

NCELP Tests: Quick Guide

NCELP proposes two types of test which, between them, assess the full range of knowledge and skills students should have developed by the end of Term 3.1 in Year 7 and 8:

- The **‘achievement’** tests are designed to assess students' knowledge of a principled sample of phonics, vocabulary, and grammar (PVG) features. This ‘syllabus-based’ test aims to find out how well students have learnt what we teach them up to the point of testing.

Below is a summary of some of the principles and design decisions that guided NCELP's approach to the PVG ‘achievement’ tests:

Phonics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• test students' knowledge of the Sound-Symbol Correspondences (SSC) covered to date in the SOW• include “both directions”, i.e.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- print-to-sound through read aloud tasks of short, unfamiliar words (to compel students to rely solely on SSC knowledge when sounding them out)- sound-to-print through transcription tasks that also contain unfamiliar words
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• test students' knowledge of the vocabulary covered to date in the SOW• test students' receptive and productive knowledge equally (50% reading & listening, 50% writing & speaking)• test students' ability to recall vocabulary from memory without prompts• test how many words students know (vocabulary breadth)• test how well they know words (vocabulary depth)
Grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• test students' knowledge of the grammar features covered to date in the SOW• test learners' receptive and productive knowledge of the grammar• isolate the students' grammatical knowledge e.g. by designing questions that are not reliant on students' ability to correctly recall a particular lexical item• test students' understanding of the meaning or function of the grammar feature, as well as their ability to produce grammar to create meaning accurately.

- The '**applying your knowledge**' test in year 7 brings together the PVG strands in a more holistic assessment of listening, reading, writing and speaking. This aims to assess students' ability to apply their knowledge – of PVG learnt to date - in a fuller context (in sentence or paragraph levels) through listening and reading comprehension, oral picture description, and short translation tasks.