



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 the purpose of 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. Part 2 of the 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 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 each Examination covering any of the performance that may be tested in the 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 the ACER. The Convenors' review is focussed 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, Examinations are forwarded to ACER for import into the online platform and testing prior to the implementation of the Examination.

3. Administration of the National Examination Paper

The administration of the National Examination Paper is co-ordinated by the AACA working closely with:

- **Architect Registration Boards**
The Architect Registration Boards provide information to AACA on their candidates. Boards are responsible for notifying candidates on the exam arrangements re date, time, venue etc, and for issuing results to candidates in their State or Territory.
- **Cliftons Venues**
Cliftons provide the venues for the National Examination Paper.
- **ACER**
ACER is responsible for providing professional advice relating to assessment and for implementation of the Examination on the online platform.

4. 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 this Debrief session has occurred.

Individualised Examination results are issued to candidates by the respective Architect Registration Boards within three 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 in the APE section of the AACA website. State specific information is made available only to the relevant Architect Registration Board.