

Nova Scotia Examinations gather information about student performance based on the curriculum outcomes for English 10, Mathematics 10, and Mathématiques 10 (French Immersion). The curriculum outcomes for each of these courses can be found at <https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/>.

Nova Scotia Examinations are developed by the Student Assessment and Evaluation division at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Teachers from across the province are involved in the development and scoring of Nova Scotia Examinations. Examinations are first marked by the teacher for the 20% contribution to the final grade in the course. The Individual Student Report is based on provincial scoring and is intended to provide additional information to help teachers make decisions about instruction in the classroom.

Nova Scotia Examinations (NSE) provide

- teachers with information to help plan instruction
- parents and guardians with information about how their child is doing in reading, writing, and/or mathematics
- the department, regions, and schools with information to help make decisions

Student performance is reported across four levels in reading, writing, and mathematics. Level 3 is the expectation for all subject areas assessed. “Expectation” means the level of performance expected for students to continue meeting the learning demands in the subject areas assessed. These performance levels are discussed in more detail in the following sections. More information about Nova Scotia Examinations can be found at <https://plans.ednet.ns.ca/nova-scotia-examinations>.

English 10 – Reading

On the Nova Scotia Examination: English 10, students read a variety of grade level texts which include prose (short story, information text, essay, real-life narrative and other types of prose writing), poetry, and visual/media texts. Then they answer questions to show how well they understand what they read. Students also complete a written reading response to demonstrate their understanding of the texts. The four performance levels are described below. Level 3 is the expectation for this examination.

Nova Scotia Examination: English 10 Reading Performance Levels

- Level 1:** Students reading grade level text at performance Level 1 can find information that is clearly stated in the text. They can also infer information that is not directly stated but is clearly suggested in the text.
- Level 2:** Students reading grade level text at performance Level 2 can use information from the text to form a conclusion. They can use some text features like pictures and titles to help them understand the text. They can also make sense of some abstract language in the text; for example, they may understand that a person who feels “blue” is sad.
- Level 3:** Students reading grade level text at performance Level 3 can understand how different parts of the text fit together. They can make connections among information in different parts of the text and use the connections to form their own conclusions.
- Level 4:** Students reading grade level text at performance Level 4 can analyze and evaluate information from the text. They can also make complicated connections among parts of the text to form their own conclusions.

English 10 – Writing

On the Nova Scotia Examination: English 10, students complete two writing tasks (persuasive writing and reading response). Writing is scored in the following four areas.

- Ideas:** includes main ideas and supporting details
- Organization:** includes an orderly presentation of ideas
- Language Use:** includes word choice and style
- Conventions:** includes such things as punctuation, grammar, and spelling

Writing is scored with four levels of performance. Level 3 is the expectation for this examination. There is a score for each of the four areas. These scores reflect student performance on both writing tasks. There is no overall score for writing. The rubrics that teachers use to score each writing task can be found in the Information Guide at <https://plans.ednet.ns.ca/english10/documents>.

Mathematics 10/Mathématiques 10

On the Nova Scotia Examination: Mathematics 10, students complete a series of questions in each of the units of study (measurement, algebra and number, functions and relations, and financial mathematics). Questions are designed to assess how fully a student understands mathematics. French immersion students write the Mathematics 10 examination in French. The four performance levels are described below. Level 3 is the expectation for the examinations.

Nova Scotia Examination: Mathematics 10/Mathématiques 10 Performance Levels

- Level 1:** Students at Level 1 can generally solve problems when they are simple and clearly stated or where the method to solve the problem is suggested to them. They are able to carry out simple computations but are likely to make errors. They will have more success with problems dealing with mathematical concepts from earlier years. They can recognize some math terms and symbols, mainly from earlier grades.
- Level 2:** Students at Level 2 can generally solve problems similar to problems they have seen before. They depend on a few familiar methods to solve problems. They can carry out computations but may make errors. They can understand and use some math terms and symbols, especially those from earlier grades.
- Level 3:** Students at Level 3 can generally solve problems that involve several steps and may solve problems they have not seen before. They carry out computations with confidence making an occasional error and can judge whether an answer makes sense. They can understand and use many math terms and symbols, including those specific to the course of study.
- Level 4:** Students at Level 4 can solve new and complex problems. They can carry out computations with confidence and will rarely make an error. They can think carefully about whether an answer makes sense. They find math terms and symbols easy to use and to understand.

Questions and Answers

What courses are assessed with Nova Scotia Examinations?

- English 10
- Mathematics 10
- Mathématiques 10 (French Immersion)

Will the Individual Student Report affect a student's report card grade?

No, the examination was already marked by the teacher for the 20% contribution to the final grade in the course. The Individual Student Report is intended to provide additional information to help teachers make decisions about instruction.

The Individual Student Report seems to show a different level of performance than described on a student's report card. Why?

The Nova Scotia Examinations are one type of assessment and their purpose is to provide teachers with a well-balanced final assessment tool and to give information to help instruction and learning. A student's report card summarizes student learning over several months and is based on many types of assessment. You may want to talk with the teacher about these results and other evidence of learning.

The Individual Student Report indicates "Not Enough Evidence (NE)." Why?

"Not enough evidence" is indicated when we do not have a sufficient student response to make a fair judgment on performance; this does not mean that student performance was below Level 1. Such situations arise when examination materials are incomplete, damaged, or unreadable.

Where does one go for more information?

If you have questions about these results, please contact subject area teacher(s). If you would like more information about Nova Scotia Examinations or our provincial assessment program, please go to <https://plans.ednet.ns.ca>.