

# Sri Lanka - National Assessment of Achievement - Grade 4

**National Educational Research and Evaluation Centre - University of Colombo**

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# Overview

## Identification

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## Summary

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### ABSTRACT

The National Assessment of Achievement has been administered every three years since 2003 by the National Educational Research and Evaluation Centre to grade 4 (ISCED 1) students in public schools.

The National Assessment of Achievement is a low-stake assessment. It is a written assessment, administered face-to-face and delivered through paper-pencil tests. All test-takers are presented with the same cognitive booklets or tests, which are aligned with the national curriculum.

The National Assessment of Achievement, administered in grade 4, serves the following purposes:

- supporting teachers (training, relevant materials, etc.)
- school or educator accountability
- sub-national level monitoring of learning outcomes
- monitoring education quality levels
- planning education policy reforms
- diagnosing student abilities
- revising curriculum

The assessment accommodates students with special needs, by providing the following arrangements:

- Hearing impairment: hearing instruments
- Visual impairment: test materials in braille

### KIND OF DATA

Random sample

### UNITS OF ANALYSIS

Results are available at the school, sub-national and national level. Data are disaggregated by sex, geographic location (urban and rural), and type of school (there are four types of public schools in Sri Lanka).

Results are published in reports, which are available in print and online.

## Scope

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### NOTES

The National Assessment of Achievement administered in grade 4 assesses students in the English language, Sinhala or Tamil language and Mathematics; the duration of each test is listed below:

- English language, 60 minutes
- First language (Sinhala or Tamil), 60 minutes

- Mathematics, 60 minutes

Note: The main language of instruction is either Sinhala or Tamil. Students take the Mathematics test in their main language of instruction.

Description of test items: Test items consist of multiple choice questions with three or more response options and open-ended questions requiring short constructed responses.

Description of stimuli: Test stimuli consist of mixed texts.

Reporting metrics: Student performance is reported by average score for each subject.

Scores are also reported by content domain.

Content domains for English: comprehension, syntax (grammar), writing, and vocabulary.

Content domains for First Language (Sinhala or Tamil): comprehension, syntax (grammar), writing, and vocabulary.

Content domains for Mathematics: concepts, procedures and problem solving.

The minimum requirement to meet the national standard is a score of 50 out of 100, or 50%.

Children are considered to reach the minimum national standard in the first language (Sinhala or Tamil) of instruction if after four years of formal schooling, they have a good vocabulary; are able to read and comprehend short phrases, simple sentences, short notices, general instructions that may be needed or used in day-to-day activities; and are able to write simple sentences of three to five words using simple grammatical structures to express or communicate feelings and ideas. Minimum standards for Mathematics and English language are not available.

## Coverage

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National

### UNIVERSE

Students enrolled in grade 4 (ISCED 1) in public schools.

Exclusions: Public schools with less than 10 students enrolled in grade 4 were excluded from the sampling design.

## Producers and Sponsors

### PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

| Name  | Affiliation           |
|---|-----------------------|
| National Educational Research and Evaluation Centre | University of Colombo |

### OTHER PRODUCER(S)

| Name  | Affiliation           | Role  |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| National Educational Research and Evaluation Centre | University of Colombo | Test development and administration; data processing and dissemination; programme development |
| Ministry of Education                               | Government            | Test development; data dissemination; programme development; financial support                |

## Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

| <b>Name</b>   | <b>Abbreviation</b> | <b>Affiliation</b>    | <b>Role</b>   |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|---|
| National Educational Research and Evaluation Centre | NEREC               | University of Colombo | Data collection   |
| UNESCO Institute for Statistics                     | UIS                 | United Nations        | Questionnaire design, metadata collection, review and publication |

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION  
2014

DDI DOCUMENT ID  
LKA-NA-Grade4-2013

# Sampling

## **Sampling Procedure**

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The sampling frame is based on the Ministry of Education's 2010 school database.  
Schools are selected using multi-stage sampling.  
Classrooms are selected using simple random sampling.  
Students are selected using simple random sampling.

# Questionnaires

## Overview

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The National Assessment of Achievement administered to grade 4 students comprises four background questionnaires:

- student questionnaire
- teacher questionnaire
- parents questionnaire
- school principal questionnaire

Each questionnaire has a standard completion duration of 30 minutes.

## Data Collection

### Data Collection Dates

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| <b>Start</b> | <b>End</b> | <b>Cycle</b>  |
|--------------|------------|---------------|
| 2013         | 2013       | Every 3 years |

### Data Collection Mode

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Face-to-face [f2f]

### Data Collection Notes

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The following actions were taken to reduce non-sampling error:

- Trained data collection staff
- Trained data processing staff

### Questionnaires

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- parents questionnaire
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Each questionnaire has a standard completion duration of 30 minutes.

## Data Processing

### **Data Editing**

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Test booklets are scored and verified manually. The data editing process is performed at headquarters.

### **Other Processing**

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Data entry is performed manually. The data capture operations are performed at headquarters.



## Data Access

### **Access Authority**

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National Educational Research and Evaluation Centre (University of Colombo), <http://edu.cmb.ac.lk/nerec/test/>

### **Contact(s)**

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Chandradasa Wannigamage (University of Colombo) , [wchandradasa@yahoo.com](mailto:wchandradasa@yahoo.com)

### **Access Conditions**

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To access the data, please send a request to the National Educational Research and Evaluation Centre or the Ministry of Education.