



January 21, 2022

Re: International Schools' Assessments (ISAs)

Dear Parents,

In our effort to continuously improve instruction and learning at HIS, we will be administering the International Schools' Assessment (ISA) for students Grade 3-5 February 7-8, 2022 and grades 6-10 on February 14-16, 2022. While our teachers assess what students know and can do on a daily basis, ISA provides HIS with diagnostic information about our students' academic abilities in comparison to external proficiency scales. This is the only external standardized assessment, apart from the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Exams for Grade 12, that is implemented at HIS.

What is the ISA?

International Schools' Assessment is an annual assessment developed by The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and that has been specially developed to measure skills in mathematical literacy, reading and writing of students in international schools. An online assessment in science, for grades 6-10, is also part of the battery of assessments.

ISA is based on the internationally endorsed reading and mathematical literacy frameworks of the Programme for International Student Assessment, developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The ISA reports provide descriptive information about what students know and can do. The results are equated from year to year so they can be used to track changes over time at the individual and school level. ISA is not a test that students "pass" or "fail" and it will not be used for purposes other than providing data to the school, parents, and students about learning.

Who uses the ISA?

Worldwide, over 70,000 students from 333 international schools participate in the assessment. A growing number of international schools in Japan now use the ISA.

How do the assessments work?

Students complete an online reading literacy test, a mathematical literacy test and two writing tests. The questions include: selected-response, written short-responses, and written extended-response tasks. Secondary students will also take a scientific literacy test. The tests will be taken in conditions that are familiar to our students, in grade level or homeroom groups as appropriate.

HIS will provide an international education that promotes integrity, excellence, cultural sensitivity and a lifelong commitment to peace and a sustainable planet.



Hiroshima
International School

How will HIS use the results?

As a school, we will analyse all data about the general patterns of performance and use these as another tool for which we monitor and modify our educational programs at individual, cohort and school levels. The data will be an indicator of progress that will be used to evaluate our instructional programs on a yearly basis.

How can I help my child prepare for the ISAs?

Students at HIS do not 'prepare' for the tests, since they are consistent with what students learn on a regular basis. Cramming is not appropriate for the ISAs as it measures skill, not content. A good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast are the best ways to prepare.

What information will I receive as a parent?

You will receive guidance on understanding and interpreting scores and all information about your child in an individual and comprehensive ISA report. This will give you a detailed record of your child's performance in mathematical literacy, reading literacy and writing, and science (grades 6-10).

If you have any questions concerning the ISA at HIS, please feel free to contact Marisa Villarreal, Primary Vice Principal or Damian Rentoule, Principal. You may also wish to visit the websites of ISA (<http://www.acer.edu.au/isa>) and/or ACER (www.acer.edu.au), for further information.

Sincerely,

Damian Rentoule
Principal

Marisa Villarreal
Primary Vice Principal

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