

Core Skills Profile for Adults (CSPA)

Undertaking the Core Skills Profile for Adults (CSPA)

How does the screener work in CSPA Reading and Numeracy?

CSPA Reading and Numeracy components contain a set of initial screener questions. The number of correct responses over the first ten questions in each of these assessment areas determines whether the remaining 15 questions include mainly low, moderate or high level ACSF questions.

What level of support can I offer to the learner when completing CSPA Assessments?

The teacher or administrator can support the learner to understand how the online assessment operates – how to navigate pages, how to respond and answer questions, etc. – but they should **not** give any advice that helps the learner understand the stimulus text provided or to answer the question. The CSPA Practice assessment is a good way to show the learner how the system works prior to undertaking the actual assessments.

Learners should be encouraged to attempt every question. Questions are not necessarily arranged from easiest to hardest within an assessment, so if they experience difficulty they should move on to the next question as it will not necessarily be harder. The system allows participants to move backwards and forwards through the questions using the selectable question numbers at the top of the page and also highlights those that have already been answered, so problematic ones can be revisited at the end of the assessment and answers changed if need be.

How can I help learners navigate long texts?

On some items where stimulus material cannot fit on one screen, you may see an instruction to ‘scroll to read more’. Making sure that your learners are aware of this and know to look for it, is an important way to ensure that they read all of the available information possible before answering a question. If they miss something at the bottom of a screen, the question may make limited or no sense.

What resources should be made available to my learners?

Learners can use a pen or pencil and paper to make notes and calculations if necessary. For the CSPA Numeracy assessment, learners may use a calculator to help them answer the questions.

How long should the Snapshot Reading and Numeracy Indicator (SRNI) take?

The estimated maximum total time for undertaking **both** the reading and numeracy components of the Snapshot Reading and Numeracy Indicator (SRNI) is 15 – 20 minutes.

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How long should the full CSPA Assessments take?

The estimated average time to undertake each component of the full CSPA Assessment (CSPA Reading or CSPA Numeracy) is approximately 30 minutes, but more time can be taken if needed and many students may only require 20 to 25 minutes. Because a screener is included in each of the assessment areas, it is often the more capable students working at higher ACSF levels that take longer to answer, as the texts to read are longer and more challenging, and the questions harder.

Should learners complete all CSPA Assessments at once?

Students may complete multiple assessment components in one sitting; however in order to ensure accurate results, we recommend a short break between each full assessment component (5 – 10 minutes). The exception is the shorter Snapshot Reading and Numeracy Indicator (SRNI), where both the Reading and Numeracy components should be undertaken back to back without a break.