



English

PISA 2018

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PISA STUDY 2018



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de l'Éducation nationale,
de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse

Service de coordination de la recherche
et de l'innovation pédagogiques
et technologiques



The PISA study

PISA stands for “*Programme for International Student Assessment*” and is an international study conducted by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Every three years, PISA assesses the extent to which students at the age of 15 have acquired key knowledge and skills. The assessment focuses on competencies that are essential for full participation in modern societies and relevant for lifelong learning.

The aim of the programme is to supply participating countries with internationally comparable indicators concerning the knowledge and abilities of young people as well as core aspects of the educational systems and the general academic framework. With this data it is possible to identify strengths but also potential problem areas, knowledge of which can be used to improve the educational systems.



**OECD = Organisation for
Economic
Co-operation and
Development**

**PISA = Programme for
International
Student
Assessment**



www.oecd.org/pisa

What does PISA measure?

PISA focuses on the knowledge and skills of students in the domains of reading, mathematics and science. A key aspect of PISA is the application of knowledge. Therefore, the assessment does not just ascertain whether students can reproduce the knowledge and skills they have acquired at school; it also examines how well students can apply their knowledge set in real-life contexts.

In addition, PISA assesses important learning-related attitudes of students, their motivation and their knowledge and application of learning strategies.

Data protection

The PISA data are evaluated anonymously: Each student is given a code, and his/her name does not feature in the processing of the test results and questionnaires. The data are processed solely using codes; meaning no result is linked to any name.

In addition, the test results and personal details in the questionnaire are not evaluated in relation to individual students; instead, all results are combined in terms of large groups of students (e.g. by country, gender or type of school).

PISA Test Items

Published PISA test items can be found on:



<http://www.men.public.lu/fr/themes-transversaux/pilotage-monitoring/etudes-internationales/programme-international-pisa/index.html>

Definitions of the three core domains according to the PISA framework

Reading literacy

Reading literacy is defined as understanding, using, evaluating, reflecting on and engaging with texts in order to develop one's knowledge and potential and to participate in society.



Science literacy

Science literacy is defined as the ability to engage with science-related issues, and with the ideas of science. It requires the competencies to explain phenomena scientifically, evaluate and design scientific enquiry, and interpret data and evidence scientifically.



Mathematical literacy

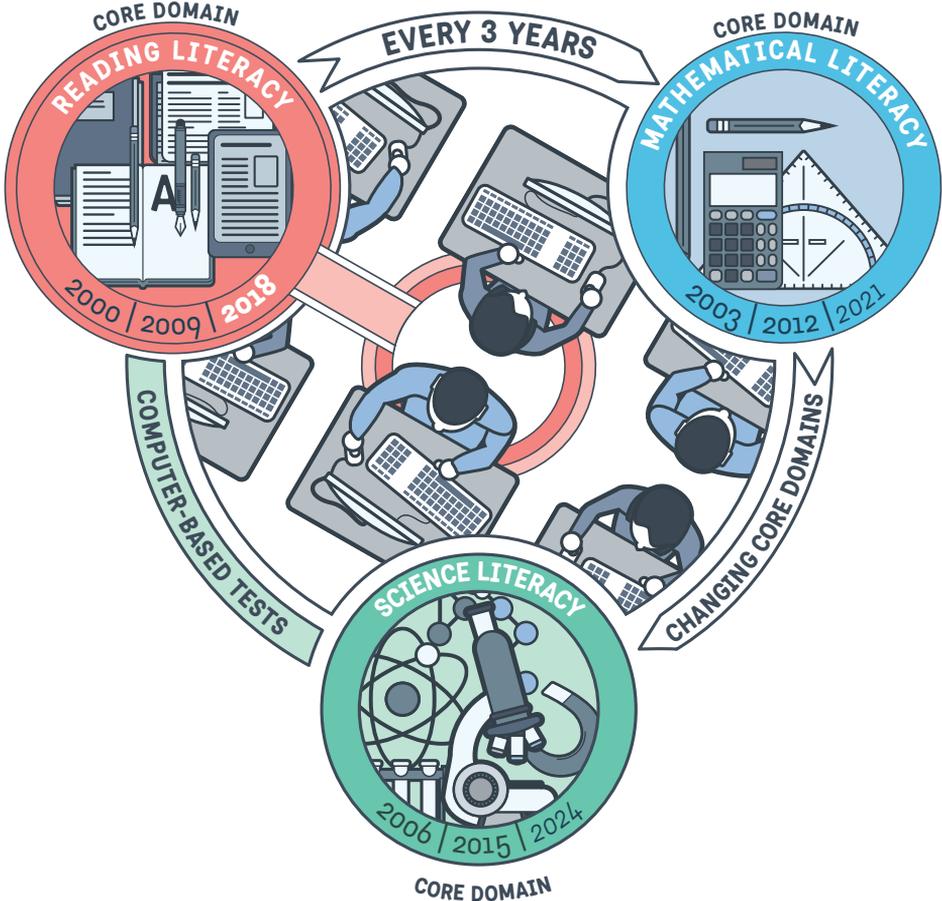
Mathematical literacy is defined as students' capacity to formulate, employ and interpret mathematics in a variety of contexts. It includes reasoning mathematically and using mathematical concepts, procedures, facts and tools to describe, explain and predict phenomena.



