



## 1. Preamble

The Architectural Practice Examination (APE) is a 3-part examination owned by the AACA. The APE has been adopted by all Australian state and territory architect registration boards as the national examination in architectural practice used to determine eligibility for registration as an architect.

Candidates apply to sit the exam through the architect registration board in the state or territory where they live. The results of the APE are accepted for recognising suitability for registration as an architect by all Boards regardless of which state or territory the candidates sat the examination.

This report focuses on Part 2 of the APE – the National Examination Paper. [More information about the APE is found here.](#)

## 2. APE Part 2 National Examination Paper

The objective of the National Examination Paper is to provide a reliable and valid test of knowledge and application in practice of the relevant performance criteria in the National Standard of Competency for Architects.

Candidates must pass the National Examination Paper as a condition of admission to APE Part 3 - Examination by Interview.

### Quality Assurance in the National Examination Paper

The professional content of the National Examination Paper is overseen by the APE National Convenor in consultation with the State and Territory APE Convenors appointed by each Architect Registration Board in Australia.

Specialist advice on assessment is provided by the team from the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). Program support is provided by the AACA.

The APE Examination Committee led by the National Convenor allocates nine scenarios to each Examination covering any of the performance criteria that may be tested in Part 2 of the APE. All of the Scenario Writers for the National Examination Paper are architects currently in practice and have participated in the formal Scenario Writing Workshops developed by the ACER.

Draft examination papers are reviewed by the APE Convenors and ACER. The Convenors' review is focused on jurisdictional issues, any practice anomalies or potential ambiguities across State and Territory boundaries, coverage of the performance criteria tested in each Examination and monitoring the balance of the level of difficulty of the questions. Draft Papers are issued to ACER for expert advice in relation to the Paper as an assessment instrument.

**Note:** ACER does not comment on the professional content of the NEP.

### **Structure of the National Examination Paper**

Each Examination Paper comprises nine scenarios reflecting current architectural practice contexts in Australia. See relevant performance criteria in the [National Standard of Competency for Architects](#) that may be tested in the Examination Paper.

Each scenario has five multiple-choice questions with each question having four possible answers.

Once finalised, the examination paper is forwarded to ACER for import into the online platform and testing prior to the implementation of the Examination.

### **3. Ongoing Challenge of COVID-19 National Examination Papers**

At the National Meeting of Architect Registration Boards in October 2020, it was agreed that both sessions of the 2021 National Examination Paper would be delivered via a remote proctored platform to facilitate national consistency of application of the NEP in 2021 given the ongoing COVID 19 situation.

### **4. Administration of the National Examination Paper**

The administration of the National Examination Paper is coordinated by AACA working with:

- **Architect Registration Boards**

The Architect Registration Boards provide information to AACA on their candidates. Boards are responsible for communicating NEP updates to candidates on the exam arrangements, and for issuing results to candidates in their State or Territory.

- **ACER**

ACER is responsible for providing professional advice relating to assessment and provide the online platform for the National Examination Paper.

ACER project managed the online remote proctoring of the April 2021 NEP with ProctorU on behalf of AACA.

### **5. Exam Results**

After each exam the APE Convenors participate in a debrief guided by ACER's statistical analysis of the cohort's responses to each question.

Calculation of results for the exam only occurs after the Debrief session has occurred.

Individualised examination results are issued to candidates by the respective Architect Registration Boards generally within four weeks of the date of the Examination Paper.

After each session of the APE, a Summary Report of how the national cohort performed by question by performance criteria is published on the AACA website. State specific information is made available only to the relevant Architect Registration Board.