

Excel Test Zone

Get the Results You Want!

NAPLAN*-style

YEAR

6

SAMPLE TEST

READING MAGAZINE



* This is not an officially endorsed publication of the NAPLAN program and is produced by Pascal Press independently of Australian governments.

Once



Once ...
An *application* was for employment
A *program* was a TV show,
A *cursor* used bad language,
A *keyboard* was a piano!
Memory was something that you lost with age
A *CD* was a bank account!
And if you had a broken *disc*,
You knew your back was out!
Hard drive was a long trip on the road
You'd *back-up* to park your car,
Log-on was adding wood to a fire
A *header* was for a soccer star.
Cut—you did with a pocket knife
Paste you did with glue
A *web* was a spider's home
And a *virus* was the flu!
I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper
And the memory in my head
I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash
But when it happens they'll wish they were dead!

Source: <http://www.ahajokes.com/com056.html>

Sydney 2075



Ubet made his way back through the dank-smelling streets to his cave—an underground loading dock for a big store long ago. A small fish bounced against his side. He passed a large square abyss in the sandstone bedrock. The grey-yellow walls were vertical and quite smooth. The pit contained a pool of brown, slimy water. In the water were the relics of another time that always left Ubet wondering. Twisted metal scaffolding protruded from the water at weird angles. Many times, an adventurous child had met some misfortune in the sinister water.

Ubet looked at the city buildings with much the same eye a medieval Egyptian peasant may have looked at the Pyramids. They were there, they had always been there, like the stars. Their glassless windows stared back at him.

Ubet felt pangs of thirst. Salt air always made him thirsty. He suppressed a cough and scratched irritably at the top of his head. The hair was lank and thinning.

A feral cat scurried awkwardly across the street, yowling. Ubet couldn't tell if it

was horribly deformed or if it had been savagely attacked. He looked to where it had come from. He knew how they avoided being alone in the open. A small pack of mutant rats emerged dragging the remains of a bloodied animal towards an open stormwater shaft. He could see it had been diseased. Its body was thin and wasted away. He had seen such animals before. They had little energy and little drive to survive. They simply accepted that they were condemned. They had no fight.

The mutant rats eyed Ubet suspiciously but they showed no fear. He feared they were becoming more daring, or more desperate as food became scarcer.

Through gaps in the crumbling buildings and derelict towers Ubet could see The Hills. The hills of Paddington, Randwick and Surry. And some whose names had been forgotten. He was vaguely aware that so much had been forgotten.

He thought of Boy for a moment. The strange human creature that seemed to have arrived from nowhere. Boy was alien to the tribe.

Norfolk Island timeline

Although a very small island (about 5 kilometres by 8 kilometres) with a permanent population of about 1500, Norfolk Island has a history closely linked to that of Australia. The island is a few flying hours off the far north coast of New South Wales.

Date	Event
(about) 1150	The first settlement: Polynesian settlers arrive in ocean-going sailing boats.
(about) 1450	For reasons not known, Polynesian inhabitants abandon the island.
1774	Captain Cook sights and names the island <i>Norfolk</i> after the Duchess of Norfolk in England.
1788	The colonial settlement: The first fleet of English convicts and free settlers land at Kingston, the name of the area where the prisons were built. This is the fleet that also brought the first English colony to New South Wales. William Bligh on the ship <i>Bounty</i> visits the island.
1790	Mutiny on the <i>Bounty</i> . The mutineers finally settle on Pitcairn Island.
1814	Convict settlers are transferred to Van Dieman's Land (later renamed Tasmania) and to New South Wales.
1825	The penal settlement: Norfolk Island is reopened as a place of harsh punishment for difficult convicts.

Date	Event
1844	The control and running of the island is transferred from New South Wales to Van Dieman's Land.
1855	The penal settlement abandoned: Most of the convicts are taken either to Cockatoo Island (New South Wales) or Port Arthur (Van Dieman's Land).
1856	The Pitcairner's Settlement: On 6 June Pitcairn Islanders (descendants of the <i>Bounty</i> mutineers with their Tahitian wives) arrive. On 24 June Norfolk Island becomes a separate colony under the New South Wales governor. On 26 June the last of the convicts are taken to Van Dieman's Land.
1897	Administration of the island is transferred to the government of New South Wales.
1914	Norfolk Island becomes a territory of Australia.
1979	The Federal Government of Australia gives self-government to the people of Norfolk Island.
2008	The Australian Government nominates the 'Australian Convict Sites' for World Heritage listing. The nomination includes the Norfolk Island sites.

