



# LOCATING INFORMATION ABOUT PISA

Information about PISA is located on the study website at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) web site.

PISA on the web at NCES is located at: <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa>

The NCES website provides a variety of information about PISA.

Click on these links to find general information about results and reports from previous rounds, sample items, and a link to the international site at OECD.

The screenshot shows the PISA USA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'NewsFlash', 'Staff', 'Contact', 'Site Index', and 'Help'. Below this is a search bar and a dropdown menu set to 'NCES'. The main content area features a sidebar with a list of links: Overview, Frequently Asked Questions, Countries, Sample Items, Released Items, Data Files, PISA 2006 Summary, PISA 2003 Summary, PISA International Site, International Indicators, and Join NewsFlash. The main content area includes an 'Overview' section with a paragraph about the PISA program and a 'HIGHLIGHTS' section with two entries: 'December 4, 2007: Highlights from PISA 2006: Performance of U.S. 15-Year-Old Students in Science and Mathematics Literacy in an International Context (NCES 2008-016)' and '2003: PISA 2003 U.S. datafile'. A callout box points to the sidebar links, and another callout box points to the 'HIGHLIGHTS' section.

Click on the links under **Highlights** to see the most current data and reporting.

To view sample items from PISA:

The screenshot shows the PISA website home page. At the top, there is a header for the Institute of Education Sciences and U.S. Department of Education, with the logo for the National Center for Education Statistics. A search bar is located in the top right. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Publications & Products, Surveys & Programs, Data Tools, Tables & Figures, Fast Facts, School, College, & Library Search, Annual Reports, and What's New? There is also a KIDSZONE logo. The main content area features the PISA logo and the title 'Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)'. Below this is a sub-navigation menu with links for Publications & Products, Staff, and International Comparisons in Education. On the left side, there is a vertical navigation menu with links for Overview, Frequently Asked Questions, Countries, Sample Items, Released Items, Data Files, PISA 2006 Summary, PISA 2003 Summary, PISA International Site, International Indicators, and Join NewsFlash. A callout box with a pointer indicates that the user should click on the 'Sample Items' link. The main content area contains an 'Overview' section with a paragraph describing the PISA program. To the right of the overview is a 'HIGHLIGHTS' section with dates and links to specific reports.

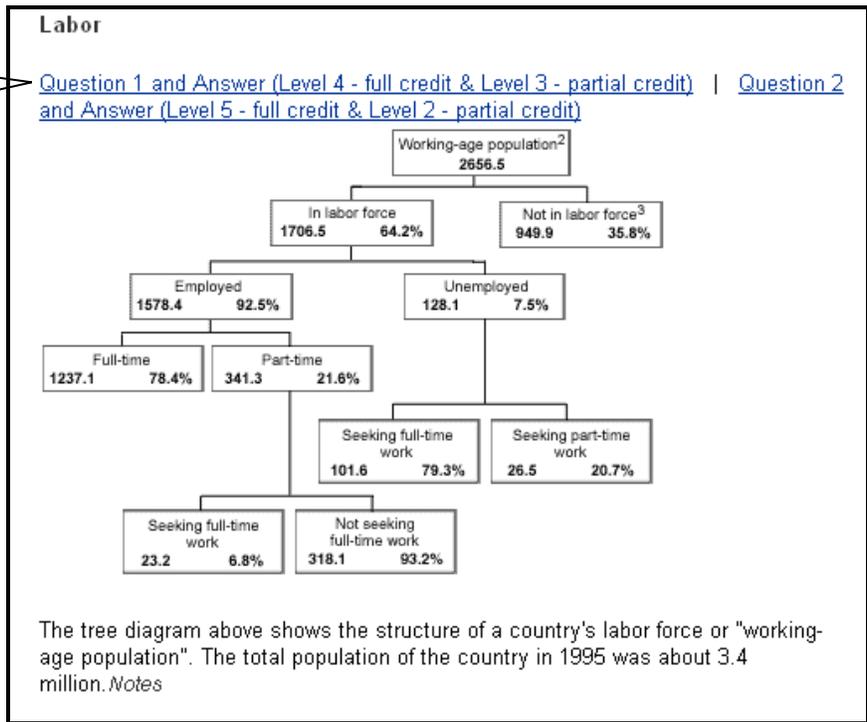
Click on the sample items link.

