

FAQs - NAS 2021

An illustrative list of FAQs has been prepared for reference and clarity on various issues relating to the NAS – 2021. The list has been divided into 3 sections as below:

Category A	:	NAS Overview (SN. 1- 40),
Category B	:	Functionaries Involved in NAS - Roles and Responsibilities (SN. 41-58)
Category C	:	Survey related queries (SN. 59-72)

SN.	Questions	Answer
Category A: NAS Overview (SN. 1 – 40)		
1	What is NAS?	NAS stands for National Achievement Survey. It is the largest, nationwide, sample-based education survey conducted across India.
2	Why is NAS conducted?	To provide structured feedback on student learning levels at District, State, and national levels. These inputs are used for policy planning and designing pedagogical interventions to improve quality and ensure equity in learning.
3	What is the date of NAS 2021?	12th November 2021
4	Is NAS an examination conducted by the school?	NAS is NOT a school-based examination. It is a system-level assessment conducted on a nationally representative sample that aims to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the school education system in our country
5	How does NAS provide system-level feedback?	By administering standardized survey to students and collecting information on relevant background variables such as school environment, teaching processes, and student home and background factors.
6	Does NAS provide individual school or student performance scores?	NAS does not provide individual school or student scores. It provides a summary of performance at the District, State, and National levels, with the district as the unit for reporting
7	Can any school participate in NAS 2021?	No, Only the schools selected in sample can participate.
8	Which are the Grades in which NAS will be conducted?	Grades 3, 5, 8 and 10
9	Which Ministry conducts the National Achievement Survey?	NAS is undertaken by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India
10	Which organization under MoE is conducting NAS 2021?	Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
11	Which organization is designing assessment framework and tools for NAS-2021?	National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
12	What are key curricular areas to be assessed in Grade 3?	There are three key curricular areas in Grade 3: Language, Mathematics and Environmental Studies
13	What are key curricular areas to be assessed in Grade 5?	There are three key curricular areas in Grade 5: Language, Mathematics and Environmental Studies
14	What are curricular areas to be assessed in Grade 8?	There are four curricular areas in Grade 8: Language, Mathematics, Science and Social Science,
15	What are curricular areas to be assessed in Grade 10?	There are five curricular areas in Grade 10: Language, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and English
16	What is the student testing load?	It refers to the total number of test booklets and items that will be administered to each student

17	What are the parameters of surveying?	NAS is based on grade specific competencies and learning outcomes across the key curricular subjects in key grades
18	How is NAS 2021 framework designed?	It is carefully designed by the NCERT to enhance validity, reliability and interpretability of the derived measures of student learning
19	What is Modular Matrix design for Grade 8 and 10?	In modular matrix design, each student takes a combination of only 2 subjects. A multi-subject, modular matrix design is characteristic of many large-scale assessments and is an established industry practice. Assessments like PISA, TIMSS, make effective use of modular design when two or more subjects are covered by testing programs.
20	How many test booklets are there for Grade 3 and 5?	4 test booklets (all subjects included in each test booklet)
21	How many total items are there in Grade 3?	47
22	How many total items are there in Grade 5?	53
23	How many test booklets are there for Grade 8?	4 test booklets (2 subjects in each test booklet following modular matrix design)
24	How many total items are there in Grade 8?	60
25	How many test booklets are there for Grade 10?	5 test booklets (2 subjects in each test booklet following modular matrix design)
26	How many total items are there in Grade 10?	70
27	Where can we see the Assessment Framework?	Technical note on the Assessment Framework NAS 2021 prepared by NCERT is available on nas.education.gov.in under REPORTS tab in PDF form
28	What are the main objectives considered for determination of Sample Size?	<p>The main objectives considered for determination of sample size include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Measure student achievement at national level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overall national ○ By gender ○ By rural/ urban ○ By social group ○ By school management ● Measure student achievement at each state level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overall state ○ By gender within state ○ By rural/ urban within state ○ By social group within state ○ By school management within state ● Measure student achievement at each district level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overall district ○ By gender within district ○ By rural/ urban within district ○ By social group within district ○ By school management within district
29	Which are the sample frames of schools included in NAS 2021 sampling?	Four frames in NAS 2021 (as per UDISE+ 2019-20 data)
		Frame 1 State Government schools
		Frame 2 Government Aided schools
		Frame 3 Private Unaided recognized schools
	Frame 4 Central Government schools	
30	What is the maximum number of students to be administered the survey for a Grade in a school?	30