Sources: Arthur D Y Evans and D V Mitchell, *The Norfolk weave*, 2007; 'Kingston and Arthur's Vale' from *2899 Norfolk*, Vol 1, Issue 3, 2010, p. 49

HOW TO PLAY BOXES

Boxes is a game played on paper. Over the decades it has been called Paddocks, Squares and the Dot Game. It is a quick game to set up and play but some skill in tactics can be useful. It is best played by two players. More than four players can slow the game down. Games usually last less than 10 minutes, depending upon the size of dotted grid.

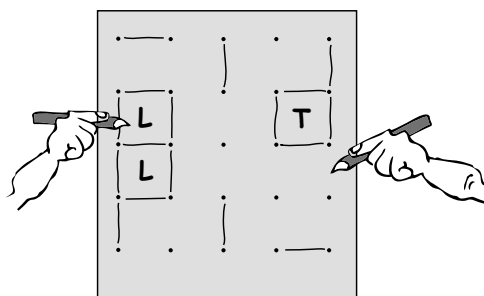
It can be played by young children taking turns, or by older players using defensive techniques and thinking ahead, tricking the opposing player into making false moves.

Materials required: a piece of unmarked paper (such as the back of a discarded letter) and at least one pencil.

Object of the game: to make as many four-sided boxes as possible and *thwart* the other player from creating boxes.

Playing the game: prepare the paper with a grid of dots. A square of five dots by five dots is a good sized grid to begin with. Dots need to be about a centimetre apart to form boxes big enough to write a player's single initial in.

Players take turns to join two dots with either a vertical or horizontal line. The player who joins up a fourth in a square to make a box initials that box and draws another line.



A typical grid for a game in progress between Terri and Lenny.

If a second box is formed the player can initial that box as well. This continues until the player cannot complete a box. The opposing player then takes the next turn.

As the game progresses, a series of boxes can be made quite quickly. This is called a *chain*. When chains start to form, players need to think ahead. They need to consider the best way to maximise the number of boxes they can form while limiting the opposing player's chances to make boxes.

At the end of the game simply count the initialled boxes to see which player has the most boxes to be declared the winner.

Superstitions



Superstitions have probably been around since people started trying to explain the world they live in. A superstition is an uncritical belief or notion, not based on reason or knowledge. The word is often used to refer to folk beliefs regarded as irrational. It is also commonly applied to beliefs and practices surrounding luck, prophecy and spiritual beings, particularly the irrational belief that future events can be foretold by specific unrelated prior events. A superstition is any belief that is inconsistent with the known laws of science or with what is considered true and reasonable.

Some 'popular' superstitions are:

- Never open an umbrella in the house; it will bring misfortune.
- Finding a horseshoe means good luck. You can make a wish, spit on the horseshoe and throw it over your shoulder.
- If your palm itches, you will soon receive money. (If you scratch it, your money will never come.)
- Friday 13th is unlucky.
- If you blow out all the candles on your birthday cake with the first puff you will get your wish.

Adapted from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superstitions>

United Nations International Year

Since 1959 (World Refugee Year) the United Nations (UN) has designated International Years to draw attention to major global issues and to encourage nations to address concerns which have worldwide importance and consequences. There has been an effort not to have every year an International Year because of costs and to avoid making the idea seem unimportant. However, some years have had more than one focus.

The following is the list of UN years since 1986, which was the International Year of Peace.

International Years

1987	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless
1990	International Literacy Year
1992	International Space Year
1993	International Year for World's Indigenous People
1994	International Year of the Family (and one other)
1995	United Nations Year for Tolerance
1996	International Year for the Eradication of Poverty
1998	International Year of the Ocean
1999	International Year of Older Persons (and one other)
2000	International Year for the Culture of Peace (and one other)
2001	International Year of Volunteers (and two others)
2002	International Year of Mountains (and two others)
2003	International Year of Freshwater
2004	International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and Its Abolition (and one other)
2005	International Year for Sport and Physical Education (and one other)
2006	International Year of Deserts
2008	International Year of Planet Earth (and three others)
2009	International Year of Reconciliation (and two others)
2010	International Year of Biodiversity (and one other)
2011	International Year of Forests (and two others)

Adapted from http://www.unac.org/en/news_events/un_days/international_years.asp

Jandamarra

Newspaper extract

Thursday, 1 April 1897

A boriginal tracker Jandamarra, who led the rebellion to defend his land from the white man, is killed.

