# OECD Program for International Student Assessment 2009 


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## Core B Consortium

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In this booklet you will find questions about:

- You
- Your family and your home
- Your reading activities
- Learning time
- Classroom and school climate
- Your English classes
- Libraries
- Your strategies in reading and understanding texts

In some of the questions you will be asked about reading. What we specifically mean by reading is the skill to understand, use and think about written texts. This skill is needed to reach one's goals, to develop one's knowledge and potential, and to take part in society.

Please read each question carefully and answer as accurately as you can. In the test you usually circled your answers. For this questionnaire, you will normally answer by darkening a circle. For a few questions you will need to write a short answer.

If you make a mistake when darkening a circle, erase your mistake and darken the correct circle. If you make a mistake when writing an answer, simply cross it out and write the correct answer next to it.

## In this questionnaire, there are no right or wrong answers. Your answers should be the ones that are right for you.

You may ask for help if you do not understand something or are not sure how to answer a question.

Your answers will be combined with others to make totals and averages in which no individual can be identified. All your answers will be kept confidential.

## SECTION 1: ABOUT YOU

Q1 What grade are you in?
grade

Q2 How long have you been in this school?
(Please darken only one circle.)
Less than one year

One to two years

Three to four years

More than four years

## Q3 When were you born?

(Please write the month, day and year you were born)
$\overline{\text { Month }} \overbrace{\text { Day }}^{19}$

## Q4 Are you female or male?

Female Male

## Q5 Which best describes you?

(Please darken only one circle.)
I am Hispanic or Latino.

I am not Hispanic or Latino.

## Q6 Which of these categories best describes your race?

(Please darken one or more circles.)
White

Black or African American

Asian

American Indian or Alaska Native

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

## Q7 Did you attend pre-school?

No

Yes, for one year or less

Yes, for more than one year

## Q8 Did you attend kindergarten?

No

Yes

## Q9 How old were you when you started first grade?

$\qquad$ years

## Q10 Have you ever repeated a grade?

(Please darken only one circle in each row)

No, never
Yes, once
Yes, twice or more
a) In kindergarten
b) In grades 1-6
c) In grades 7-9
d) In grades 10-12

## Q11 What is the highest grade or level of school you expect to complete?

(Please darken only one circle.)
Less than high school

High school

Vocational or technical certificate (such as cosmetology or auto mechanics)

Associate's degree (2-year degree from a community college)

Bachelor's degree (4-year college degree)

Master's degree

Doctoral or professional degree such as medicine or law

## SECTION 2: YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR HOME

In this section you will be asked some questions about your family and your home.
Some of the following questions are about your mother and father or those persons who are like a mother or father to you - for example, guardians, step-parents, foster parents, etc.
If you share your time with more than one set of parents or guardians, please answer the following questions for those parents/guardians you spend the most time with.

## Q12 Who usually lives at home with you?

(Please darken one circle in each row)
a) Mother (including stepmother or foster mother)
b) Father (including stepfather or foster father)
c) Brother(s) (including stepbrothers)
d) $\operatorname{Sister}(\mathrm{s})$ (including stepsisters)
e) Grandparent(s)
f) Others (e.g., cousin)

## Q13a What is your mother's main job?

(e.g., school teacher, cook, sales manager)
(If she is not working now, please tell us her last main job)
Please write in the job title. $\qquad$

Q13b What does your mother do in her main job?
(e.g., teaches high school students, helps prepare meals in a restaurant, manages a sales team)

Please use a sentence to describe the kind of work she does or did in that job.

## Q14 What is the highest level of schooling (not including college) completed by your mother?

If you are not sure which circle to choose, please ask the test administrator for help.
(Please darken only one circle)
She completed grade 12 (high school diploma or GED).

She completed grade 9 .

She completed grade 6 .

She did not complete grade 6 .

## Q15 Does your mother have any of the following degrees, certificates or diplomas?

If you are not sure how to answer this question, please ask the test administrator for help.
(Please darken one circle in each row)

> Yes No
a) Master's, doctoral, or professional degree such as medicine or law
b) Bachelor's degree (4-year college degree)
c) Associate's degree (2-year degree from a community college)
d) Vocational or technical certificate/diploma after high school (such as cosmetology or auto mechanics)

## Q16 What is your mother currently doing?

(Please darken only one circle)
Working full-time for pay

Working part-time for pay

Not working, but looking for a job

Other (e.g., home duties, retired)

## Q17a What is your father's main job?

(e.g., school teacher, cook, sales manager)
(If he is not working now, please tell us his last main job)
Please write in the job title. $\qquad$

## Q17b What does your father do in his main job?

(e.g., teaches high school students, helps prepare meals in a restaurant, manages a sales team)

Please use a sentence to describe the kind of work he does or did in that job.

