audience was too noisy.
- (D) he was too busy memorising the script.

My answer: ____

ENGLISH QUESTIONS · PAPER C

Working through the passage.

Three more questions on the passage you just read. Refer back to it as often as you need.

Question 2 · Paper C · Q2 · Text Comprehension – Analyse

Why had everyone agreed that Jacob should play the part of Mr Cubbins?

- (A) Jacob had experience performing in plays.
- (B) He was the only person who had wanted the role.
- (C) The role of Mr Cubbins was the hardest to learn.
- (D) Jacob had started the whole project.

My answer: _____

Question 3 · Paper C · Q3 · Text Comprehension – Inference

‘Out of the corner of his eye he saw Miss Cooper getting ready to push Ronnie, who also knew the part, onto the stage to replace him.’ This sentence shows that Miss Cooper felt that

- (A) Jacob was too sick to be on the stage.
- (B) Jacob had embarrassed the school.
- (C) Jacob would not be able to continue.
- (D) Jacob should not have played Mr Cubbins.

My answer: _____

Question 4 · Paper C · Q6 · Text Comprehension – Analyse

When Jacob started speaking, whose words was he saying?

- (A) his own
- (B) Ronnie’s
- (C) Mr Cubbins’s
- (D) Miss Cooper’s

My answer: _____

WARM-UP · MATHEMATICS · PAPER C

Numbers and patterns.

Three questions to start. Read each one twice before you choose an answer.

Question 5 · Paper C · Q7 · Number & Arithmetic

Four children collected shells on the beach and arranged them in piles. Tess collected 27 shells, 3 in each pile. Jade collected 40 shells, 5 in each pile. Lee collected 18 shells, 6 in each pile. Sam collected 32 shells, 4 in each pile. Who made the largest number of piles?

- (A) Tess
- (B) Jade
- (C) Lee
- (D) Sam

My answer: _____

Question 6 · Paper C · Q22 · Algebra & Patterns

Priya and Jim started counting from 102. Priya subtracted the same number each time while Jim added the same number each time.

Priya: 102, 95, ?, 81, 74, ...

Jim: 102, 111, ?, 129, 138, ...

What is the difference between the values of the two missing numbers (the two ?s)?

- (A) 16
- (B) 28
- (C) 32
- (D) 34

My answer: _____

Question 7 · Paper C · Q11 · Measures & Units

A plane drops 10 food parcels at equal intervals over a distance of 3 kilometres. About how many metres is it between one parcel and the next?

- (A) 3
- (B) 30
- (C) 300
- (D) 3000

My answer: _____

CHALLENGE · MATHEMATICS · PAPER C

Stretch yourself.

These come from the harder half of the paper. Take your time. Working in the margin is encouraged.

Question 8 · Paper C · Q14 · Number & Arithmetic

Which of the following expressions is NOT equal to 276?

- (A) $100 + 50 + 50 + 25 + 25 + 25 + 1$
- (B) $100 + 100 + 100 - 10 - 10 - 6$
- (C) $100 + 100 + 50 + 20 + 6$
- (D) $300 - 20 - 4$

My answer: _____

Question 9 · Paper C · Q17 · Number & Arithmetic – Reasoning

Arun is at a theme park waiting in a queue for the Wild Jet ride. Every 3 minutes, a boat with 5 people leaves. A boat leaves and Arun counts 26 people ahead of him in the queue. How many minutes will Arun have to wait until his boat leaves?

- (A) 15
- (B) 18
- (C) 21
- (D) 27

My answer: _____

Question 10 · Paper C · Q23 · Algebra & Patterns

Min had some cards. He gave half of them to Bill. Bill gave one third of those cards to Sam. Sam returned 2 cards to Min and kept the rest, which was 6 cards. How many cards did Min have in the end?

- (A) 20
- (B) 26
- (C) 38
- (D) 50

My answer: _____

WARM-UP · SCIENCE · PAPER C

Observing and reasoning.

ICAS Science wants you to think carefully — not to recite facts. Read the scenarios slowly.

Question 11 · Paper C · Q3 · Observing & Measuring

An observation is anything you can see, hear, feel, smell or taste. On one windy day, Bob notices a tree in front of his house. Which of these is an observation Bob can make?

- (A) It is going to get cold.
- (B) The tree branches may break.
- (C) The wind is blowing to the east.
- (D) The tree branches are bending to the west.

My answer: _____

Question 12 · Paper C · Q9 · Investigating – Fair test

Ned read that when water freezes it expands and takes up more space. He poured a glass of water before freezing it. What should he do to investigate whether the statement is correct?

- (A) mark the water level before and after freezing
- (B) weigh the glass of water before and after freezing
- (C) compare the volume of water with the mass of the ice
- (D) measure the water temperature before and after freezing

My answer: _____

Question 13 · Paper C · Q11 · Predicting & Concluding – Life & Living

A food chain shows how energy passes from one living thing to the next. In one Australian food chain: grass seed → ant → bandicoot → dingo. Due to the spread of a disease, the number of bandicoots decreased rapidly. What is likely to happen as a result?

- (A) The number of dingoes and the number of ants will both increase.
- (B) The number of dingoes will decrease and the number of ants will increase.
- (C) The number of dingoes will increase and the number of ants will decrease.
- (D) The number of dingoes and the number of ants will both decrease.