The screenshot shows the 'Sample Items' page on the PISA website. The layout is similar to the home page, but the 'Sample Items' link in the left navigation menu is selected. The main content area is titled 'Sample Items' and contains a paragraph explaining that the items are examples of questions asked to 15-year-olds. Below this paragraph is a grid of links organized by subject: Reading Literacy Sample Items (Runners, Flu, Labor), Mathematics Literacy Sample Items (Continents, Triangles, Walking, Carpenter, Internet Relay Chat), Science Literacy Sample Items (Ozone), and Problem Solving Sample Items (Energy, Movie, Transit). A callout box with a pointer indicates that the user should click on the item they wish to view. At the bottom of the page, there is a link for 'PISA's definition of literacy'.

Click the item you wish to view.

The item will load in the lower portion of the window.

Click the question you wish to view and see the scoring guide and results.



A new window will appear containing the question text, the scoring guide, and the percentage of U.S. students who received full credit along with the OECD average.

Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) - Sample It...

**Reading Literacy Sample Items**

**Labor - Aspect: Retrieving Information**

**Question:**

How many people of working age were not in the labor force?  
(Write the number of people, not the percentage.)

**Answer:**

To receive full credit, responses should indicate that the number in the tree diagram and the "000s" in the title/footnote have been integrated to produce the number 949,000. Approximations between 949,000 and 950,000, in numbers or words, were accepted. In addition, 900,000 or one million (in words or numbers) were accepted if accompanied by a qualifier such as "almost" or "about."

Correctly indicating the number in the tree diagram, but failing to integrate the "000s" in the title/footnote can achieve partial credit. In this situation, students would answer 949.9 in words or numbers.

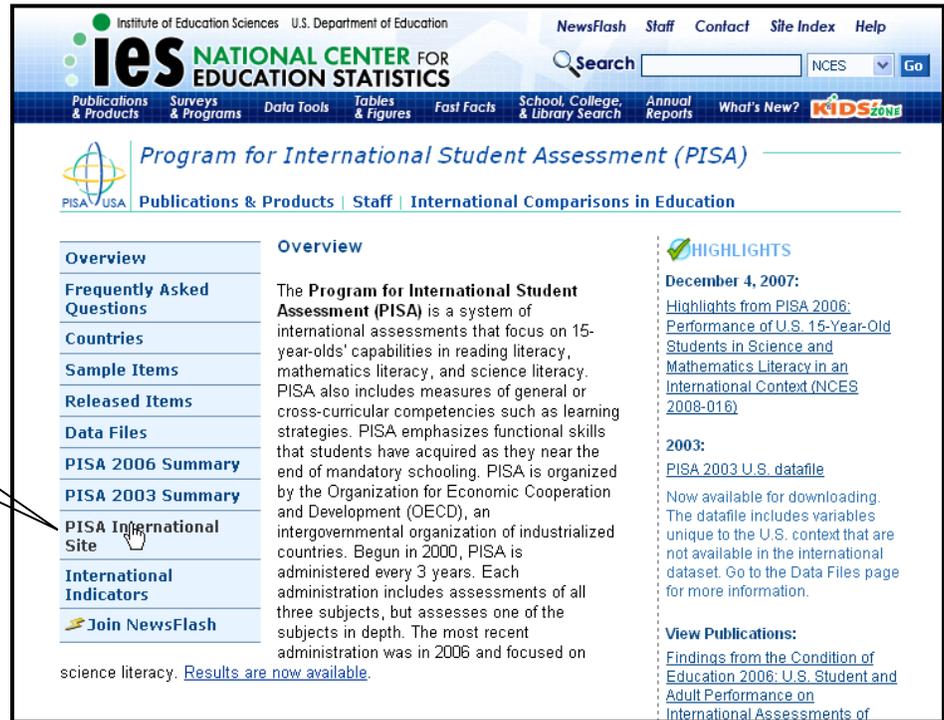
United States percent full credit: 24%  
OECD percent full credit: 31%

United States percent partial credit: 54%  
OECD percent partial credit: 41%

[Close Window](#)

## How to access interactive PISA items from the international website

The PISA site at NCES links with the international site at OECD. The OECD site provides the international reports and interactive items and data.



Institute of Education Sciences U.S. Department of Education

**ies** NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

NewsFlash Staff Contact Site Index Help

Search [ ] NCES [v] Go

Publications & Products Surveys & Programs Data Tools Tables & Figures Fast Facts School, College, & Library Search Annual Reports What's New? KIDS ZONE

**Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)**

PISA USA Publications & Products Staff International Comparisons in Education

**Overview**

**Overview**

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a system of international assessments that focus on 15-year-olds' capabilities in reading literacy, mathematics literacy, and science literacy. PISA also includes measures of general or cross-curricular competencies such as learning strategies. PISA emphasizes functional skills that students have acquired as they near the end of mandatory schooling. PISA is organized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an intergovernmental organization of industrialized countries. Begun in 2000, PISA is administered every 3 years. Each administration includes assessments of all three subjects, but assesses one of the subjects in depth. The most recent administration was in 2006 and focused on science literacy. [Results are now available.](#)