Bunuba land is part of the Kimberley region in the far north of Western Australia, and stretches across a vast area including Fitzroy River and several mountain ranges.

Jandamarra (1873 – 1 April 1897) was an indigenous Australian of the Bunuba tribe who led one of the few recorded, organised uprisings against white settlement.

Jandamarra was an Aboriginal police tracker assisting troopers in the capture of Aboriginals. The Aboriginals were spearing the stockmen (and their stock) who were taking their traditional land. During a patrol of the Napier Ranges, Jandamarra helped capture a large group of his own men and women. They were held at a local Police Post. Jandamarra helped guard the prisoners overnight. During this short period the prisoners convinced Jandamarra to join them in their fight to regain their land. Jandamarra shot a policeman named Richardson, stole a number of guns and set the prisoners free. There was outrage in Derby and Broome when news of Jandamarra's action became known.



On 10 November 1894, Jandamarra and some followers attacked five white men who were driving cattle to set up a large station in the heart of Bunuba land. Two of these men, Burke and Gibbs, were killed. The attackers took their horses, guns and other supplies. This was the first time that guns were used against European settlers in an organised fashion and began what became known as 'The Bunuba War'.

The Aboriginals escaped capture by hiding in the rocky surroundings of the isolated Windjana Gorge and Tunnel Creek. Jandamarra was held in awe by Aboriginal people. They believed he was immortal, and his spirit resided in a spring near Tunnel Creek.

The rebellion against the white men taking Bunuba land lasted several years. In 1894, a police party tracked down the rebels. In the battle that followed men from both groups were killed. It was thought Jandamarra was among the dead, but he escaped after playing 'possum'. The police recruited an excellent Aboriginal tracker from the Pilbara. This tracker, who knew the Aboriginal ways and had no fear of Jandamarra's 'magic', tracked him down, killing him at Tunnel Creek.

The troopers took Jandamarra's head as proof that he was dead. It was sent to England as a trophy. Jandamarra was buried by a boab tree by his family in the Napier Ranges.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jandamarra>

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NAPLAN*-style

YEAR

6

SAMPLE TEST

READING

FIRST NAME _____

LAST NAME _____

CLASS _____

0:65

Time available for students to complete the Reading Test: 65 minutes

Use 2B or HB pencil **only**.



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YEAR 6 READING

Read *Once* on page 2 of the magazine and answer questions 1 to 7.

1 The narrator is

- trying to understand computer language.
- most likely going to die.
- not likely to change his or her ways.
- losing his or her memory.

Fill in
one
circle.



2 The poem has the line *A cursor used bad language*.

What does the narrator mean by this line?

- People get upset when they cannot locate the cursor.
- Operators shouldn't swear at their computer.
- Screen cursors are difficult to find.
- A person who curses uses foul language.

3 The narrator of this poem is most likely

- a young girl.
- an older person.
- a computer operator.
- a technician.

4 The poet states:

I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash

But when it happens they'll wish they were dead!

What is the poet most likely suggesting by these lines?

- Computer crashes can cause serious injuries.
- Someone will eventually be killed in a computer crash.
- Trying to understand computer talk can cause a breakdown.
- The loss of all their data can be devastating for some people.

YEAR 6 READING

5 A suitable alternative title for the poem would be

- The computer crash
- My pad and paper
- Life before computers
- Words fail me

Fill in
one
circle.



6 The poem is amusing because

- old people know nothing about computers.
- many of the terms used have double meanings.
- it is about modern times.
- no one really thinks like the poem's narrator.

7 The cartoon is placed with the poem because it shows

- how much computers have taken over the lives of children.
- children have a good understanding of computers.
- reading is more fun than using a computer.
- children are embarrassed when talking about babies.

Read *Sydney 2075* on page 3 of the magazine and answer questions 8 to 14.

8 What had Ubet most likely been doing?

- exploring the city
- looking for food
- hunting for mutant rats
- hiding from feral animals

YEAR 6 READING

9 What had Ubet's cave been in earlier times?

Write your answer on the line.



10 The extract creates an atmosphere of

desperation.

deprivation.

despair.

dissatisfaction.