My answer: _____

CHALLENGE · SCIENCE · PAPER C

Reading data.

These questions ask you to read a small table or data set, then reason about what it shows — and what it does not.

Question 14 · Paper C · Q26 · Reasoning – Material World

Max took two cups of purple cabbage juice. He added vinegar to one cup and the juice turned red. He added baking soda to the other cup and the juice turned blue. He knew that vinegar is acidic and baking soda is alkaline. Max then added some liquid he found in the kitchen to a new cup of cabbage juice. The cabbage juice turned red. What can Max conclude from his experiment?

- (A) The cabbage juice was acidic.
- (B) The liquid contained vinegar.
- (C) The liquid was acidic.
- (D) The liquid was red.

My answer: _____

Question 15 · Paper C · Q40 · Interpreting – Material World

The table below shows the melting points and boiling points of three substances X, Y and Z.

X: melts at 10 °C, boils at 95 °C.

Y: melts at 40 °C, boils at 150 °C.

Z: melts at 160 °C, boils at 320 °C.

Which statement about these substances is supported by the data?

- (A) At 30 °C, X is a solid and Y is a liquid.
- (B) At 300 °C, Y is a liquid and Z is a gas.
- (C) Y and Z are gases above 160 °C.
- (D) X and Y are liquids at 45 °C.

My answer: _____

Strategies for sitting day.

Six pieces of test-craft that earn extra marks. Read them the night before.

1. Read the whole question twice before you look at the answer choices. Don't let the first option pull you in early.
2. Underline the key word in the question — “most likely”, “not”, “best”, “difference”. That word tells you what they're really asking.
3. In Maths, scribble your working in the margin. You won't lose marks for messy working — but you will lose marks for wrong answers caused by skipping it.
4. Cross out wrong options. The right one is easier to see when you've narrowed it down to two.
5. If a question takes more than 90 seconds, mark it and move on. Come back at the end.
6. Always pick an answer. There is no penalty for guessing in ICAS — a guess has a 25% chance of being right; a blank has 0%.

On the morning.

Eat a real breakfast — protein, carbs and water. ICAS is delivered online: your teacher will show you the device and the sitting screen before you start. Bring a pencil and scrap paper for working out. Walk in knowing you have prepared. Take three slow breaths before the first question.

Answers — part 1.

Check your answers. Read the "Why" column — it shows the thinking. Tally how many you got right at the bottom, but don't stress about the score — every question you understood is a win.

Q	Subject	Answer	Why
1	English	(A) she wasn't speaking aloud	To "mouth" words means to shape them silently with your lips. Miss Cooper was making the shapes but not saying them out loud.
2	English	(D)	The passage says Jacob "convinced the class" to do the project — it was his idea, so it was natural that he played the lead role.
3	English	(C)	Miss Cooper getting Ronnie ready as a replacement tells us she expected Jacob couldn't carry on — not that she blamed him or thought he was sick.
4	English	(C) Mr Cubbins's	The line "I've always known I was different" is the first line of Jacob's favourite book — he was speaking the character's words from memory.
5	Maths	(A) Tess	Piles = shells ÷ shells-per-pile. Tess: $27 \div 3 = 9$. Jade: $40 \div 5 = 8$. Lee: $18 \div 6 = 3$. Sam: $32 \div 4 = 8$. Tess made the most piles (9).
6	Maths	(C) 32	Priya is subtracting 7: 102, 95, 88, 81, 74 → ? = 88. Jim is adding 9: 102, 111, 120, 129, 138 → ? = 120. Difference = $120 - 88 = 32$.
7	Maths	(C) 300	10 parcels make 9 intervals between them. $3000 \text{ m} \div 9 \approx 333 \text{ m}$. The closest answer is 300 m.
8	Maths	(B)	$(B) = 300 - 26 = 274$, not 276. All the other expressions equal exactly 276.

Answers — part 2.

Q	Subject	Answer	Why
9	Maths	(B) 18	$26 \text{ people} \div 5 \text{ per boat} = 5.2$, so Arun needs the 6th boat. $6 \text{ boats} \times 3 \text{ minutes} = 18 \text{ minutes of waiting}$.
10	Maths	(B) 26	Sam kept 6 and gave 2 back — so Bill gave Sam 8 cards (one-third of Bill's share). Bill had 24. Min had 48 to start. Min gave 24 away and got 2 back: $48 - 24 + 2 = 26$.
11	Science	(D)	Bob can directly SEE the branches bending. Options A and B are predictions about the future; C cannot be observed without a compass.
12	Science	(A)	Expanding means taking up more space (volume). Marking the level shows whether the volume has changed. Weighing tests mass, not volume.
13	Science	(B)	Fewer bandicoots means dingoes have less to eat (decrease) and ants have less predation pressure (increase).
14	Science	(C)	Max's test only tells him whether the liquid is acidic. He cannot tell whether it specifically contained vinegar, only that it shares the acidic property.
15	Science	(D)	At 45°C : X (boils at 95) is a liquid; Y (melts at 40) has just melted, so it is also a liquid.

See you on sitting day.

Read each question twice. Underline the key word. Eliminate wrong answers first.

You've got this.