



## HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE NBT

Register on the internet:

1. Access the NBT website: **www.nbt.ac.za**
2. Click on “**BOOK A TEST**” and follow the prompts.
3. You can also register via the internet on your **cell phone**.
4. A letter confirming your registration and containing a barcode/NBT reference number will be available for you to download and print after you click on “**SUBMIT**”.

**NOTE:** 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**.

### NBT COST



AQL only

**R195**



AQL & MAT

**R390**



Re-mark

**R250**



### PAYMENT FOR THE TEST

1. You must take your registration letter to an **Lesaka EasyPay Paypoint** to pay the testing fees.
2. You may pay on the **Lesaka EasyPay website** at [www.easypay.co.za](http://www.easypay.co.za)
3. You may pay by making a **direct deposit** or **EFT** payment to NBT Project.

[www.nbt.ac.za](http://www.nbt.ac.za)

# 2026 CALENDAR

NBT Test Dates	Last Day to Register Online	Last Day to Pay Fees	Results Available to Institutions	Results Available to Writers
9-May	19-Apr	27-Apr	1-Jun	8-Jun
16-May	26-Apr	4-May	8-Jun	15-Jun
30-May	10-May	18-May	22-Jun	29-Jun
6-Jun	17-May	25-May	29-Jun	6-Jul
7-Jun	17-May	25-May	29-Jun	6-Jul
20-Jun	31-May	8-Jun	13-Jul	20-Jul
27-Jun	7-Jun	15-Jun	20-Jul	27-Jul
4-Jul	15-Jun	22-Jun	27-Jul	3-Aug
5-Jul	15-Jun	22-Jun	27-Jul	3-Aug
11-Jul	21-Jun	29-Jun	3-Aug	10-Aug
18-Jul	28-Jun	6-Jul	10-Aug	17-Aug
25-Jul	5-Jul	13-Jul	17-Aug	24-Aug
1-Aug	12-Jul	20-Jul	24-Aug	31-Aug
2-Aug	12-Jul	20-Jul	24-Aug	31-Aug
15-Aug	26-Jul	3-Aug	7-Sep	14-Sep
22-Aug	2-Aug	10-Aug	14-Sep	21-Sep
29-Aug	9-Aug	17-Aug	21-Sep	28-Sep
5-Sep	16-Aug	24-Aug	28-Sep	5-Oct
12-Sep	23-Aug	31-Aug	5-Oct	12-Oct
26-Sep	6-Sep	14-Sep	19-Oct	26-Oct
3-Oct	13-Sep	21-Sep	26-Oct	2-Nov
10-Oct	20-Sep	28-Sep	2-Nov	9-Nov
9-Jan	6-Dec	14-Dec	1-Feb	8-Feb

\*Sunday test session (Pencil Paper)

\*\* Online test session

AQL: R195 / AQL & MAT: R390 / RE-MARK: R250



# 2026 THE NATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS



CEA  
Centre for  
Educational  
Assessments

Measuring your **academic readiness** for University.

[www.nbt.ac.za](http://www.nbt.ac.za)



## WHY DO I HAVE TO WRITE THE TESTS?

The NBTs are used by many 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?

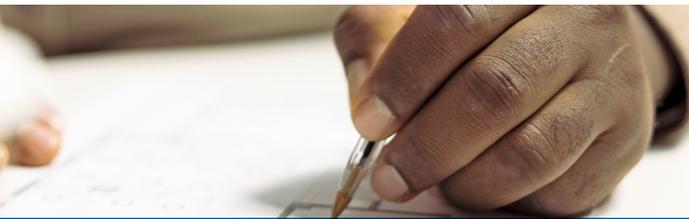
There are **two tests**: Academic Literacy, Quantitative Literacy (which are combined: **AQL**), and Mathematics (**MAT**). For more information about what the tests focus on, go to our web site: **www.nbt.ac.za**

The QL test is closely related to the intended outcomes of the NSC subject, Mathematical Literacy.

Students with disabilities are accommodated. The AL 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.**



## WHICH TESTS MUST I WRITE?

The **faculty or department** will determine which test/s you must write and the **deadlines** for receiving your results.



## WHEN SHOULD I WRITE?

You should write the NBT **before** the closing date of your university application, in order to meet all deadlines and requirements for the programme(s) to which you are applying. You must **write both** AQL and MAT tests on the **same day**.

You are allowed to write the NBT for a **second time**, but you will need to **confirm** with your faculty first that a second score will be accepted.



## APPLY AS A REMOTE WRITER

A remote writer/student is someone who is **unable to write at an institution** that generally facilitates the national benchmark test sessions.

A remote writer is a writer who is **in another country** or in an area too remote to be able to make a trip of a reasonable distance to the nearest testing centre. Send an email to **nbtremote@uct.ac.za** to register as a remote writer.



## TEST RESULTS

1. **Login** to your NBT account approximately **four weeks after writing**, to access your results.
2. You will only be able to access them **if you have paid** for any tests for which you were registered.



## CHOOSE ONLINE OR THE PAPER TEST

1. The tests are **equilibrated** so there is no difference in writing the online or pencil and paper form of the NBT.
2. You should choose the test form that **suits you the best**.
3. The **online test** is convenient as you would normally write the test at home, but you will **need a computer** that meets the minimum specification and have **stable internet access** and **sufficient bandwidth or data**.
4. You may prefer to write in a **test venue** using the **pencil and paper** form of the NBT, in which case you should **book your test** in a venue closest to you on a date that suits you.



## WHERE CAN I WRITE THE TESTS?

A complete **schedule** with all the test locations is on the **NBT website** - **www.nbt.ac.za**. If there are no tests near to where you live, and the online test is not a viable option for you, send an **e-mail to nbt@uct.ac.za**, or phone us on **021 650 3523**.