

# Benefits to Universities

This common assessment tool:

- Enables uniform comparisons of prospective students with mixed experiences and from different socio-economic backgrounds
- Identifies applicants' potential for tertiary level study
- Supplements applicants' existing academic qualifications
- Facilitates selection judgements and simplifies admissions processes
- Provides a valid and reliable measure of reasoning.

ACER's ongoing research, quality assurance and technical analysis ensure the test continues to provide a good range of item difficulty to match the range of candidate abilities.

# Let us do the hard work

- Test questions are developed by a team of highly experienced item writers.
- Our online registration system can be adapted to suit each client university.
- ACER provide test supervision guidelines in accordance with stringent exam policies and procedures.
- All scoring is undertaken at ACER and analysed by experienced psychometricians.
- Results are released to UCAS, CAO, your institution, applicants, or any combination of the above.

# Current use of MSAP

The University of Salford, Manchester has used MSAP UK since 2013 to assist decisions for course place offers.

MSAP has been used in Ireland successfully since 2009 by University College Cork, University College, Dublin, University of Limerick and National University of Ireland, Galway.

Feel free to browse our websites:

<https://msap-uk.acer.edu.au>

<https://msap-ireland.acer.edu.au>

# Further information

If you have more questions about MSAP and how it may be applied within your university admissions process, please contact:

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# MSAP

*Mature Students Admissions Pathway*

## An overview for Client Institutions

Australian Council for Educational Research



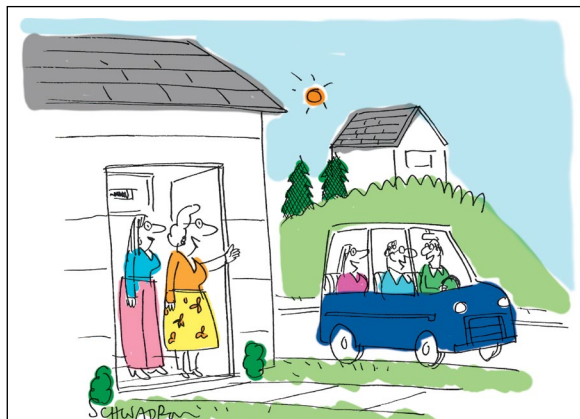
# What is MSAP?

MSAP stands for *Mature Students Admissions Pathway*. It is an assessment used for mature applicants to selected courses at various universities in Ireland and the UK.

MSAP provides measures of the types of competencies considered important for success in tertiary study. The purpose of MSAP is to assess candidates' ability to understand and analyse material and to think critically about issues. It is not a test of knowledge of specific academic subject matter.

MSAP is the ideal instrument for assessing the aptitude of applicants entering Higher Education through a non-traditional pathway.

MSAP allows applicants to provide evidence of their capacity to succeed at university.



The cartoon is a comment on

- A corporate loyalty.
- B the value of teamwork.
- C the social implications of a casualised workforce.
- D the social implications of a decentralised workforce.

Answer: D

Used with permission: [www.CartoonStock.com](http://www.CartoonStock.com)

Sample question:  
*Reasoning in the Humanities & Social Sciences (Module 2)*

# Three Modules

Tertiary institutions are given the option of three test modules that suit a wide range of admissions needs.

## Written English (Module 1)

### Essay format – 1 hour

There are two writing tasks. One invites an argumentative response; the other invites a personal response.

Written English is assessed on the following criteria:

- Thought and content
- Structure and organisation
- Expression, style and mechanics.

Each piece of writing is assessed by two independent, experienced markers.

## Reasoning in the Humanities & Social Sciences (Module 2)

### Multiple choice format – 1 hour

- Stimulus materials drawn from Humanities and Social Sciences contexts.
- Stimulus may be a cartoon, poem, graph, diagram, fiction/non-fiction narrative, etc.

## Reasoning in the Sciences, Mathematics & Social Sciences (Module 3)

### Multiple choice format – 1 hour

- Stimulus materials drawn from Science and Mathematics contexts.
- Stimulus may be in numeric, symbolic, spatial or graphical form.

# You Decide

The MSAP Office would be pleased to assist you to select an option that best suits the purposes of your institution or faculty.

MSAP test modules may be used in a variety of combinations. Examples of possible models:

