Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education

SMART Summary Guide:

Delivering SMART Assessments

Introduction

SMART is a new assessment tool for Years 3–10 that supports Reading, Writing, Maths, Pānui, Tuhituhi, and Pāngarau. It replaces e-asTTle and aligns with the strengthened New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa.

SMART provides reliable progress and achievement information to identify next learning steps and support reporting to parents and whānau.

Assessments are designed to describe each student's overall reading, writing and mathematics skills and practices, while highlighting strengths and gaps. Items vary in difficulty to cover the full range of performance (emerging to exceeding).

Key Terms

- **SMART Assessment**: The set of items students complete in a learning area. Students are automatically matched to their year-level assessment.
- **Assessment Session**: A virtual space created by the teacher to manage a specific assessment event (one session per sitting).
- **Student | Ākonga Code**: A unique code that links each student to their specific assessment.
- **SMART Teacher Dashboard**: Organised into four columns — Preparation, Delivery, Marking, Reporting.

Before Assessments

Decide whether online or paper-based format (or a mix within a class) works best for your students. Paper and digital versions are not identical as the digital format supports a wider range of item types.

Online students can use the familiarisation tool (NZ Curriculum or Te Marautanga pathway) using their usual devices and assistive technologies to get an understanding of the test environment and question types. Teachers are encouraged to try it too.

SMART supports a wide range of devices. You can test devices for compatibility at https://smart.education.govt.nz/pages/diagnostics.

Teachers should also plan for accessibility needs, such as quiet rooms or teacher aide support, to ensure all students can participate fairly.

Important differences between paper and digital assessments

- Digital assessments allow a broader range of item types, including dynamic elements that cannot be replicated on paper.
- Paper-based assessments are limited to multiple choice/s, short answer, and extended response (e.g., extended writing).
- Some questions may be worded differently on paper to fit the available item types.
- Psychometricians have ensured a high level of comparability between formats, however, full functional equivalence is not possible.

Preparing to Deliver:

- For all assessments, create an Assessment Session.
- **For paper-based:** Print Assessment Question Papers (reusable where appropriate) and individual Answer Sheets from the Delivery column on the SMART dashboard. You can adjust the space between the lines on the extended writing answer page by changing the size of the font before printing. Keep Question Papers secure until the day and time of assessment.
- For **online assessments:** Print student | ākonga codes.
- Note the Assessment Session Code (SMART generates an 8-character code) for each online assessment event. If needed, a single session can include multiple year levels or areas e.g. writing for catch-up.

Delivering the Assessment

Online Delivery

- Students enter the URL short link, then their individual student code, then the session code.
- They confirm the assessment name and wait on the ready screen.
- Teacher selects "*Start Session*" once all students are ready.
- Monitor live progress via the session dashboard (tabs show *joined, not started, in progress, finished, paused/postponed*).
- Use *Pause* for whole-class or individual breaks (e.g., after closed questions in writing). Use *Postpone* if a student cannot return in the current session.
- Assessments are not timed by the tool. Recommend timings are provided, and teachers manage timing based on the needs of their learners.
- When finished, select "*Finalise Session*".

Paper-Based Delivery

- No session code required.
- Distribute printed Question Papers and named Answer Sheets- students are to write only on Answer Sheets.
- After completion, scan and upload Answer Sheets via the Marking column so results integrate with online data.
- If writing is illegible or insufficient (for Writing assessments), it will be flagged for teacher review.

After Delivery

All results (online and scanned paper) appear together in Marking and Reporting.