31	What to do if the enrollment in target grade is less than 30?	All students of the section will be selected for the Survey												
32	What to do if the enrollment in target grade in selected section is more than 30, and it is a single section grade?	Field Investigators and Observers will select 30 students as per procedure defined at Step 8 para 2 of Sampling Design Note – NAS 2021 available on nas.education.gov.in												
33	What to do if the enrollment in target grade in selected section is more than 30, and there are multiple sections in the grade?	Procedure as defined under step 8 para 3 of Sampling Design Note–NAS 2021 available on nas.education.gov.in is to be followed.												
34	How would the distribution of test booklets be done to students selected for the survey?	Packets containing the Assessment Booklet will be pre-arranged as per procedure at step 9 of Sampling Design Note–NAS 2021 available on nas.education.gov.in												
35	How many districts will be covered in NAS-2021?	733 Districts (as per UDISE+ Data 2019-20)												
36	Which States and UTs are surveyed in NAS 2021?	All States and Union Territories (UTs)												
37	How many schools are likely to be surveyed in NAS-2021?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,23,729* unique schools will be surveyed as per sampling of NAS 2021 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Target Grade</th> <th>Number of Schools</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Grade 3</td> <td>29,603</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 5</td> <td>28,656</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 8</td> <td>46,062</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 10</td> <td>48,564</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* Unique school – School counted as one School whether it only one target Grade or many target Grades selected in sample for Survey</p>	Target Grade	Number of Schools	Grade 3	29,603	Grade 5	28,656	Grade 8	46,062	Grade 10	48,564		
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38	How many students are likely to be surveyed in NAS-2021?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38,87,759 students will be surveyed as per target grade wise details given below: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Target Grade</th> <th>Enrollment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Grade 3</td> <td>6,55,128</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 5</td> <td>6,46,975</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 8</td> <td>12,04,777</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 10</td> <td>13,80,879</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>38,87,759</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Target Grade	Enrollment	Grade 3	6,55,128	Grade 5	6,46,975	Grade 8	12,04,777	Grade 10	13,80,879	Total	38,87,759
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Total	38,87,759													
39	Where can one reach for resolving queries and issues related to NAS-2021?	<p>NAS Cell, Professional Exam Unit, CBSE Headquarters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +91-8368736851 (to be made operational shortly) +91-7827286144 (to be made operational shortly) +91-8178999210 (to be made operational shortly) 												
40	Where would or to whom will the District Level Coordinator report?	<p>NAS Cell, Professional Exam Unit (CBSE) 2, Community Centre, Preet Vihar, CBSE, Delhi- 110092 e-mail: nascbse@gov.in</p>												

Category B: Functionaries Involved in NAS – Roles and Responsibilities (SN. 41 – 58)