11 What was the point of comparing Ubet to medieval Egyptian peasants?

The Egyptians had no concept of how or why the pyramids were built.

The pyramids had no windows and the city buildings had glassless windows.

The Egyptians had once been great builders similar to the builders of Sydney.

All great civilisations eventually fall into disrepair.

12 What was the most likely reason for the large abyss in the sandstone bedrock?

It was an incomplete pond designed to supply fish to the tribe.

It was a natural formation left unchanged in the city.

It had once been a quarry or mine.

It was the base work of a multistorey building that would never be finished.

13 The writer states that Boy was a *strange human creature*.

This suggest that Ubet was

not a city person.

losing his memory.

from another planet.

a survivor from another era.

YEAR 6 READING

14 The behaviour of the animals suggests that they were

- unable to survive in the city conditions.
- confused by the presence of Ubet.
- reverting to their wild state.
- being trained for unnatural tasks.

Fill in
one
circle.



Read *Norfolk Island timeline* on page 4 of the magazine and answer questions 15 to 20.

15 Who are the longest surviving inhabitants of Norfolk Island?

- the Polynesian settlers
- free settlers off the First Fleet
- Pitcairn Islanders
- the *Bounty* mutineers

16 In which year did the last of the convicts leave Norfolk Island?

Write your answer on the line.



17 The writer states that in 1897:

Administration of the island is transferred to the government of New South Wales.

What does the word *administration* refer to?

- management of the island's affairs
- the island becoming a colony
- the island being renamed
- the island joining Tasmania as an island state

YEAR 6 READING

Fill in
one
circle.



18 Who is in charge of Norfolk Island at this moment?

- the New South Wales Government
- the Australian Government
- the World Heritage Committee
- the Norfolk Islanders

19 Who is said to have first discovered Norfolk Island?

- Polynesian settlers
- Captain Cook
- Pitcairn Islanders
- Captain Bligh of the *Bounty*

20 Norfolk Island's history is closely linked to Australia's history through

- Cook and Bligh's Pacific voyages.
- being part of the colonisation of Australia.
- Bligh's governorship of New South Wales.
- the establishment of prisons on the island.

Read *How to play Boxes* on page 5 of the magazine and answer questions 21 to 26.

21 Boxes would be a most suitable activity for

- members of a family.
- patients in hospital.
- a children's birthday party.
- a games arcade.

YEAR 6 READING

22 Why are Terri and Lenny mentioned in the picture?

- They are two good players.
- They provide an example of a game for two players.
- It is simple to write their initials in boxes.
- The picture is a visual example of how to initial boxes.

Fill in
one
circle.



23 The writer uses the word *thwart*. A word with a similar meaning is

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| injure. | prevent. | defeat. | melt. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

24 Which statement is correct?

- Players can only draw one line at a time.
- The winner of the game is the last player to make a box.
- The game is much faster with four rather than two players.
- Organising a good game of boxes requires lots of preparation.

25 A *chain* of boxes is

- any straight line of boxes.
- a set of boxes made by one player in one turn.
- alternative boxes joined by a straight line.
- a number of boxes in different grid positions.

26 The time taken to play boxes is usually short. Give two reasons why the game may last longer. Write your answer on the lines.

1. _____

2. _____



YEAR 6 READING

Read *Superstitions* on page 6 of the magazine and look at the cartoon and answer questions 27 to 32.



- 27** According to the text, superstitions
- are based upon real experiences.
 - only work for people who believe in them.
 - are the only way to ensure good fortune.
 - have no logical reason to be accepted as reliable.

- 28** In the cartoon one character says: *'I've never been superstitious—touch wood.'* What is she indicating by saying this?
- Wood brings more good fortune than other materials.
 - She doesn't appreciate that she is contradicting herself.
 - She feels she has to convince her friend.
 - Bad luck only happens to people who are superstitious.

- 29** Which of the following is a superstition?
- Santa Claus lives at the North Pole.
 - It's bad luck to walk under a ladder.
 - Rain always follows a drought.
 - A pinch and a punch for the first of the month.

- 30** The look on the face of the girl listening indicates
- mild amusement.
 - momentary relief.
 - long-suffering disbelief.
 - strained friendship.

YEAR 6 READING

31 If someone's belief is regarded as irrational it would mean that the belief

- hadn't been tested.
- cannot be proven one way or the other.
- is not based upon logical reason.
- is only partly true.

Fill in
one
circle.



