ICAS PRACTICE BOOKLET

# You’ve got this.

A short practice booklet for Year 3 and Year 4 students getting ready to sit ICAS.

**My name** _____

**My school** _____

**My year level** _____

icasassessments.com

# Hello — welcome to your practice booklet.

This little booklet is yours. You can write in it, circle things, and tick boxes. It is here to help you feel comfortable with ICAS before sitting day, so the questions feel familiar when you see them.

### What is ICAS?

ICAS is a fun set of questions that lots of students all around the world answer at the same time of year. It is not like a normal test at school.

- There are no marks for spelling or handwriting — the answers are multiple choice. You just choose the best one.
- There are easier questions at the start, and trickier ones later. You don't need to get them all right.
- You earn a certificate just for taking part — the better you do, the higher the certificate.

> **A friendly reminder.**
> Don't worry if a question looks tricky. Take a slow breath, read it again, and have a go. There are always easier questions waiting on the next page.

# How an ICAS question works.

Every ICAS question has three parts. Look for them as you read.

### 1. The stimulus.

A short text, picture, or table to read or look at first. Read it carefully — you'll need it to answer.

### 2. The question.

What you actually need to answer. Underline the most important word in the question — it tells you what to look for.

### 3. Four answer choices.

Only one is the best answer. If you aren't sure, cross out the ones you know are wrong first — then choose from what's left.

### You'll do ICAS on a computer.

ICAS is done on a computer or tablet at school. As well as choosing A, B, C or D, you might click a word in a sentence, click a spot on a picture, drag things into groups, or type a number into a box. Your teacher will show you the screen before sitting day. The thinking is the same.

### Try it.

On the next pages, you'll see seven warm-up questions — in English, Maths and Science. Have a go at each one. Answers are at the back of this booklet, but no peeking until you've tried!

WARM-UP · ENGLISH

# Reading.

Read this short story carefully. Then answer the two questions underneath.

## The Earl of Sandwich.

The Earl of Sandwich looked at his cards and frowned. His stomach rumbled but he didn't want to stop playing. The Earl clicked his fingers. The smell of peas, celery and onion came wafting in. His servant appeared carrying pea soup. He slurped the soup while holding his cards. The soup sloshed onto the cards. The Earl frowned and clicked his fingers.

The smell of roasted meat rushed into the room. His servant appeared carrying cut up chicken. The Earl nibbled the meat whilst holding his cards. The meat left a greasy smear on the cards. The Earl frowned and clicked his fingers.

The smell of warm toast filled the room. His servant appeared carrying salted meat between two slices of toasted bread. The Earl crunched into the toast and meat. He looked at his cards and nodded, then beamed. His playing partner laughed and said, 'I'll have what Sandwich is having.' And so the sandwich was born.

### Question 1

In the third paragraph, when the Earl of Sandwich 'beamed', what was he doing?

**(A)** winning

**(B)** agreeing

**(C)** nodding

**(D)** smiling

*My answer: ____*

### Question 2

Which problem did the Earl of Sandwich find a solution for?

**(A)** how to decide what type of food to serve

**(B)** how to eat with one hand while keeping clean

**(C)** how to be successful at card games

**(D)** how to feed his guests quickly

*My answer: ____*

WARM-UP · MATHEMATICS

# Numbers and shapes.

Three quick questions. Try to picture each one in your head before you choose an answer.

## Question 3

Susan counted 20 petals on the flowers she picked. Each flower had 5 petals. How many flowers did she pick?

**(A)** 2
**(B)** 3
**(C)** 4
**(D)** 5

*My answer: ____*

## Question 4

Jess drew 2 groups of 4 butterflies. She wants 3 groups in total. How many more butterflies must she draw?

**(A)** 1
**(B)** 4
**(C)** 8
**(D)** 12

*My answer: ____*

## Question 5

Ella had 20 jelly bears. She had 6 bags. Ella placed the same number of jelly bears in each bag. How many jelly bears did Ella have left over?

**(A)** 1
**(B)** 2
**(C)** 3
**(D)** 4

*My answer: ____*

WARM-UP · SCIENCE

# Looking and thinking.

Two science questions. They want you to think carefully — not to remember a fact.

## Question 6

Animals use their senses to explore their surroundings. Butterflies use their feet to sense the chemicals on the plant they are standing on. Which sense organ of people has a similar use to that of a butterfly's feet?

**(A)** tongue

**(B)** skin

**(C)** nose

**(D)** feet

*My answer: ____*

## Question 7

When you place an object under water, it pushes the water out of the way and the water level goes up. This is called displacement. Jane placed 4 cubes in 15 millilitres (mL) of water. How much water, in mL, did the cubes displace?

**(A)** 4

**(B)** 5

**(C)** 15

**(D)** 20

*My answer: ____*

# Six tips for sitting day.

Read these the night before. They really help.

1. Read every question twice. ICAS questions can hide a clue in just one word.
2. If a question feels hard, draw a small star next to it and skip it for now. Come back at the end.
3. Cross out the answers you know are wrong. The right one is easier to spot when there are fewer choices left.
4. Pace yourself. Don’t rush, but keep moving. There is enough time — you don’t need to hurry.
5. Always pick an answer, even if you have to guess. There is no penalty for guessing in ICAS.
6. Be proud of trying. Some questions are designed to stretch the strongest students — they are meant to be tricky.

**On the morning.**

Eat a good breakfast. You’ll sit ICAS on a computer or tablet at school — your teacher will show you the screen. Bring a pencil and paper for working things out. Take a slow breath before you start. You are ready.

# Answers.

Check your answers, and read the "Why" — it shows you the thinking behind each one. Don’t worry if you didn’t get them all right. Each one you understood today is a step forward.

| Question | Answer | Why |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **(D) smiling** | "Beamed" means a wide, happy smile — he was pleased with his idea. |
| 2 | **(B)** | The Earl wanted to keep his cards clean while still eating with one hand. The sandwich solved it. |
| 3 | **(C) 4** | 20 petals ÷ 5 petals per flower = 4 flowers. |
| 4 | **(B) 4** | She has 2 groups of 4. One more group of 4 makes 3 groups. She must draw 4 more. |
| 5 | **(B) 2** | 20 ÷ 6 = 3 in each bag, with 2 left over (3 × 6 = 18; 20 − 18 = 2). |
| 6 | **(A) tongue** | Like a butterfly’s feet, our tongue senses chemicals — that’s how we taste. |
| 7 | **(B) 5** | Together the 4 cubes pushed 5 mL of water out of the way, so the water level rose from 15 mL to 20 mL. |

## See you on sitting day.

Take a breath. Read each question twice. Pick the best answer.

*You’ve got this.*