



The NBT is an assessment for prospective first year entry students into Higher Education. The assessment was designed to measure a writer's levels of proficiency in Academic Literacy, Quantitative Literacy and Mathematics as related to the demands of tertiary study. The NBT also provides information to assist in the placement of students in appropriate curricular routes (e.g. regular, augmented, extended, bridging or foundation programmes) and with the development of curriculum for Higher Education programmes. In addition, it assists Higher Education to interpret school-leaving results, such as those of the National Senior Certificate (NSC).

The Tests

There are two tests. The Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy domains (AQL) are combined into one multiple-choice test. Each section is timed, for a total of three hours and five minutes of writing time. The AQL Test is written by applicants to all programmes. The second test is Mathematics (MAT), which is written by applicants to programmes for which Mathematics is a requirement. The Mathematics test is also multiple-choice and timed, with three hours allowed. These tests are described in more detail under 'Test Content'.

Benefits to Writers

- Your results will help institutions to design courses that build directly on your level of learning at school.
- Good results on the NBT could give you an edge if you are in competition for scarce places in selective programmes.
- Many bursary awarders use the NBT results to help them make their decisions.

General Information

- Test sites are located in major cities across South Africa, with a few in neighbouring countries. Additional sessions are held in more remote locations at key times during the test cycle. The table listing [NBT National Sessions](#) is updated frequently.
- Each university and faculty determines which tests must be written and the deadline to receive results, which generally is posted on the university's website.
- The [AQL](#) is written during a morning session, with applicants required to report at 7:30 AM on the test date. The AQL is a timed, multiple-choice test, with total writing time of 3 hours and 5 minutes.
- The [MAT](#) is written on the same day, in the afternoon session of the same day, with a short break between the two tests. The MAT is also a timed, multiple-choice test, with 3 hours of writing time.
- Learners who do not report for their scheduled tests must register and pay again in order to re-schedule a missed test.
- Registration is required and must be done online, with payment made through the EasyPay system. Scores are not released unless fees have been paid.
- Results will be available to Institutions of Higher Education two weeks after the test. Learners are advised to plan in advance to ensure that they are ready to write, but have allowed sufficient results processing time to meet university application deadlines.

What is in the test?

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Must I write both the AQL and MAT tests?

The university and faculty where you apply will determine which test/s you must write. The application requirements include closing dates and deadlines for receiving NBT results. This will help you decide when to write. Please note that each university has different requirements and sometimes departments within the same faculty may require different tests or have different deadlines.

In general, the AQL Test is written by applicants for all programmes while **both** tests are written by applicants to programmes for which Mathematics is a requirement, such as Medicine, Engineering, Accounting, and most of the sciences. Please check with each Faculty before you register for the NBT.

How do I prepare for the test?

There are no special study materials for these tests. Keep in mind the usual commonsense advice given to students who are about to take a test: Get adequate sleep the night before and avoid having to rush things at the last minute. Do what works best for you.

Are past tests available?

No. The tests are confidential and are not available to anyone.

What if I have not written my Grade 12 exams yet?

You should write the NBT when you feel ready. Learners in South Africa are expected to complete the secondary syllabus before writing. The NBT test is available from 20 May 2017 until 1 July 2017. You must decide for yourself whether you want to write before or after your exams.

What if I am applying to two institutions with different applications deadlines?

If you are applying to more than one institution or faculty then you need to register and write the NBT to meet the earliest deadline, even if you are also applying to a university that will write the test during registration / orientation. You need only write the tests once, even when applying to more than one institution. All institutions to which you apply will be able to access your NBT results.

Are there any special requirements if I am applying in Health Sciences?

All applicants to programmes in the Health Science Faculties must write both the AQL and MAT Tests. Further, all writers applying to Health Science must write the tests so that scores are available no later than end July. The NBT project will ensure that results for tests written on or before 1 July 2017 will arrive at institutions before this deadline.

How long does it take to get results?

It takes about two weeks to process tests, score answer sheets and post results. Results will be sent to institutions two weeks after each writing session as shown on the NBT Important Dates 2018 Intake Cycle. Writers may access results on the website three weeks after the session.

What is the pass mark?

There is no pass mark for the NBT. Rather, each institution and programme uses the Benchmark Levels, along with other available information, when processing applications and determining placement. Some programmes and some institutions will accept a wider range of scores, while others have set a higher target and more narrow range. If you have any questions about how your result is used by an institution to which you have applied, you must contact the relevant Admissions Office. The NBT Project does not determine nor create policy on the use of results.

How do I get my results?

You can access your result by logging onto the NBT website, click on request scores and fill in your name and ID number.

Can I write twice to try for a better score?

The Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Free State allows a student to write twice. Please note if you write the test for a second time, it is your responsibility to provide us with your new results. You need to rewrite AQL and Maths simultaneously. Only the latest results will be used for selection.

