

Sri Lanka - National Assessment of Achievement - Grade 8

National Educational Research and Evaluation Centre - University of Colombo

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Overview

Identification

Summary

ABSTRACT

The National Assessment of Achievement has been administered every three years since 2003 by the National Educational Research and Evaluation Centre to grade 8 (ISCED 2) students in general education programmes 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 8, 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 three types of public schools at the lower-secondary education level in Sri Lanka).

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

Scope

NOTES

The National Assessment of Grade Eight Students comprises three mandatory subjects. The subjects and the duration of each test are listed below:

- English language, 60 minutes
- Science, 60 minutes

- Mathematics, 60 minutes

Note: The main language of instruction is Sinhala or Tamil. Students take the Mathematics and Science tests 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. The minimum requirement to meet the national standard is a score of 50 out of 100, or 50%.

Scores are broken down and reported by content domain (and type of task).

Content domains for English: grammar, reading, writing and vocabulary.

Content domains for Science: biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics.

Content domains for Mathematics: knowledge and skills, communications, relationships, reasoning and problem solving.

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National

UNIVERSE

Students enrolled in grade 8 (ISCED 2) in general education programmes in public schools.

Exclusion:

Public schools with less than 10 students enrolled in grade 8 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
International organizations	N/A	Financial support through grants and donations

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
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Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
National Educational Research and Evaluation Centre	NEREC	University of Colombo	Data collection
UNESCO Institute for Statistics	UIS	United Nations	Design the questionnaire for the metadata collection, review and publication in the UIS catalogue, available online

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION
2014

DDI DOCUMENT ID
LKA-NA-Grade8-2012

Sampling

Sampling Procedure

The sampling frame was the 2009 school database of the Ministry of Education.

Schools were selected using multi-stage sampling.

Classrooms were selected using simple random sampling.

Students were selected using simple random sampling.

Questionnaires

Overview

The National Assessment of Grade Four 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

Start	End	Cycle
2012	2012	Every 3 years

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

Data Collection Notes

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

- Trained data collection staff
- Trained data processing staff

Questionnaires

The National Assessment of Grade Four 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 Processing

Data Editing

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

Other Processing

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

Data Access

Access Authority

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

Contact(s)

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Access Conditions

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