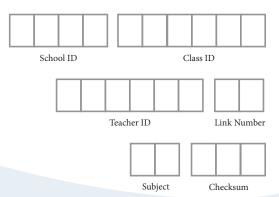
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## **TIMSS 2011**

# Teacher Questionnaire Science

## **Grade 8**

#### **National Center for Education Statistics**

U.S. Department of Education 1990 K St., NW Washington, DC 20006



According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1850-0645. Approval expires XX/XX/2011. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving the survey instrument, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4537. If you have any comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual response to this survey, write directly to: National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 K Street, N.W., Room 9034, Washington, D.C. 2000.

## **Teacher** Questionnaire

Your school has agreed to participate in TIMSS 2011 (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study), an educational research project sponsored by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). TIMSS measures trends in student achievement in mathematics and science and studies differences in national education systems in more than 60 countries in order to help improve teaching and learning worldwide.

This questionnaire is addressed to teachers of eighth-grade students, and seeks information about teachers' academic and professional backgrounds, classroom resources, instructional practices, and attitudes toward teaching. Since your class has been selected as part of a nationwide sample, your responses are very important in helping to describe eighth-grade education in the United States.

Some of the questions in the questionnaire refer to the "TIMSS class" or "this class". This is the class that is identified on the front of this booklet, and which will be tested as part of TIMSS in your school. If you teach some but not all of the students in the TIMSS class, please think only of the students that you teach when answering these class-specific questions. It is important that you answer each question carefully so that the information that you provide reflects your situation as accurately as possible.

Since TIMSS is an international study and all countries are using the same questionnaire, you may find that some of the questions seem unusual or are not entirely relevant to you or schools in the United States. Nevertheless, it is important that you do your best to answer all of the questions so comparisons can be made across countries in the studies.

It is estimated that you will need approximately 30 minutes to complete this questionnaire. We appreciate the time and effort that this takes and thank you for your cooperation and contribution.

When you have completed the questionnaire, please return it to the TIMSS school coordinator.

NCES is authorized to collect information from the questionnaire under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-279, Section 153). You do not have to provide the information requested. However, the information you provide will help the U.S. Department of Education's ongoing efforts to understand better how the educational system in the United States compares to that in other countries. There are no penalties should you choose not to participate in this study. Your answers may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose (Public Law 107-279, Section 183 and Title V, subtitle A of the E-Government Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-347)). Your response will be combined with those from other participants to produce summary statistics and reports.

This survey is estimated to take an average of 30 minutes, including time for reviewing instructions, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Stephen Provasnik, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street NW, Room 9034, Washington, DC 20006-5650. Do not return the completed form to this address.

Thank you.

If you have already completed Questions 1 through 11 in another TIMSS Science Teacher Questionnaire, please **skip to Question 12** in this Ouestionnaire.

**TIMSS 2011** 

## By the end of this school year, how many years will you have been teaching altogether?

\_\_\_\_\_ years

Please **round** to the nearest whole number.

2

#### Are you female or male?

Fill in one circle only.

Female --- (1)

Male--- (2)

3

#### How old are you?

Fill in **one** circle only.

Under 25 --- (1)

25-29--- (2)

30–39--- (3)

40-49--- (4)

50-59--- (5)

60 or more --- (6)

Л

## What is the <u>highest</u> level of formal education you have completed?

Fill in **one** circle only.

Did not complete high school --- (1)

Completed high school --- 2

Completed a vocational/technical certificate after high school --- ③

Completed an Associate's degree (AA) in vocational/technical program --- (4)

Completed an academic Associate's degree (AA) or Bachelor's degree --- (5)

Completed an academic Master's degree, postgraduate certificate program (e.g., teaching) or first professional degree

(e.g., law, medicine, dentistry) --- 6

Completed a doctorate (Ph.D. or Ed.D) --- (7)