41	What are different Functionaries involved in the conduct of NAS-2021?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CBSE at the National level as National Admin for Survey 2. State Nodal Officers (SNOs) at State level (to be appointed by State/UTs) 3. District Nodal Officers (DNOs) at District level (to be appointed by SNOs) 4. Field Investigators at the School level (to be appointed by DNOs for their district) 5. District Level Coordinators (DLCs) at District level (to be appointed by CBSE) 6. Resource Centre Custodian (RCC) at District level (to be appointed by CBSE) 7. Observers at the School level (to be appointed by DLCs for their district) 8. Board Representative at the District level (to be appointed by CBSE)
42	What are key Organizations / involved at the national level and their Major role?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India – Coordination, Funding and Guidance 2. NCERT - Assessment Developer 3. CBSE - Assessment Administrator 4. NIC - ICT Intervention Automation 5. NITI AAYOG - Advisory Support 6. UNICEF - Technical Support
43	Who are SNOs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State Nodal Officers are senior level officer nominated by the State. They are appointed from Education Department (SCERT or Directorate) as decided by the State. They will have administrative discretion vested in them for ensuring a hassle-free conduct of survey in the State/UT.
44	What are the Roles and Responsibilities of SNOs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Act as a key Link for coordination between State/UT, the Ministry of Education, CBSE, NIC, ● Nomination of the District Nodal Officers (DNOs) for each district in their respective State/UTs and upload the same on the NAS portal ● Issue instructions to DNOs & Schools to ensure support in survey ● Extend support (as required) to CBSE in the conduct of NAS
45	Is there any specific role of State Nodal Officer (SNO), in context of conducting in COVID scenario?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SNOs will ensure necessary administrative approvals are in place so that the scheduled activities of NAS including the participation of the sampled schools, the students and the appointed functionaries in the survey is not hampered ● Also provide facilitative support as needed in the field
46	Who are DNOs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DNOs are District Education Officers or equivalent, who would be appointed by State Nodal Officer (SNO) on the NAS portal through SNO login.
47	What are the Roles and Responsibilities of DNOs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Would nominate Field Investigator (FIs) required for conduct of survey in the sampled school in their District. The number of FIs to be nominated will be available on the DNO's login on NAS portal ● Would issue instructions / directives relating to NAS conduct, protocols, training schedules etc., and ensure mandatory reporting for duty and attending the trainings arranged by the NAS Cell, CBSE HQ / DLC
48	Who are Field Investigators?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Field Investigators are nominated by the District Nodal Officer (DNO) from amongst the staff of SCERT, DIETs, BRCs, CRCs, B.Ed./M.Ed. faculties, Interns
49	What are the Roles and Responsibilities of the Field Investigators?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FI would coordinate with the Observer / DLC for conduct of NAS as per SoP ● Carry out sampling of Section and Students in the assigned grade as per the procedure and complete other responsibilities in association with the Observer ● Complete the Survey Questionnaires, Field Note, and Control Sheet ● Assisting Grade 3 and Gr 5 students for OMR of PQ filling in an interactive mode ● Assist Gr-3 and 5 in OMR filling of Achievement Test
50	To whom will the FI report across different stages of conduct of NAS?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To the District Nodal Officer (DNO) during the nomination stage ● To the District Level Coordinator (DLC) after appointment ● To the Observer on a week prior to NAS and also on the day of NAS reporting at the assigned sampled school ● FIs would also take instructions from DLC depending on the on-ground situation
51	Who are DLCs?	District Level Coordinators are the principals of the affiliated schools with experience of handling sensitive assignments. They are appointed by the CBSE HQ.

52	What are the Roles and Responsibilities of DLCs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nomination of Observers (from local schools) using DLC Login and verification • Conduct of Training (Online/Offline) of FIs & Observers and others • Regular coordination with the NAS Cell, CBSE HQ • Storage/Distribution of materials and collection • Operate helpdesk in their school for coordination • Ensure smooth conduct of Survey as per the SoP / Administration Manual
53	With whom will the District Nodal Officer coordinate with?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will coordinate with the SNO at nomination stage and during the online nomination of Field Investigator on the NAS portal • DNO would also coordinate with DLC for resolving issues, if any
54	Who are Observers?	Observers are Vice Principals, PGT, TGT and PRT teachers from affiliated schools. They will be appointed and supervised by the District Level Coordinator
55	What are the Roles and Responsibilities of Observers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of Survey Materials from the Resource Centre Custodian • Reporting to assigned sampled school for conduct of Survey • Coordinate with the DLCs and FIs in advance prior to NAS day • Attend training / capacity building sessions as and when arranged • Conduct Survey as per the SoP made available on their NAS Login
56	Where would or to whom will the Observer report?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the District Level Coordinator at the nomination stage and after appointment • To the Resource Centre Custodian (RCC) on the day of NAS for collection of survey materials and report to the assigned sampled school for survey • Would take instructions from the DLC at all stages
57	What is the training strategy for various Functionaries?	The training for the different Functionaries will be done following a blended approach (Offline and Online as feasible).
58	Who are Board Representative and what is their role?	They are Board appointed officials (Officials of the Board / institutions in the central Govt./ principals of CBSE affiliated non-sample schools). They would report to the allotted district to monitor the overall functioning of the Survey Team under DLC and ensure fair conduct of NAS as well as secured movement of survey materials post NAS for the designated place. They will be appointed by the NAS Cell, CBSE HQ

