



**CHED**

CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT  
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# The National Benchmark Tests

Testing for 2015 Access  
and Placement

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## WHAT ARE THE NATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS?

The National Benchmark Tests (NBT) measure your academic readiness for University.

## WHICH TESTS MUST I WRITE?

The faculty where you apply will determine which test/s you must write and the deadlines for receiving your results.

## WHERE CAN I WRITE THE TESTS?

A complete schedule with all the test locations is on the NBT website ([www.nbt.ac.za](http://www.nbt.ac.za)). **If there are no tests near to where you live**, send us an e-mail ([nbt@uct.ac.za](mailto:nbt@uct.ac.za)) or phone us (021-650 3523) and we will try to schedule a special site for your test.

## WHY DO I HAVE TO WRITE THE TESTS?

The NBTs are used by some of the top universities in the country. They help higher education institutions to interpret school leaving results such as those of the National Senior Certificate (NSC). The test results support, but don't replace or duplicate, NSC results.

Some South African higher education institutions use the NBTs for admission and others use them to determine whether you will need extra academic support during your studies. They also assist with the development of curricula. Find out from the institution you are applying to whether you are required to write the tests.

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM THE TESTS?

- There are two tests. Academic Literacy, Quantitative Literacy (which are combined: AQL), and Mathematics (MAT). For more information about what the tests focus on, go to our web site: [www.nbt.ac.za](http://www.nbt.ac.za).
- Quantitative Literacy is similar to Mathematical Literacy.
- The tests are written in English and Afrikaans. For students with disabilities, the AQL test has also been translated into Braille.
- Each test requires you to apply prior learning - what you know and are able to do - to materials that reflect expectations for first year students in university programmes.
- The tests are confidential, so there are no past papers and no special study materials to prepare for the tests.

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## WHEN CAN I WRITE?

Registration for all NBT sessions opens 1 April 2015.

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<b>NBT Test Dates</b>	<b>Last Day to Register Online</b>	<b>Last Day to Pay Fees</b>	<b>Results Available to Institutions</b>	<b>Results Available to Writers</b>
23-May-15	03-May-15	09-May-15	22-Jun-15	29-Jun-15
6-Jun-15	17-May-15	23-May-15	29-Jun-15	6-Jul-15
*07-Jun-15	17-May-15	23-May-15	29-Jun-15	6-Jul-15
20-Jun-15	31-May-15	06-Jun-15	20-Jul-15	27-Jul-15
*21-Jun-15	31-May-15	06-Jun-15	20-Jul-15	27-Jul-15
27-Jun-15	07-Jun-15	13-Jun-15	27-Jul-15	3-Aug-15
**03-Jul-15	14-Jun-15	20-Jun-15	3-Aug-15	11-Aug-15
4-Jul-15	14-Jun-15	20-Jun-15	3-Aug-15	11-Aug-15
18-Jul-15	28-Jun-15	04-Jul-15	11-Aug-15	17-Aug-15
*19-Jul-15	28-Jun-15	04-Jul-15	11-Aug-15	17-Aug-15
1-Aug-15	12-Jul-15	18-Jul-15	24-Aug-15	31-Aug-15
15-Aug-15	26-Jul-15	01-Aug-15	7-Sep-15	14-Sep-15
*16-Aug-15	26-Jul-15	01-Aug-15	7-Sep-15	14-Sep-15
29-Aug-15	09-Aug-15	15-Aug-15	21-Sep-15	28-Sep-15
12-Sep-15	23-Aug-15	29-Aug-15	5-Oct-15	12-Oct-15
19-Sep-15	30-Aug-15	05-Sep-15	12-Oct-15	19-Oct-15
26-Sep-15	06-Sep-15	12-Sep-15	19-Oct-15	26-Oct-15
3-Oct-15	13-Sep-15	19-Sep-15	26-Oct-15	2-Nov-15
10-Oct-15	20-Sep-15	26-Sep-15	2-Nov-15	9-Nov-15
*11-Oct-15	20-Sep-15	26-Sep-15	2-Nov-15	9-Nov-15
28-Nov-15	08-Nov-15	14-Nov-15	14-Dec-15	14-Dec-15
5-Dec-15	15-Nov-15	21-Nov-15	18-Dec-15	18-Dec-15
*06-Dec-15	15-Nov-15	21-Nov-15	18-Dec-15	18-Dec-15
**08-Jan-16	13-Dec-15	19-Dec-15	1-Feb-16	8-Feb-16
9-Jan-16	13-Dec-15	19-Dec-15	1-Feb-16	8-Feb-16

\* Sunday test session

\*\* Friday test session

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## WHEN SHOULD I WRITE?

You should write when you feel ready, but make sure that you write in time to meet all deadlines and requirements for the programme(s) to which you are applying. You must write both tests on the same day. You are allowed to write the NBT a second time, but you will need to confirm with your faculty first that a second score will be accepted.

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## HOW DO I REGISTER TO WRITE?

You must register on the internet.

1. Access the NBT website: [www.nbt.ac.za](http://www.nbt.ac.za), click on “Register to Write” and then follow the prompts. You can also register via the internet on your cell phone.
2. A letter confirming your registration and containing an EasyPay barcode will be available for you to download and print after you click on “submit”. You must take your registration letter to an EasyPay Paypoint to pay the testing fees.

You may also pay on the EasyPay website: [www.easypay.co.za](http://www.easypay.co.za). It is not necessary to bring these to the test site, but you should print out and keep copies. Results are released only for paid tests.

Registration is date and site specific. If you miss your scheduled writing session, or wish to write a second time, you must register and pay again.

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## DID YOU KNOW:

If there is no NBT test site near to where you live, you can send us an email or phone us and we'll try to arrange a special site for your test.

<http://www.nbt.ac.za>

[nbt@uct.ac.za](mailto:nbt@uct.ac.za)

021-650-3523



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