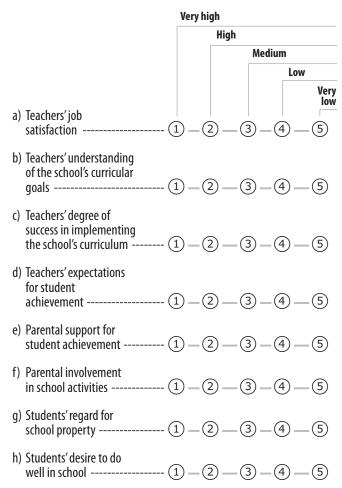
5

## During your college or university education, what was your <u>major or main</u> area(s) of study?

	Yes
	No
a) Mathematics	1 - 2
b) Biology	1 - 2
c) Physics	-(1)-(2)
d) Chemistry	-(1)-(2)
e) Earth Science	-(1)-(2)
f) Education—Mathematics	-(1)-(2)
g) Education—Science	-(1)-(2)
h) Education—General	-(1)-(2)
i) Other	-(1)-(2)

## How would you characterize each of the following within your school?

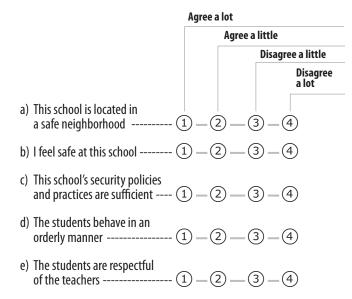
Fill in one circle for each line.



7

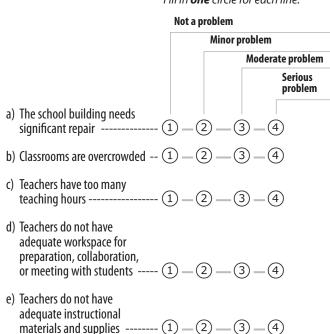
## Thinking about your current school, indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Fill in **one** circle for each line.



8

#### In your current school, how severe is each problem?



## A. Do you use computers in your teaching in any of the following ways?

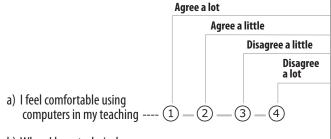
Fill in **one** circle for each line.



#### If Yes to "classroom instruction"

B. How much do you agree with the following statements about using computers in your classroom instruction?

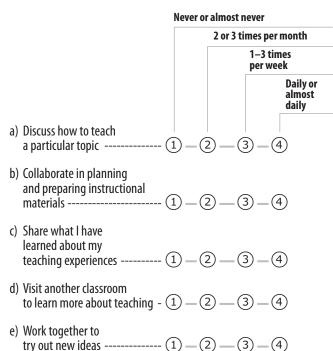
Fill in **one** circle for each line.



- b) When I have technical problems, I have ready access to computer support staff in my school ---- 1 2 3 4
- c) I receive adequate support for integrating computers in my teaching activities ----- 1 2 3 4

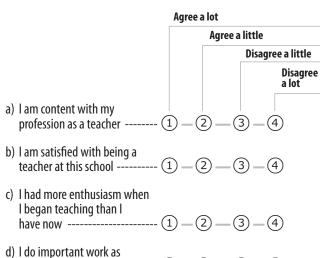
10-

## How often do you have the following types of interactions with other teachers?



## How much do you agree with the following statements?

Fill in **one** circle for each line.



- a teacher ----- 1 2 3 4

  e) I plan to continue as a
- teacher for as long as I can ---- 1 -2 -3 -4
- f) I am frustrated as a teacher -- 1 2 3 4

12

How many students are in this class?

\_\_\_\_\_ students Write in a number.

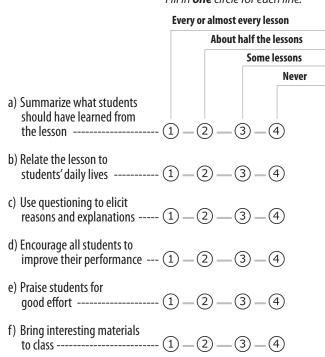
13 -

How many eighth-grade students experience difficulties understanding <u>spoken</u> English?