## Q18 What is the highest level of schooling (not including college) completed by your father?

If you are not sure how to answer this question, please ask the test administrator for help.
(Please darken only one circle)

He completed grade 12 (high school diploma or GED).

He completed grade 9.

He completed grade 6 .

He did not complete grade 6 .

## Q19 Does your father have any of the following degrees, certificates or diplomas?

If you are not sure which circle to choose, please ask the test administrator for help.
(Please darken one circle in each row)

> Yes No
a) Master's, doctoral, or professional degree such as medicine or law
b) Bachelor's degree (4-year college degree)
c) Associate's degree (2-year degree from a community college)
d) Vocational or technical certificate/diploma after high school (such as cosmetology or auto mechanics)

## Q20 What is your father currently doing?

(Please darken only one circle)
Working full-time for pay

Working part-time for pay

Not working, but looking for a job

Other (e.g., home duties, retired)
Q21 In what country were you and your parents born?(Please darken one circle in each column)
You Mother Father
United States*
Other country
*NOTE: the "United States" refers to the 50 states, District of Columbia, and U.S. military bases abroad.

## Q22 If you were NOT born in the United States, how old were you when you arrived in the United States?

If you were less than 12 months old, please write zero (0).
If you were born in the United States please skip this question and go to Q23.
$\qquad$ years

## Q23 What language do you speak at home most of the time?

(Please darken only one circle)
English

Spanish

Other language

## Q24 Which of the following are in your home?

(Please darken one circle in each row)
Yes Noa) A desk to study atb) A room of your ownc) A quiet place to studyd) A computer you can use for school worke) Educational softwaref) A link to the Internetg) Classic literature (e.g., Shakespeare)h) Books of poetryi) Works of art (e.g., paintings)j) Books to help with your school workk) Technical reference books or manuals1) A dictionary
m) A dishwashern) A DVD playerq) A musical instrument$O_{1}$$\mathrm{O}_{1}$$\bigcirc_{2}$$\bigcirc_{1}$
o) A guest room
p) A high-speed Internet connection$O_{1}$$O_{2}$

## Q25 How many of these are there at your home?

(Please darken only one circle in each row)

None One Two | Three or |
| :---: |
| more |

a) Cell phones
b) Televisions
c) Computers
d) Cars
e) Bathrooms with a bathtub or shower

## Q26 How many books are there in your home?

There are usually about 15 books per foot of shelving. Do not include magazines, newspapers, or your schoolbooks.
(Please darken only one circle)
$0-10$ books

11-25 books

26-100 books

101-200 books

201-500 books

More than 500 books

## SECTION 3: YOUR READING ACTIVITIES

The questions in this section are mainly about your reading activities outside school.

## Q27 About how much time do you usually spend reading for enjoyment?

(Please darken only one circle)
I do not read for enjoyment.

30 minutes or less a day

More than 30 minutes to less than 60 minutes a day

1 to 2 hours a day

More than 2 hours a day

## Q28 How much do you agree or disagree with these statements about reading?

(Please darken only one circle in each row)
Strongly

disagree Disagree Agree | Strongly |
| :---: |
| agree |

a) I read only if I have to.
b) Reading is one of my favorite hobbies.
c) I like talking about books with other people.
d) I find it hard to finish books.
e) I feel happy if I receive a book as a present.
f) For me, reading is a waste of time.
g) I enjoy going to a bookstore or a library.
h) I read only to get information that I need.
i) I cannot sit still and read for more than a few minutes.
j) I like to express my opinions about books I have read.
k) I like to exchange books with my friends.

