

The Fourth Edition of the *Canadian Achievement Tests* (CAT·4) is being used by teachers, principals, and administrators across Canada to gather information which can be used to **inform instruction** and **programming** and to **measure achievement growth** over time. The appeal of CAT·4 is the abundance of information that can be collected with time- and cost-efficiency.

CAT·4 offers both multiple-choice and constructed-response components for K–12 Reading, Writing and Mathematics. These curriculum-based assessments are modular, allowing **flexibility in the selection and scheduling of assessments**. The modular format allows the user to choose the combination of assessments that best suits the intended purposes.

CAT·4 was **developed in Canada by Canadian educators**, and the assessments reflect Canadian diversity and social values. The development involved many curriculum, assessment and measurement specialists who worked together to align the assessments to the various provincial curriculum outcomes/expectations while adhering to sound psychometric principles. The result is assessments that are highly valid and reliable.

CAT·4 is a **nationally standardized** group of assessments which can provide criterion-referenced, norm-referenced, and standards-based scores. The availability of national and regional norms provides the opportunity to reference student achievement to other same-grade students across Canada (or a region of Canada) as well as to grade-level expectations or grade-based standards.

**Reports** for CAT·4 are available at the **student, class, school and district levels**. Scores are reported at the test level (e.g., Reading) and at the test objective level (e.g., Analysis); at the school and district levels, reports are also available at the test item level (e.g., Reading, Question 7). At the school and district levels, summary reports are also available for an unlimited number of student sub-groups (e.g., boys/girls, ELL/non-ELL).

Items from all CAT·4 assessments are **mapped onto the curriculum outcomes/expectations** for each of the provinces; the match tables can be found at [www.canadiantestcentre.com](http://www.canadiantestcentre.com). Teachers can use CAT·4 assessment results, together with the curriculum match tables, to help identify specific areas of strength and need. The CAT·4 *Teacher Resource Manual* can then be used as a source of ideas for instructional activities as teachers prepare lesson plans.

Principals and administrators can receive reports, such as the **Trend Analysis Report**, which help track growth in CAT·4 achievement scores over the years. This information, along with other school or district indicators, can provide the information needed for data-informed decision making.