\_\_\_\_\_ students in this class Write in a number.

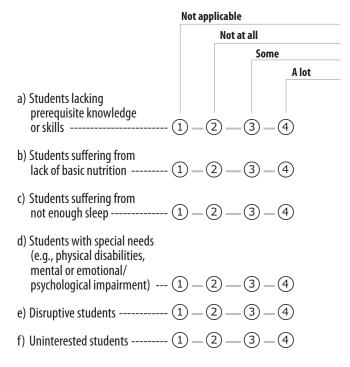
14

## How often do you do the following in teaching this class?



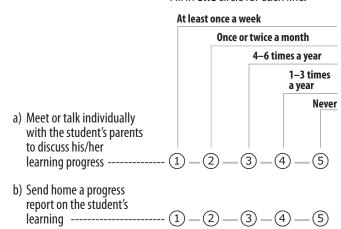
## In your view, to what extent do the following limit how you teach this class?

Fill in **one** circle for each line.



#### 16.

## For the typical student in this class, how often do you do these things?

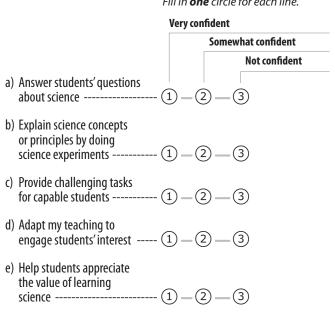


#### **Teaching Science to the TIMSS** Class

Questions 17-19 ask about science instruction for the eighth-grade students in the TIMSS class.

	In a typical week, how much time do you spend teaching science to the students in this class?			
	hours and Write in the hours and minutes.	minutes per week		
18				

Fill in **one** circle for each line.



**19** 

#### In teaching science to the students in this class, how often do you usually ask them to do the following?

	Fill in <b>one</b> circle for each line.			
	Every or almost every lesson			
		Abo	out half t	he lessons
			Son	ne lessons
				Never
a) Observe natural phenomena and describe what they see	- 1 =	-2-	-3-	4
b) Watch me demonstrate an experiment or investigation	- 1 =	_2_	_3_	-4)
c) Design or plan experiments or investigations	- 1	_2_	-3-	4
d) Conduct experiments or investigations	- 1	_2_	-3-	4
e) Read their textbooks or other resource materials	- 1	_2_	-3-	4
f) Have students memorize facts and principles	- 1	_2_	_3_	-4
g) Use scientific formulas and laws to solve routine problems	- 1) -	_2_	_3_	- 4
h) Give explanations about something they are studying	- 1) -	-2-	-3-	4
<ul> <li>Relate what they are learning in science to their daily lives</li> </ul>	- 1) -	-2-	-3-	4
j) Do field work outside of class	- 1	-2-	_3 -	4
k) Take a written test or quiz	- 1	-2-	_3_	4

## 20 \_\_\_\_

## Which best describes the science course you are teaching to the class with the TIMSS students?

Fill in **one** circle only.

a) General science (several content areas of science taught separately)	(1)
b) Integrated science (several content areas of science combined and taught together throughout the year)	
c) Life science (e.g., biology, ecosystems, human health)	- (3)
d) Physical science (e.g., physics or chemistry)	4
e) Earth science (e.g., geology, Earth and the solar system, fossils)	. (5)

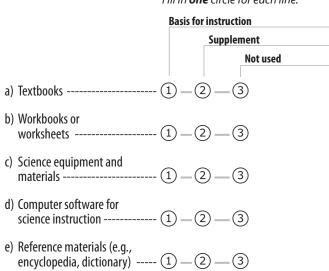
#### **Resources for Teaching Science**

Questions 21–22 ask about resources for teaching science to the <u>eighth-grade</u> students in the TIMSS class.

**21**<sub>1</sub>

When you teach science to this class, how do you use the following resources?

Fill in **one** circle for each line.