## Q29 How often do you read these materials because you want to?

(Please darken only one circle in each row)

| Never or | Afew | About | Several | Several |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| almost | times $a$ | once a | times a | times a |
| never | year | month | month | week |

a) Magazines
b) Comic books
c) Fiction (e.g., novels, narratives, stories)
d) Non-fiction books
e) Newspapers

## Q30 How often are you involved in the following reading activities?

(Please darken only one circle in each row. If you don't know what the activity is, darken "I don't know what it is. ")

| I don't | Never or | Several | Several | Several |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| know | almost | times $a$ | times a | times a |
| what it is | never | month | week | day |

a) Reading emails
b) Chatting on line
c) Reading online news
d) Using an online dictionary or encyclopedia (e.g., Wikipedia ${ }^{\circledR}$ )
e) Searching online information to learn about a particular topic
f) Taking part in online group discussions or forums
g) Searching for practical information on line (e.g., schedules, events, tips, recipes)
h) Text-messaging

## Q31

When you are studying, how often do you do the following?
(Please darken only one circle in each row)
almost
a) When I study, I try to memorize everything
that is covered in the text.
b) When I study, I start by figuring out what
exactly I need to learn.
c) When I study, I try to memorize as many
details as possible.
d) When I study, I try to relate new information
to prior knowledge acquired in other
subjects.
e) When I study, I read the text so many times
that I can recite it.
f) When I study, I check if I understand what I
have read.
g) When I study, I read the text over and over
again.
almays

## SECTION 4: LEARNING TIME

Q32 How many minutes, on average, are there in a class period for the following subjects?
Minutes in a class period in English (English classes may include those in literature, creative writing, journalism, etc.):
Minutes in a class period in mathematics: $\qquad$ Minutes
Minutes in a class period in science: $\qquad$ Minutes

## Q33 How many class periods per week do you typically have for the following subjects?

Number of class periods per week in English:

Number of class periods per week in mathematics:

Number of class periods per week in science:
$\qquad$ class periods
$\qquad$ class periods class periods

## Q34 In a normal, full week at school, how many class periods do you have in total?

Number of ALL class periods: $\qquad$ class periods

## Q35 What type of out-of-school-time lessons do you attend currently?

These are only lessons in subjects that you are also learning at school, that you spend extra time learning outside of normal school hours. The lessons may be given at your school, at your home or somewhere else.
(Please darken only one circle in each row)
Yes No
a) Enrichment lessons in English
b) Enrichment lessons in mathematics
c) Enrichment lessons in science
d) Enrichment lessons in other school subjects
e) Remedial lessons in English
f) Remedial lessons in mathematics
g) Remedial lessons in science
h) Remedial lessons in other school subjects
i) Lessons to improve your study skills

Q36 How many hours do you typically spend per week attending out-of-school-time lessons in the following subjects (at school, at home or somewhere else)?

These are only lessons in subjects that you are also learning at school, that you spend extra time learning outside of normal school hours. The lessons may be given at your school, at your home or somewhere else.
(Please darken one circle in each column)

I do not attend out-of-school-time lessons in these subjects.

Less than 2 hours a week

2 or more but less than 4 hours a week

4 or more but less than 6 hours a week

6 or more hours a week

## SECTION 5: YOUR SCHOOL

## Q37 Thinking about what you have learned in school: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

(Please darken only one circle in each row)
Strongly

disagree Disagree Agree | Strongly |
| :---: |
| agree |

a) School has done little to prepare me for adult life when I leave school.
b) School has been a waste of time.
c) School has helped give me confidence to make decisions.
d) School has taught me things which could be useful in a job.

## Q38 How much do you disagree or agree with each of the following statements about teachers at your school?

(Please darken only one circle in each row.)
Strongly

disagree Disagree Agree | Strongly |
| :---: |
| agree |

a) I get along well with most of my teachers.
b) Most of my teachers are interested in my well-being.
c) Most of my teachers really listen to what I have to say.
d) If I need extra help, I will receive it from my teachers.
e) Most of my teachers treat me fairly.

## SECTION 6: YOUR ENGLISH CLASSES

## Q39 On average, about how many students attend your English class(es)?

$\qquad$ students

Q40 How often do these things happen in your English classes?
(Please darken only one circle in each row)

| Never <br> or | In |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| hardly | some | In most | In all |
| ever | classes | classes | classes |

a) Students don't listen to what the teacher says.
b) There is noise and disorder.
c) The teacher has to wait a long time for the students to quiet down.
d) Students cannot work well.
e) Students don't start working for a long time after the class begins.