A detailed description of the PISA 2018 Framework can be found on:
<http://www.oecd.org/pisa/data/PISA-2018-draft-frameworks.pdf>

PISA 2018

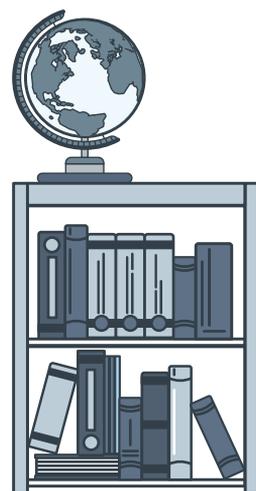
PISA is a cyclical study which takes place regularly every three years. In each round of PISA, one of the core domains is tested in detail. The major domain in PISA 2018 is reading, while mathematics and science are minor domains. With the alternating schedule of major domains, a thorough analysis of achievement in each of the three core areas is possible every nine years.



Participating countries

| OECD countries | Partner countries |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Australia | Albania |
| Austria | Argentina |
| Belgium | Azerbaijan |
| Canada | Belarus |
| Chile | Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| Czech Republic | Brazil |
| Denmark | Brunei Darussalam |
| Estonia | Bulgaria |
| Finland | Chinese Taipei |
| France | Colombia |
| Germany | Costa Rica |
| Greece | Croatia |
| Hungary | Cyprus |
| Iceland | Dominican Republic |
| Ireland | Georgia |
| Israel | Hong Kong (China) |
| Italy | Indonesia |
| Japan | Jordan |
| Korea | Kazakhstan |
| Latvia | Korea |
| Luxembourg | Kosovo |
| Mexico | Lebanon |
| Netherlands | Lithuania |
| New Zealand | Macao (China) |
| Norway | Malaysia |
| Poland | Malta |
| Portugal | Montenegro |
| Slovak Republic | Morocco |
| Slovenia | Panama |
| Spain | People's Republic of China |
| Sweden | Peru |
| Switzerland | Philippines |
| Turkey | Qatar |
| United Kingdom | Republic of Moldova |
| United States | Romania |
| | Russian Federation |
| | Saudi Arabia |
| | Serbia |
| | Singapore |
| | Thailand |
| | Tunisia |
| | Ukraine |
| | United Arab Emirates |
| | Uruguay |
| | Viet Nam |

PISA 2018 is implemented in all 35 OECD countries as well as in 45 partner countries. More than 540,000 students will participate in PISA 2018 worldwide.



Participating students

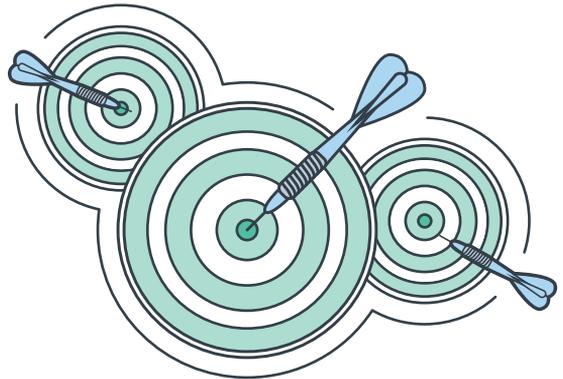
International school and student sample

In order to obtain representative results, the OECD requires that a minimum of 5,250 students out of a minimum of 150 schools are assessed in each country. The random sampling is done by means of a two-stage procedure: in the first stage, at least 150 schools out of all the schools in a given country are selected as being representative in relation to various criteria, e.g. the different types of schools. Next, at least 35 students from a participating school are chosen at random.

National feature: census

In small countries such as Luxembourg, Iceland or Malta, which do not have the requisite number of schools and students, different rules apply. In those countries, all students in the specified age group, from all the schools in the country, take part in the PISA test.

Thus, in Luxembourg, the PISA 2018 test is taking place in all secondary schools, whether public, private or international. All students born in 2002 will be selected for the test.