Category C: Survey Tools and Administration Modalities (SN. 59 – 72)

59	What do Survey Materials mean?	<p>It means the Achievement Test Booklets and Background Questionnaires as below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil Questionnaire (PQ) – to be filled by sampled students • Teacher Questionnaire (TQ) – to be filled by subject teacher of target grade • School Questionnaire (SQ) – to be filled by school headmaster / principal • OMR Sheets inserted in the booklets • Field Notes and Control Sheet – to be filled by the FI / Observer
60	Will Background Questionnaires be administered same day?	Yes,
61	Who is responsible for secured storage of Survey Materials?	Resource Center Custodian (RCC) / District Level Coordinator (DLC) / Banks
62	What types of OMR sheets will be used in NAS 2021?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OMRs Achievement test for sampled students • OMRs for PQ for sampled students • OMRs for TQ for subject teachers • OMRs for SQ for school headmaster / principal
63	How will the OMRs be filled by Grade 3 and 5 students?	The OMRs for Grade 3 and 5 students will be filled with the assistance of Field Investigators and Observers maintaining sanctity
64	Will there be any involvement of SCERT / DNO / DLC in scanning or data capturing of OMRs? /	No. Scanning will be done centrally by the Administration Agency (CBSE) at a designated place.
65	Can the student take away the test booklets and survey questionnaires after the survey?	No, the student will hand over the Test Booklets and the OMRs to the Field Investigator/ Observer.
66	When do we need to conduct sampling of a section in the	Section Sampling needs to be carried out ONLY if there is more than one section for assigned Grades - that is 3,5,8 and 10 in the respective school

	sample school?	
67	When do we need to conduct a sampling of students in the sample school ?	Student Sampling needs to be carried out ONLY if there are more than 30 students enrolled in the selected section/class.
68	What to do if the school staff tries to help the student during the survey?	FI/Observer would prevent such things by politely requesting. In case, unable to do so, they would make a note of such activities as “ Unfair Means ” in the Field Notes / Control Sheet and also on the NAS portal report Tab (to be provided in due course) in the portal
69	Can students or teachers take the survey material home?	No , the students or teachers cannot take any survey material home
70	What help is desired from the Head of the Sampled School for conduct of NAS 2021?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide bigger room / hall for conduct of Survey following social distancing and COVID norms (sanitization and cleaning etc.) 2. Present class register to the Survey team for sampling and survey administration 3. Ensure discipline and a noise free atmosphere in and around the Survey Room 4. Arrange for a room, preferably at the ground floor keeping in view CWSN cases 5. Arrange for scribe in consultation with Observer and Field Investigator for CWSN 6. Provide extra time (~30 minutes) to complete survey for CWSN 7. Provide suitable furniture to the survey team for managing the survey affairs
71	Will all functionaries need to get vaccinated?	Yes, all functionaries involved in NAS 2021 administration need to get vaccinated. Those nominating various functionaries, may ascertain this at the time of nomination on the NAS Portal
72	What is expected from different Functionaries in terms of adherence to COVID appropriate behavior?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All Functionaries would put on a mask / face shield. ● Observe the required sanitization as per prevailing COVID guidelines ● Maintain social distancing as far as practically possible

NOTE: The exact Action Plan / Strategy and finer details for actual conduct of Survey on the day of NAS will be shared only with the Functionaries concerned at an appropriate time so as to maintain the SANCTITY of the NAS-2021. An extensive Capacity Building and Training Program is being taken up by the NAS Cell, CBSE for all the Functionaries.