**HIGHLIGHTS**

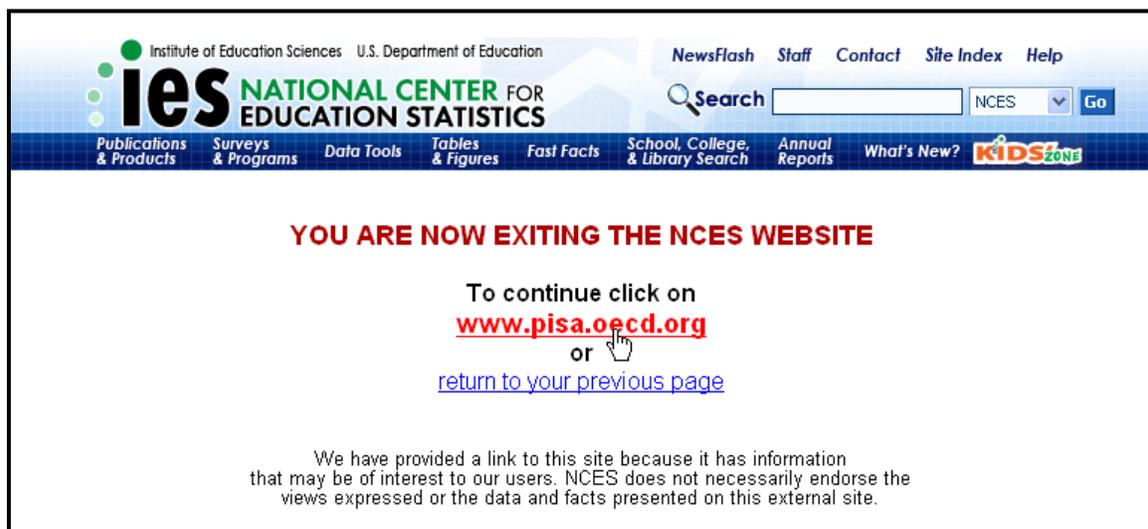
**December 4, 2007:**  
[Highlights from PISA 2006: Performance of U.S. 15-Year-Old Students in Science and Mathematics Literacy in an International Context \(NCES 2008-016\)](#)

**2003:**  
[PISA 2003 U.S. datafile](#)  
Now available for downloading. The datafile includes variables unique to the U.S. context that are not available in the international dataset. Go to the Data Files page for more information.

**View Publications:**  
[Findings from the Condition of Education 2006: U.S. Student and Adult Performance on International Assessments of](#)

Click on the PISA International Site link.

You will be directed to the link for the PISA site at OECD. Click this link.



Institute of Education Sciences U.S. Department of Education

**ies** NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

NewsFlash Staff Contact Site Index Help

Search [ ] NCES [v] Go

Publications & Products Surveys & Programs Data Tools Tables & Figures Fast Facts School, College, & Library Search Annual Reports What's New? KIDS ZONE

**YOU ARE NOW EXITING THE NCES WEBSITE**

To continue click on [www.pisa.oecd.org](http://www.pisa.oecd.org)  
or [return to your previous page](#)

We have provided a link to this site because it has information that may be of interest to our users. NCES does not necessarily endorse the views expressed or the data and facts presented on this external site.

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT  


Search :

## OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

**PISA (Home)**

- > What PISA Is
- > What PISA Assesses
- > **What PISA Produces**
- > Participating Countries
- Contacts

Are students well prepared for future challenges? Can they analyse, reason and communicate effectively? Do they have the capacity to continue learning throughout life? The OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) answers these questions and more, through its surveys of 15-year-olds in the principal industrialised countries. Every three years, it assesses how far students near the end of compulsory education have acquired some of the knowledge and skills essential for full participation in society.

**What's new**

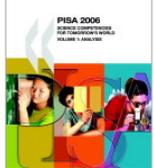
**PISA 2006 results**  
 04-Dec-2007  
 Learn about the most comprehensive international picture of science learning today. For all data and a comprehensive analysis click [here](#).

**PISA brochure**  
 23-Feb-2007  
 This brochure on the OECD's Programme for International Students Assessment describes what the programme has achieved so far and sets out plans for the project up until 2015.

**Don't Miss**

- > FAQ: OECD PISA
- > PISA brochure
- > Who's Who in PISA
- > PISA auf Deutsch
- > PISA en français
- > PISA en español
- > Directorate for Education

How are students faring in science today?