22 -

A. Do the students in this class have computer(s) available to use during their science lessons?

Fill in **one** circle only.

Yes--- 1 No--- 2 (If No, go to #23)

If Yes,

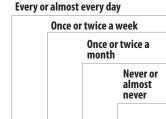
B. Do any of the computer(s) have access to the Internet?

Fill in **one** circle only.

Yes--- 1

No--- (2)

C. How often do you have the students do the following computer activities during science lessons?



- a) Practice skills and procedures ----- 1 2 3 4
- b) Look up ideas and information ----- (1) (2) (3) (4)
- c) Do scientific procedures or experiments ----- 1 2 3 4
- d) Study natural phenomena through simulations ----- 1 2 3 4
- e) Process and analyze data ----- 1 2 3 4

### **Science Topics Taught**

Questions 23–24 ask about the topics taught and the content covered in teaching science to the eighth-grade students in the TIMSS class

23 -

The following list includes the main topics addressed by the TIMSS science test. Choose the response that best describes when the students in this class have been taught each topic. If a topic was in the curriculum before the <u>eighth grade</u>, please choose "Mostly taught before this year." If a topic was taught half this year but not yet completed, please choose "Mostly taught this year." If a topic is not in the curriculum, please choose "Not yet taught or just introduced."

	Fill in <b>one</b> circle for each line.
	Mostly taught before this year
	Mostly taught this year
	Not yet taught or just introduced
A. Biology	
a) Major organs and organ systems in humans and other organisms (structure/function, life processes that maintain stable bodily conditions)	1 - (2) - (3)
b) Cells and their functions, including respiration and photosynthesis as cellular processes	
c) Reproduction (sexual and asexual) and heredity (passing on of traits, inherited versus acquired/learned characteristics)	1 - (2) - (3)
d) Role of variation and adaptation in survival/extinction of species in a changing environment	1 -2 -3
e) Interdependence of populations of organisms in an ecosystem (e.g., energy flow, food webs, competition, predation) and the impact of changes in the physical environment on populations (e.g., climate, water supp	ply) 1 - 2 - 3
f) Reasons for increase in world's human population (e.g., advances in medicine, sanitation), and the effects of population growth on the environment	1-2-3
g) Human health (causes of infectious diseases, methods of infection, prevention, immunity) and the importa of diet and exercise in maintaining health	nnce
B. Chemistry	
a) Classification, composition, and particulate structure of matter (elements, compounds, mixtures, molecules atoms, protons, neutrons, electrons)	s, 1)-(2)-(3)
b) Solutions (solvent, solute, concentration/dilution, effect of temperature on solubility)	1 -2 -3
c) Properties and uses of common acids and bases	1 - 2 - 3
d) Chemical change (transformation of reactants, evidence of chemical change, conservation of matter, common oxidation reactions — combustion, rusting, tarnishing)	1_2_3

## 23 (continued)

The following list includes the main topics addressed by the TIMSS science test. Choose the response that best describes when the students in this class have been taught each topic. If a topic was in the curriculum before the <u>eighth grade</u>, please choose "Mostly taught before this year." If a topic was taught half this year but not yet completed, please choose "Mostly taught this year." If a topic is not in the curriculum, please choose "Not yet taught or just introduced."