## Q41 In your English classes, how often does the following occur?

(Please darken only one circle in each row)

| Never <br> or |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| hardly | In some | In most | In all |
| ever | classes | classes | classes |

a) The teacher asks students to explain the meaning of a text.
b) The teacher asks questions that challenge students to get a better understanding of a text.
c) The teacher gives students enough time to think about their answers.
d) The teacher recommends a book or author to read.
e) The teacher encourages students to express their opinions about a text.
f) The teacher helps students relate the stories they read to their lives.
g) The teacher shows students how the information in texts builds on what they already know.

## Q42 <br> In your English classes, how often does the following occur?

(Please darken only one circle in each row)

| Never <br> or |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| hardly | In some | In most | In all |
| ever | classes | classes | classes |

a) The teacher explains beforehand what is expected of the students.
b) The teacher checks that students are concentrating while working on the reading assignment.
c) The teacher discusses students' work, after they have finished the reading assignment.
d) The teacher tells students in advance how their work is going to be judged.
e) The teacher asks whether every student has understood how to complete the reading assignment.
f) The teacher grades students' work.
g) The teacher gives students the chance to ask questions about the reading assignment.
h) The teacher poses questions that motivate students to participate actively.
i) The teacher tells students how well they did on the reading assignment immediately after.

## SECTION 7: LIBRARIES

In this section you are asked questions about libraries. These may be in your school and/or outside your school.

## Q43 How often do you visit a library for the following activities?

(Please darken only one circle in each row)

|  | A few | About | Several | Several |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Never | times a | Sonce a <br> times a | times a |  |
| mear | month | month | week |  |

a) Borrow books to read for pleasure
b) Borrow books for school work
c) Work on homework, course assignments or research papers
d) Read magazines or newspapers
e) Read books for fun
f) Learn about things that are not course-related, such as sports, hobbies, people or music
g) Use the Internet

## Q44 Does your school have a school library?

> No

Yes

## SECTION 8: YOUR STRATEGIES IN READING AND UNDERSTANDING TEXTS

There are several approaches to studying and understanding texts. Some of them are more useful than others, depending on the kind of reading task. The next two questions present two reading tasks, followed by a list of these approaches or "strategies." We want to know your opinion about the usefulness of these strategies for the different reading tasks.

Both questions begin with a short description of a particular reading task. Then several possible reading strategies are listed. Think about the usefulness of each of the strategies in relation to the given reading task only. Some strategies may be useful for one reading task but not for another.

Give a score between 1 and 6 to each strategy. A score of 1 means you think it is not a useful strategy at all for this reading task. A score of 6 means you think it is a very useful strategy for this reading task.

You can use the same score more than once if you think two or more strategies are similarly useful, but please darken only one circle in each row.

Here is an example question that a student has completed. (This example is about playing table tennis, not reading.)

## Example Question

Task: You want to improve at playing table tennis so you can win a local competition.
How do you rate the usefulness of the following strategies for improving at playing table tennis?

Possible strategy
a) I read a book about table tennis technique.
b) I practice playing table tennis against a friend as often as possible.
c) I do general fitness exercises every morning.
d) I watch expert players and try to figure out their techniques.

## Score

Not useful
at all
(1)

## Q45 Reading task: You have to understand and remember the information in a text.

How do you rate the usefulness of the following strategies for understanding and memorizing the text?

## Possible strategy

## Score

Not useful at
all
a) I concentrate on the parts of the text that are easy to understand.
b) I quickly read through the text twice.
c) After reading the text, I discuss its content with other people.
d) I underline important parts of the text.
e) I summarize the text in my own words.
f) I read the text aloud to another person.

Q46 Reading task: You have just read a long and rather difficult two-page text about fluctuations in the water level of a lake in Africa. You have to write a summary.

How do you rate the usefulness of the following strategies for writing a summary of this two-page text?

## Possible strategy

## Score

Not useful at all
a) I write a summary. Then I check that each paragraph is covered in the summary, because the content of each paragraph should be included.
b) I try to copy out accurately as many sentences as possible.
c) Before writing the summary, I read the text as many times as possible.
d) I carefully check whether the most important facts in the text are represented in the summary.
e) I read through the text, underlining the most important sentences. Then I write them in my own words as a summary.

# Thank you very much for your cooperation in completing this questionnaire! 