Click on link for **What PISA Produces**.

Select the PISA year for which you want to view items, and then select Test questions.

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT  


Search :

## OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

**PISA (Home)**

- What PISA Produces**
- PISA 2000
- PISA 2003**
- PISA 2006
- > What PISA Is
- > What PISA Assesses
- Participating Countries
- Contacts

**PISA 2003**

Select from the following document categories:

- Publications
- Database
- Information by country
- **Test questions**
- Newsletters / Brochures
- Events/Conferences/Meetings
- Manuals, Sources and Methods
- Further reading

**Don't Miss**

- > FAQ: OECD PISA
- > PISA brochure
- > Who's Who in PISA
- > PISA auf Deutsch
- > PISA en français
- > PISA en español
- > Directorate for Education

How are students faring in science today?



Click on the link for the PISA year you want.

Click on the link for **Test questions**.

All years have released items available to view in PDF form. Only 2000 and 2003 have interactive items available.

The screenshot shows the OECD PISA website. At the top left is the OECD logo and the text 'ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT'. At the top right is a search bar. Below the logo is a blue banner with the text 'OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)'. On the left is a navigation menu with 'PISA (Home)' and sub-items: 'What PISA Produces' (PISA 2000, PISA 2003, PISA 2006), 'What PISA Is', 'What PISA Assesses', 'Participating Countries', and 'Contacts'. The main content area is titled 'Test questions - PISA 2003' and contains the following text: 'Download sample test questions from PISA 2003: Mathematics: English (zip file 347 KB), French (zip file 913 KB); Problem solving: English (zip file 130 KB), French (zip file 142 KB); and Science: English (zip file 158 KB), French (zip file 302 KB) Reading: No sample questions were publicly released from PISA 2003; however, samples of PISA reading questions were published in the report Sample Tasks from the PISA 2000 Assessment.' Below this text is a link for 'interactive version' which is circled in blue. To the right is a 'Don't Miss' sidebar with links like 'FAQ: OECD PISA', 'PISA brochure', 'Who's Who in PISA', 'PISA auf Deutsch', 'PISA en français', 'PISA en español', and 'Directorate for Education'. At the bottom right is a small graphic with the text 'PISA 2006'.

Click on the link for **interactive version**. A new window will open.

A new window will open containing the interactive PISA questions.

The screenshot shows the 'PISA Sample Questions' page. At the top left is the OECD logo. Below it is a dark blue header with the text 'PISA Sample Questions'. The main content area has the text 'PISA provides sample questions for Mathematics, Reading and Science, along with marking guides for these questions.' Below this is a section titled 'Sample Questions' with the text 'The following questions are available:'. There is a list of links: 'PISA Mathematics >>', 'PISA Mathematics with marking guide >>', 'PISA Reading >>', 'PISA Reading with marking guide >>', 'PISA Science >>', and 'PISA Science with marking guide >>'. To the right is a 'General Information' section with a vertical scrollbar and the text 'This is a set of sample test items from PISA.' A callout box points to the 'PISA Reading with marking guide >>' link.

Click on link of the subject area items in which you are interested.

Take some PISA items and see how you do!

Sample Questions : PISA Reading with marking guide

OECD

Home >> Instructions >> Toggle Marking Guide >>

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

Question 1: In Poor Taste

Next >>

Read the text and answer the questions which follow.

**IN POOR TASTE**

from Arnold Jago

Did you know that in 1996 we spent almost the same amount on chocolate as our Government spent on overseas aid to help the poor?

Could there be something wrong with our priorities?

What are you going to do about it?

Yes, you.

Use the controls to move to different items, view instructions, and move through the marking guide.

## How to access PISA reports from the international website

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

OECD

Search :

OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

**PISA (Home)**

- > What PISA Is
- > What PISA Assesses
- > What PISA Produces
- > Participating Countries
- > Facts

Are students well prepared for future challenges? Can they analyse, reason and communicate effectively? Do they have the capacity to continue learning throughout life? The OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) answers these questions and more, through its surveys of 15-year-olds in the principal industrialised countries. Every three years, it assesses how far students near the end of compulsory education have acquired some of the knowledge and skills essential for full participation in society.

**What's new**

**PISA 2006 results**  
04-Dec-2007  
Learn about the most comprehensive international picture of science learning today. For all data and a comprehensive analysis click [here](#).

**PISA brochure**  
23-Feb-2007  
This brochure on the OECD's Programme for International Students Assessment describes what the programme has achieved so far and sets out plans for the project up until 2015.

