

To
Parents/guardians of pupils in year 3
of compulsory school and Sami school
or in year 4 of special school

National tests

Hi!

You are receiving this letter because you are the parent/guardian of a pupil who during the spring term will complete national tests in the subjects mathematics, Swedish and Swedish as a second language.

Why must the pupils complete the national tests?

Pupils in compulsory school and Sami school year 3, as well as those in special school year 4, must complete the national tests. The tests will support an equal and fair assessment of the pupils' knowledge. The tests will support teachers in the assessment of the pupil's knowledge in line with the educational requirements contained in the curricula.

The tests have been developed and constructed at the universities of Stockholm and Uppsala on behalf of the National Agency for Education. The tasks in the tests have been tested in many different schools around the country. Pupils and teachers have had the opportunity of giving their views, which have been taken into account when the tests were created.

The curricula for the different subjects form the basis of the content and formulation of the test. However, everything contained in one subject's curriculum can not be tested by one test. Such a test would be too extensive.

The national tests are not based on any type of working methods or any special teaching aids. In the test, the pupil must show his/her knowledge in several different ways.

When will the test be conducted?

The national test is comprised of different parts. The test will be conducted during the spring term, weeks 11-20, and are mandatory. The school decides when during the period the different test parts will be conducted. The idea is that the test will be a part of the educational programme as far as possible during this period.

How is the test assessed?

There are detailed assessment directions the teacher has to follow for the national test. When the teacher later makes a total assessment of the pupil's knowledge in a subject the teacher will take into account the pupil's grade from the result of the test.

Collection of results

The National Agency for Education collects the results from the national tests in collaboration with the Central Bureau of Statistics (SCB). Collection of test results is

required to assess the schools, but also for analysis of the results for the country, the local authorities and the owners of independent schools.

What do the subject tests contain?

The national tests have a common theme. The theme is based on a story about the children Nova and Troj. The purpose of using a story is to play down the test situation and make it easier for the pupils. Following each test part, some of the pictures and texts from the story are posted on a notice board in the class room. When all the parts are in place, the story about the two children has ended and the children have completed all the test parts.

Mathematics

The national test in mathematics consist of various parts with written tasks that the pupils solve individually and verbal tests the pupils solve in small groups. Both the written and verbal tasks give the pupils the opportunity to show they can explain how they think mathematically.

Swedish and Swedish as a second language

The national test is common for both the Swedish subjects and consists of a number of parts. There are tasks the pupils must solve individually and in groups. By completing the various tasks the pupils are given the opportunity to show their knowledge within the areas of speech, conversation, reading and writing.

What are a knowledge profile and a self assessment?

The pupil's results in the national tests and the teacher's assessment of the other performance by the pupil in the subject can be summarised in knowledge profiles. These documents can be used as a basis for a development appraisal.

For each test there is a self assessment part where the pupil must think about his/her own learning and describe his/her knowledge in the respective subject. The self assessment can later be compared to the pupil's knowledge profile in the subject and be discussed during a development appraisal.

Where can you find more information?

More information regarding the national subject tests can be found on the website of the National Agency for Education

www.skolverket.se/bedomning

You can also find links to examples of tasks from the test.

Contact the National Agency for Education

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