Fill in **one** circle for each line. Mostly taught before this year Mostly taught this year Not yet taught or just introduced C. Physics a) Physical states and changes in matter (explanations of properties in terms of movement and distance between particles; phase change, thermal expansion, and changes in volume and/or pressure) ----- (1) (2) (3)b) Energy forms, transformations, heat, and temperature -----(1) (2) (3)c) Basic properties/behaviors of light (reflection, refraction, light and color, simple ray diagrams) and sound (transmission through media, loudness, pitch, amplitude, frequency, relative speed of light d) Electric circuits (flow of current; types of circuits - parallel/series; current/voltage relationship) and properties and uses of permanent magnets and electromagnets - 2 - 3 e) Forces and motion (types of forces, basic description of motion, effects of density and pressure) ----- 1-2-3D. Earth Science a) Earth's structure and physical features (Earth's crust, mantle and core; composition and relative distribution 0SILION AND TELATIVE DISTRIBUTION
-------(1) —(2) —(3) of water, and composition of air) ----b) Earth's processes, cycles and history (rock cycle; water cycle; weather patterns; major geological events; formation of fossils and fossil fuels) -----c) Earth's resources, their use and conservation (e.g., renewable/nonrenewable resources, human use of land/soil, water resources) ----- (1-(2)-(3)d) Earth in the solar system and the universe (phenomena on Earth - day/night, tides, phases of moon, eclipses, seasons; physical features of Earth compared to other bodies; the Sun as a star) ------ 1 -2 -3

### **Science Content Coverage**

#### 24

By the end of this school year, approximately what percentage of teaching time will you have spent during this school year on each of the following science content areas for the students in this class?

Write in the percentage for each.

a)	Biology (e.g., structure/function; life processes, reproduction/heredity, natural selection; ecosystems, human health)	_%	
b)	Chemistry (e.g., classification, composition and properties of matter; chemical change)	_%	
c)	Physics (e.g., physical states/ changes in matter; energy; light; sound; electricity and magnetism; forces and motion)	_%	
d)	Earth science (e.g., Earth's structure, processes, and resources; the solar system and universe)	_%	
e)	Other	_%	

**Total = 100%** 

#### **Science Homework**

Question 25 asks about science homework for the <u>eighth-grade</u> students in the TIMSS class.

25

A. How often do you usually assign science homework to the students in this class?

Fill in **one** circle only.

homework (1)	(If No, go to #26)
Less than once a week (2)	
1 or 2 times a week ③	
3 or 4 times a week (4)	

n vou assign science homew

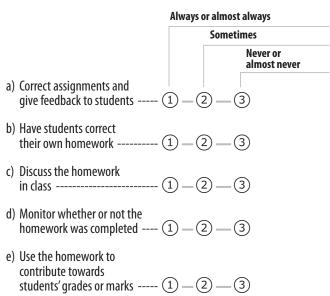
Every day --- (5)

B. When you assign science homework to the students in this class, about how many minutes do you usually assign? (Consider the time it would take an average student in your class.)

Fill in **one** circle only.

15 minutes or less 1
16–30 minutes ②
31–60 minutes ③
61–90 minutes (4)
More than 90 minutes (5)

C. How often do you do the following with the science homework assignments for this class?



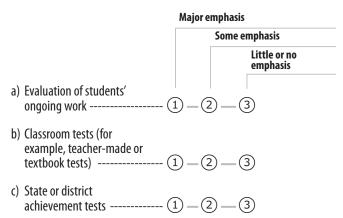
#### **Science Assessment**

Questions 26–28 ask about science assessment for the <u>eighth-grade</u> students in the TIMSS class.

26

How much emphasis do you place on the following sources to monitor students' progress in science?

Fill in **one** circle for each line.



**27**.

How often do you give a science test or examination to this class?

Fill in one circle only.

About once a week--- 1

About every two weeks--- 2

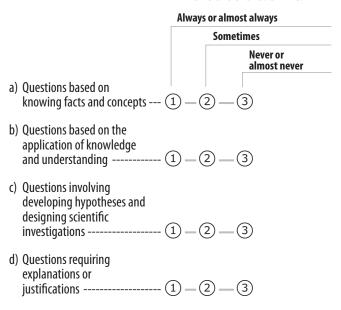
About once a month --- 3

A few times a year --- 4

Never--- (5)

28 =

How often do you include the following types of questions in your science tests or examinations?



