

SECTION SEVEN

TEST DATES

To facilitate forming equivalences among test forms, the test administration dates among the States/Territories need to take place at the same period of time.

Phase Two of the Project is likely to commence in late April 1997, six weeks after the submission of the Final Report for Phase One. Consultation with States/Territories indicated that the earliest time practicable when the testing for Phase Two can take place would be some time during the fourth term of the 1997 school year. The third term cannot be used because a number of States/Territories will be running their own State/Territory testing. Taking into consideration various practical issues, such as school holidays, the period between the second and third week of the fourth school term is suitable for administering the tests: that is, any weekday between 20 October and 31 October 1997.

This date leaves little time remaining in 1997 to conduct a large segment of the work required for Phase Two, particularly regarding test marking, data entry, test result analysis and reporting. Therefore, it is necessary that all the test marking, data entry and test analysis procedures are thoroughly rehearsed. Any delay in the execution of any of the components after October will almost certainly prevent the deadline of January 1998 for reporting in Phase Two being met.