In what languages are the tests available?

The NBT is available in English and Afrikaans – the common languages of instruction used at Institutions of Higher Education in South Africa.

What should I do if I missed a scheduled test?

Learners who do not report for their scheduled tests must re-register and pay again in order to re-schedule a missed test.

What does it cost to write the NBT?

Costs for the 2020 intake cycle:

R 200 for the AQL and Maths (Refer to NBT website).

Learners who do not report for scheduled tests must again register and pay in order to re-schedule a missed test.

How do I pay?

All NBT fees must be paid through EasyPay. Take your NBT registration letter with you to an EasyPay Paypoint near you to pay. You may also pay on the EasyPay website: www.easypay.co.za and then print out your receipt. You must show both letter and receipt before being allowed to write the tests. EasyPay Paypoints are found across South Africa at food stores including Pick N Pay, ShopRite, Checkers, and Spar, as well as many other merchant sites.

Test Schedule:

NBT Test Dates	Last Day to Register Online	Last Day to Pay Fees	Results Available to Institutions	Results Available to Writers
11 May 2019	23 April 2019	29 April 2019	3 June 2019	10 June 2019
25 May 2019	5 May 2019	13 May 2019	18 June 2019	24 June 2019
1 June 2019	12 May 2019	20 May 2019	24 June 2019	1 July 2019
*2 June 2019	12 May 2019	20 May 2019	24 June 2019	1 July 2019
22 June 2019	2 June 2019	10 June 2019	15 July 2019	22 July 2019
*23 June 2019	2 June 2019	10 June 2019	15 July 2019	22 July 2019
**28 June 2019	9 June 2019	18 June 2019	22 July 2019	29 July 2019
29 June 2019	9 June 2019	18 June 2019	22 July 2019	29 July 2019

Please visit www.nbt.ac.za to register

Important: The last date on which the NBT test can be written is 29 June 2019.

** Friday

* Sunday

NBT TEST CONTENTS

- The [Academic Literacy](#) test (one of two components of the Academic & Quantitative Literacy test) assesses capacity to engage successfully with the demands of academic study in the language of instruction.
- The [Quantitative Literacy](#) test (one of two components of the Academic & Quantitative Literacy test) assesses ability to manage situations or solve problems of a quantitative nature in real contexts relevant to higher education.
- The [Mathematics](#) test assesses proficiency levels in the skills listed below as they relate to the study of mathematics at the tertiary level.
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PLEASE NOTE THAT WE RECOMMEND THAT ONE SHOULD ACHIEVE AT LEAST 50% FOR EACH OF THE TEST COMPONENTS UNDERNEATH

ACADEMIC LITERACY	QUANTITATIVE LITERACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make meaning from text, typical to that encountered in tertiary studies; • Understand vocabulary related to academic study, in context; • Identify and track points and claims made in texts; • Evaluate evidence used to support claims made by writers; • Extrapolate and draw inferences and conclusions from text; • Differentiate main from supporting ideas in the overall and specific organisation of a passage; • Identify text differences that relate to writers' different purposes, audiences, and kinds of communication; • Understand and interpret information that is presented visually (e.g. in tables and flow-charts); and • Understand basic numerical concepts and information used in text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select and use a range of quantitative terms and phrases; • Apply quantitative procedures in various situations; • Formulate and apply formulae; • Read and interpret tables, graphs, charts and text and integrate information from different sources; • Do calculations involving multiple steps accurately; • Identify trends and patterns in various situations; • Apply properties of simple geometric shapes to determine measurements; • Reason logically; and • Interpret quantitative information presented verbally, symbolically, and graphically.
MATHEMATICS (No calculators allowed)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and apply properties of the real number system; • Recognise and use patterns, including sequences and series; • Apply relationships such as ratios and percentages in a variety of contexts; • Use surds, logarithms and exponents in a variety of algebraic and numerical contexts, including solution of exponential equations and financial calculations; • Carry out algebraic manipulations, apply these in the solution of equations and inequalities; • Solve problems using mathematical process skills; • Understand the function concept and identify properties of functions, such as domain and range, in the context of straight lines, parabolas, hyperbolas, exponential and logarithmic graphs, and trigonometric graphs (sine, cosine, tangent); • Identify relationships between graphs and their equations, or inequalities and the regions they describe; • Interpret transformations of functions represented algebraically or graphically; • Apply trigonometric concepts in solving problems; • Understand and use trigonometric identities in solving equations; • Understand properties and interpret representations of two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes; • Solve problems relating to perimeter, area, volume; • Apply principles of analytic geometry; • Apply principles of differential calculus; • Interpret various representations and measures of data; and • Use logical skills in making deductions and determining the validity of given assertions. 	