**Don't Miss**

- FAQ: OECD PISA
- PISA brochure
- Who's Who in PISA
- PISA auf Deutsch
- PISA en français
- PISA en español
- Directorate for Education

How are students faring in science today?

PISA 2006  
OECD PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT  
RESULTS & ANALYSIS

Click on link for **What PISA Produces**.

Look under *What's new*, or in the margin, for the latest releases.

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
OECD

Search :

**OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)**

**PISA (Home)**

- What PISA Produces
  - PISA 2000
  - PISA 2003**
  - PISA 2006
- What PISA Is
- What PISA Assesses
- Participating Countries
- Contacts

**PISA 2003**

Select from the following document categories:

- Publications**
- Database by country
- Information by country
- Test questions
- Newsletters/Brochures
- Events/Conferences/Meetings
- Manuals, Software and Methods
- Further reading

**Don't Miss**

- FAQ: OECD PISA
- PISA brochure
- Who's Who in PISA
- PISA auf Deutsch
- PISA en français
- PISA en español
- Directorate for Education

How are students faring in science today?

PISA 2006  
OECD PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Click on the link for the PISA year you want.

Click on the link for the Publications.

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
OECD

Search :

**OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)**

**PISA (Home)**

- What PISA Produces
  - PISA 2000
  - PISA 2003**
  - PISA 2006
- What PISA Is
- What PISA Assesses
- Participating Countries
- Contacts

**Publications - PISA 2003**

Send  Print

**Where immigrant students succeed - A comparative review of performance and engagement in PISA 2003**  
This report examines the performance of students with immigrant backgrounds and compares it to that of their native counterparts. As well as providing information on countries' approaches to the integration of immigrants, it looks at other factors that could influence immigrant students' performance - such as their attitudes to school, their motivation and learning strategies as well as their social background and the language spoken at home - giving valuable implications for educational policy.

**Are Students Ready for a Technology-Rich World? What PISA Studies Tell Us**  
Drawing on PISA data, *Are Students Ready for a Technology-Rich World? What PISA Studies Tell Us* examines whether access to computers for students is equitable across countries and student groups; how students use ICT and what their attitudes are towards ICT; the relationship between students' access to and use of ICT and their performance in PISA 2003; and the implications for educational policy.

**PISA 2003 Technical Report**  
The PISA 2003 Technical Report describes the complex methodology underlying PISA 2003, along with additional features related to the interpretation of the results.

**Don't Miss**

- FAQ: OECD PISA
- PISA brochure
- Who's Who in PISA
- PISA auf Deutsch
- PISA en français
- PISA en español
- Directorate for Education

How are students faring in science today?

PISA 2006  
OECD PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Available publications are listed by title. Access the report by clicking on the title.

Each publication has a page with a brief summary of the report content, table of contents, and ordering information.

The screenshot shows the OECD website interface. At the top left is the OECD logo and name. A search bar is on the top right. Below the header is a blue banner with the PISA logo and title. The main content area features the title 'Are Students Ready for a Technology-Rich World? What PISA Studies Tell Us' with a sub-header 'Table of contents | How to obtain this publication | PowerPoint presentation | Briefing notes | Press release'. There are 'Send' and 'Print' icons. A small image of the report cover is on the left, and a text summary of the report is on the right. A sidebar on the left lists 'PISA (Home)' with links for 'What PISA Produces' (PISA 2000, PISA 2003, PISA 2006), 'What PISA Is', 'What PISA Assesses', 'Participating Countries', and 'Contacts'. A 'Don't Miss' sidebar on the right lists links like 'FAQ: OECD PISA', 'PISA brochure', 'Who's Who in PISA', 'PISA auf Deutsch', 'PISA en français', 'PISA en español', and 'Directorate for Education'. Below this is a link 'How are students faring in science today?' with a small image.

Scroll the page to find out how to obtain the publication and other information.

This section is titled 'How to obtain this publication'. It states: 'Readers can access the full version of **Are Students Ready for a Technology-Rich World?: What PISA Studies Tell Us** choosing from the following options:'. A bulleted list provides options: 'Subscribers and readers at subscribing institutions can access the online edition via [SourceOECD](#), our online library.', 'Download a pdf version for free', 'Non-subscribers can purchase the PDF e-book and/or paper copy via our [Online Bookshop](#).', 'Government officials can go to [OLISnet's Publication Locator](#).', and 'Access by password for accredited journalists'. Below this are three sections: 'PowerPoint Presentation' with a link to 'Are Students Ready for a Technology-Rich World?: What PISA Studies Tell Us'; 'Briefing Notes' with links for 'Germany' (including 'in German') and 'Japan'; and 'Press Release' with links for 'English' and 'French'.