32 The text states that superstitious people believe that *future events can be foretold by specific unrelated prior events*.

Which of these events would **not** conform to this way of thinking?

- getting a wish after blowing out all your birthday candles
- If a bird flies through your house, it indicates important news is coming.
- breaking a mirror being followed by seven years of bad luck
- the weather predictions on the television

Read *United Nations International Year* on page 7 of the magazine and answer questions 33 to 38.

33 According to the text which statement is correct?

- There is an International Year every year.
- The first International Year was in 1986.
- Volunteer workers have a place in International Years.
- It is essential for nations to support UN International Years.

34 Write the numbers 1 to 4 in the boxes to show the order of these International Years.

- International Year of Space
- International Year of the Ocean
- World Refugee Year
- International Year of Peace

YEAR 6 READING

35 The year 1996 was the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. Which word could best replace *eradication*?

improving

managing

renewing

abolition



Fill in
one
circle.



36 In line 1, the initials UN are in brackets (UN). What is the purpose of this? Write your answer on the line.



37 Which of the following issues could be considered for a UN International Year?

the protection of pandas

the quality of air

speed limits on highways

banning of junk food advertising

38 As a generalisation, most International Years focus on

caring for the environment.

raising money for world projects.

improving the quality of life.

the prevention of wars.

Read *Jandamarra* on page 8 of the magazine and answer questions 39 to 45.

39 This text is

a historical recount.

an Aboriginal legend.

a police report.

an information account.

YEAR 6 READING

- 40** The people from the Bunuba land would most likely regard Jandamarra as a
war criminal. ruthless rebel. protector. traitor.

- 41** Write the numbers 1 to 4 in the boxes to show the order of events in the passage.

- Jandamarra and some followers kill Burke and Gibbs.
 Jandamarra helps capture some local Aboriginal people.
 Prisoners convince Jandamarra to let them go free.
 An Aboriginal tracker is used by police to find Jandamarra.

- 42** The Bunuba War was significant because

- it was won by the European settlers.
 control of sacred land was the issue.
 it was an organised revolt against white settlement.
 Jandamarra escaped capture for many years.

Fill in
one
circle.



- 43** How did the Aboriginal people feel about white settlement?

- resentful welcoming indifferent optimistic

- 44** Why did Jandamarra let the Aboriginal prisoners go free?

- They threatened him with a gun.
 They put a magic spell on him.
 They persuaded him their fight was just.
 They had spent enough time in prison.

YEAR 6 READING

45 The Aboriginal rebels eluded capture for a long time because they

- used their magic powers.
- knew the country better than other people.
- didn't leave tracks that could be followed.
- had the help of immortal spirits.

Fill in
one
circle.



END OF TEST

Year 6 NAPLAN*-style Sample Test

READING ANSWERS

1. not likely to change his or her ways.
2. A person who curses (swears) uses foul language.
3. an older person.
4. The loss of all their data can be devastating for some people.
5. Life before computers
6. many of the terms used have double meanings.
7. how much computers have taken over the lives of children.
8. looking for food
9. an underground loading dock for a big store
10. deprivation.
11. The Egyptians had no concept of how or why the pyramids were built.
12. It was the base work of a multistorey building that would never be finished.
13. a survivor from another era.
14. reverting to their wild state.
15. free settlers off the First Fleet
16. 1856
17. management of the island's affairs
18. the Norfolk Islanders
19. Polynesian settlers
20. being part of the colonisation of Australia.
21. members of a family.
22. The picture is a visual example of how to initial boxes.
23. prevent.
24. Players can only draw one line at a time.
25. a set of boxes made by one player in one turn.
26. larger grids are used, and more than two players are playing
27. have no logical reason to be accepted as reliable.
28. She doesn't appreciate that she is contradicting herself.
29. It's bad luck to walk under a ladder.
30. long-suffering disbelief.
31. is not based upon logical reason.
32. the weather predictions on the television
33. Volunteer workers have a place in International Years.
34. 3, 4, 1, 2
35. abolition
36. It tells us that UN stands for United Nations and it saves writing the full title (United Nations) every time it is used in the text.
37. the quality of air
38. improving the quality of life.
39. a historical recount.
40. protector.
41. 3, 1, 2, 4
42. it was an organised revolt against white settlement.
43. resentful
44. They [the prisoners] persuaded him their fight was just.
45. knew the country better than other people.