## **Preparation to Teach Science**

### 29\_\_\_\_

## In the past two years, have you participated in professional development in any of the following?

	Yes
	No
a) Science content	(1) - (2)
b) Science pedagogy/instruction	1-2
c) Science curriculum	1 - 2
d) Integrating information technology into science	1 - 2
e) Improving students' critical thinking or inquiry skills	1-2
f) Science assessment	1-2
g) Addressing individual students' needs	1-2

How well prepared do you feel you are to teach the following science topics? If a topic is not in the <u>eighth-grade</u> curriculum or you are not responsible for teaching this topic you may choose "Not applicable."

	Not applicable	
	Very well prepared	
	Somewhat prepared	
	Not well prepared	
A. Biology		
a) Major organs and organ systems in humans and other organisms (structure/function, life processes that maintain stable bodily conditions)	1 -2 -3 -4	
b) Cells and their functions, including respiration and photosynthesis as cellular processes	-(1)-(2)-(3)-(4)	
c) Reproduction (sexual and asexual) and heredity (passing on of traits, inherited versus acquired/learned characteristics)	(1) - (2) - (3) - (4)	
d) Role of variation and adaptation in survival/extinction of species in a changing environment	1 -2 -3 -4	
e) Interdependence of populations of organisms in an ecosystem (e.g., energy flow, food webs, competition, predation) and the impact of changes in the physical environment on populations (e.g., climate, water supply)	(1) (2) (3) (4)	
f) Reasons for increase in world's human population (e.g., advances in medicine, sanitation), and the effects of population growth on the environment	-1-2-3-4	
g) Human health (causes of infectious diseases, methods of infection, prevention, immunity) and the importance of diet and exercise in maintaining health	-1-2-3-4	
B. Chemistry		
a) Classification, composition, and particulate structure of matter (elements, compounds, mixtures, molecules, atoms, protons, neutrons, electrons)	(1) (2) (3) (4)	
b) Solutions (solvent, solute, concentration/dilution, effect of temperature on solubility)	1 -2 -3 -4	
c) Properties and uses of common acids and bases	1 -2 -3 -4	
d) Chemical change (transformation of reactants, evidence of chemical change, conservation of matter, common oxidation reactions — combustion, rusting, tarnishing)	(1) (2) (3) (4)	

## 30 (continued)

How well prepared do you feel you are to teach the following science topics? If a topic is not in the <u>eighth-grade</u> curriculum or you are not responsible for teaching this topic you may choose "Not applicable."

	Not applicable	
	Very well prepared	
		Somewhat prepared
		Not well prepared
C. Physics		
a) Physical states and changes in matter (explanations of properties in terms of movement and distance between particles; phase change, thermal expansion, and changes in volume and/or pressure)	1 -2 -	-3-4
b) Energy forms, transformations, heat, and temperature	1 - 2 -	-3-4
c) Basic properties/behaviors of light (reflection, refraction, light and color, simple ray diagrams) and sound (transmission through media, loudness, pitch, amplitude, frequency, relative speed of light and sound)	(1) (2)	-3-4
d) Electric circuits (flow of current; types of circuits - parallel/series; current/voltage relationship) and properties and uses of permanent magnets and electromagnets	1 - 2 -	-3-4
e) Forces and motion (types of forces, basic description of motion, effects of density and pressure)	1 - 2 -	-3-4
D. Earth Science		
a) Earth's structure and physical features (Earth's crust, mantle and core; composition and relative distribution of water, and composition of air)	1 - 2 -	-3-4
b) Earth's processes, cycles and history (rock cycle; water cycle; weather patterns; major geological events; formation of fossils and fossil fuels)	1 -2 -	-3-4
c) Earth's resources, their use and conservation (e.g., renewable/nonrenewable resources, human use of land/soil, water resources)	1 -2 -	-3-4
d) Earth in the solar system and the universe (phenomena on Earth - day/night, tides, phases of moon, eclipses, seasons; physical features of Earth compared to other bodies; the Sun as a star)	1 - 2 -	-3-4

# Thank You

Thank you for the thought, time, and effort you have put into completing this questionnaire.



# **TIMSS 2011**

# Teacher Questionnaire Science

**Grade 8** 



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