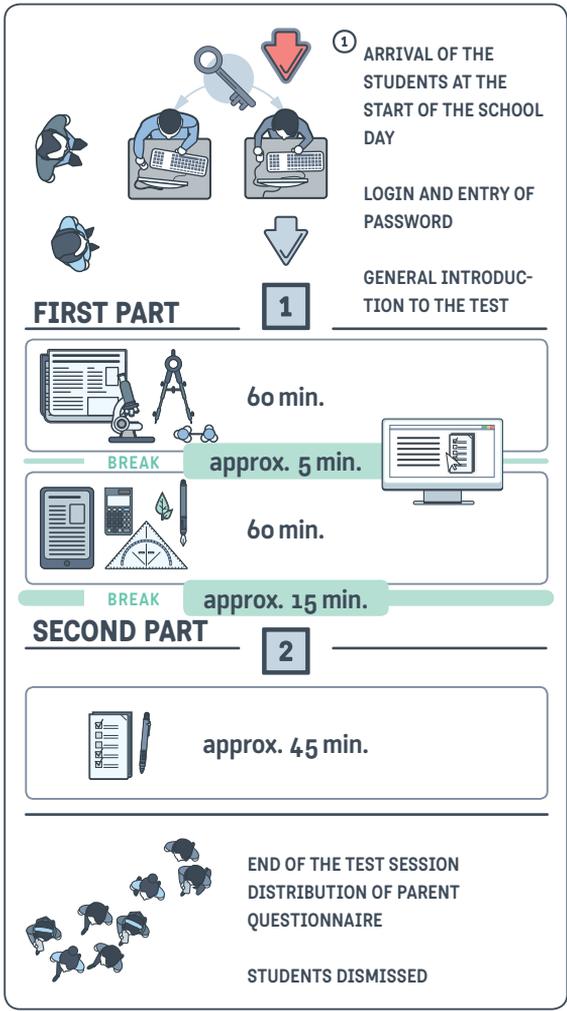
The target group for the PISA 2018 assessment is defined as follows:

all students born between
1 January 2002 and
31 December 2002,

and who are in classes 7
and higher.

How is the assessment conducted?

The study will be carried out in Luxembourg between **17 April and 18 May 2018**. The test will take up one school morning – approximately 3.5 hours. Each school has nominated a School Coordinator, who is responsible for the organisation of the test within the school. The test will take place in groups of approximately 20 students. External Test Administrators will carry out the test and monitor it to ensure that it proceeds in the correct way. For the second time (after PISA 2015), the test will be solely computer-based.



In **the first part** of the test, the students work for two hours on tasks (items) in the fields of reading, mathematics and science. In this context, different item formats are used, such as multiple-choice items as well as open response items, which require the student to give a written response.

In **the second part** of the test, the students first answer a Student Questionnaire, which takes approximately 35 minutes. This involves e.g. their attitudes towards reading and their experiences at school. Afterwards, students answer a second, 10-minute questionnaire, which explores students' ICT (Information and Communication Technology) activities and attitudes.

The school administrative bodies, for their part, receive a School Questionnaire, collecting e.g. information about the school's resources as well as the quality of the learning environment. To complement this, the parents of participating students receive a Parent Questionnaire which gathers information on students' past education experiences and home environment.

The information gathered in the questionnaires is highly important: through this data, central characteristics are collected in the context of the students, their school and the family home, making it possible to undertake a more in-depth analysis of the data.

Commissioning of, and responsibility for, the PISA Study

The PISA Study is commissioned by the governments of the participating countries. Each country delegates a representative of its government to sit on the PISA Governing Board (PGB), a joint committee. Under the aegis of the OECD, that body is responsible for setting the programme's educational policy objectives, and for adherence to the fixed priorities throughout its implementation. The PGB adopts all key decisions.

International consortium

An international consortium is leading all aspects of PISA implementation under the close guidance of the OECD Secretariat. It consists of several international organisations and research institutions within the education sector and includes: ETS – Educational Testing Service (USA), Pearson (UK), Westat (USA), cApStAn – Linguistic Quality Control (Belgium), DIPF – Deutsches Institut für Internationale Pädagogische Forschung (Germany), Statistics Canada (Canada), University of Liège – aSPE (Belgium), University of Luxembourg (Luxembourg), HallStat SPRL (Belgium) and ACER – Australian Council for Educational Research (Australia).

Organisation at national level

In each country, a national PISA center is set up; this maintains close contact with the international consortium. In Luxembourg, the national PISA project center is established within the Service de Coordination de la Recherche et de l'Innovation pédagogiques et technologiques (SCRIPT) of the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth (MENJE). This department is responsible for all phases of the implementation of the project (preparation, execution, coding and data management) and for adherence to the quality standards in Luxembourg.

The national PISA results are evaluated, in collaboration with the Luxembourg Centre for Educational Testing (LUCET), which forms part of the University of Luxembourg.

Contact

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