

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000028

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked on 10 February 2016, Proof Hansard page 38

Literacy and numeracy tests

Question

Senator O'NEILL: There are many questions, and people need to be aware of that in the public place. Yes, it is an efficient way of getting a lot of people ticked off—on the list or off the list—but there would be many questions around what it measures and how effective it is going to be as a predictor of what people can do. How many questions are on the literacy test and how many questions are on the numeracy test?

Ms Evans: I do not know the answer to that question. We can certainly take that on notice.

...

Senator O'NEILL: In your pilot of the test, how many had to be right to reach the requirement of the 30 per cent literacy standards?

Ms Evans: Again, I do not know the answer to that. I will need to take it on notice.

Answer

Each component of the test (literacy and numeracy) consists of 60 test questions and five additional questions, which are trialled for possible inclusion in future tests, for a total of 130 questions.

For the pilot phase run in August and September 2015, statistically equated test forms were constructed for the test from a large pool of items (12 forms for literacy, 14 for numeracy). The exact number of questions a candidate was required to answer correctly to meet the standard varied depending on which form was administered. Results for each test were determined based on the standard required, irrespective of the version of the test administered.