



BOSTON  
COLLEGE

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**TIMSS**

**2019**

TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL  
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE STUDY

# Early Learning Survey

## Grade 5

**Human Sciences Research Council**  
134 Pretorius Street, Pretoria, 0002  
South Africa



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International Association  
for the Evaluation of  
Educational Achievement

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**TIMSS & PIRLS**  
International Study Center  
Lynch School of Education  
BOSTON COLLEGE

Identification Label

## Early Learning Survey

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Your child's class has been selected to participate in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). TIMSS is a research study about how children learn to do mathematics and science. The study is sponsored by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) and is being conducted in almost 60 countries around the world.


This survey asks about your child's early learning experiences. We are interested in what you and your child do together and what you think about different things related to your child's school. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions.

The information being collected will be extremely useful for helping understand how young children learn and for helping to improve the teaching and learning for all children. We ask that you respond to all of the questions you feel comfortable answering. We would like to reassure you, however, that your responses to this survey are confidential.

**This survey should be completed by the child's parent, or any of their caregivers.**

Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey.



**TIMSS** 2019



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**A. Was your child born in South Africa?**

Tick **one** circle only.

- Yes---  (If Yes, go to #3)
- No---

**If No,**

**B. How old was your child when he/she came to South Africa?**

Tick **one** circle only.

- Younger than 3 years old---
- 3 to 5 years old---
- 6 to 7 years old---
- 8 years old or older---

3

**What language did your child speak before he/she began school?**

If your child spoke more than one language tick "Yes" for more than one language.

Tick **all** that apply.

- a) English -----
- b) Afrikaans -----
- c) isiNdebele-----
- d) Sepedi -----
- e) Sesotho -----
- f) Seswati -----
- g) Setswana -----
- h) Tshivenda -----
- i) IsiXhosa-----
- j) IsiZulu -----
- k) Xitsonga -----
- l) Other -----

If other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

17

(continued)

Tick **one** circle in each column.

- |  | Father/<br>Parent A   | Mother/<br>Parent B   |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| a) Has never worked for pay -----  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| b) <b>Small Business Owner</b> -----<br><small>Includes owners of small businesses (fewer than 25 employees) such as retail shops, services, restaurants</small>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| c) <b>Clerical Worker</b> -----<br><small>Includes office clerks; secretaries; typists; data entry operators; customer service clerks</small>  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| d) <b>Service or Sales Worker</b> -----<br><small>Includes travel attendants; restaurant service workers; personal care workers; protective service workers; salespersons; street vendors</small>  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| e) <b>Skilled Agricultural or Fishery Worker</b> -----<br><small>Includes farmers; forestry workers; fishery workers; hunters and trappers</small>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| f) <b>Craft or Trade Worker</b> -----<br><small>Includes builders, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, metal workers; machine mechanics; handicraft workers</small>  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| g) <b>Plant or Machine Operator</b> -----<br><small>Includes plant and machine operators; assembly-line operators; motor-vehicle drivers</small>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| h) <b>General Labourers</b> -----<br><small>Includes domestic helpers and cleaners; building caretakers; messengers, porters, and doorkeepers; farm, fishery, agricultural, and construction workers</small>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| i) <b>Corporate Manager or Senior Official</b> -----<br><small>Includes corporate managers such as managers of large companies (25 or more employees) or managers of departments within large companies; legislators or senior government officials; senior officials of special-interest organisations; military officers</small> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| j) <b>Professional</b> -----<br><small>Includes scientists; mathematicians; computer scientists; architects; engineers; life science and health professionals; teachers; legal professionals; police officers; social scientists; writers and artists; religious professionals</small>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| k) <b>Technician or Associate Professional</b> -----<br><small>Includes science, engineering, and computer associates and technicians; life science and health technicians and assistants; teacher aides; finance and sales associate professionals; business service agents; administrative assistants</small>                    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| l) <b>Informal</b> -----<br><small>Spaza shop, home shop, informal trader, hawker</small>  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| m) <b>Not applicable</b> -----   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

17

**What kind of work do the child's father (or male guardian or parent A) and mother (or female guardian or parent B) do for their main jobs?**

For each, tick the circle for the job category that best describes what he/she does (opposite page). Each category has a few examples to help you decide the correct category. If the parent/guardian is not working now, think about the last job that he/she had.

4

**A. Did your child attend the following before Grade 1?**

Tick **one** circle for each line.

- |  | Yes                   | No                    |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| a) Preschool education for children under 3 years old-----                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| b) Pre-primary education including Grade RR for children 3 years old or older----- | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**B. Approximately, how long was your child in these programmes altogether?**

Tick **one** circle only.

- Did not attend---
- Less than 1 year---
- 1 year---
- 2 years---
- 3 years---
- 4 years or more---

**C. Did your child attend Grade R?**

Tick **one** circle only.

- Yes---
- No---

**D. If yes, where?**

Tick **one** circle only.

- Attended Grade R linked to a primary school---
- Attended Grade R at a centre not linked to a primary school---

## Beginning Primary School

5

How old was your child when he/she began Grade 1?

Tick **one** circle only.

5 years old or younger ---

6 years old ---

7 years old ---

8 years old or older ---

6

How well could your child do the following when he/she began Grade 1?

Tick **one** circle for each line.

Very well

Moderately well

Not very well

Not at all

a) Recognise most of the letters of the alphabet -----  —  —  —

b) Read some words -----  —  —  —

c) Read sentences -----  —  —  —

d) Read a story -----  —  —  —

e) Write letters of the alphabet -----  —  —  —

f) Write his/her name -----  —  —  —

g) Write other words -----  —  —  —

16

A. How far in his/her education do you think your child will go?

Tick **one** circle only.

Finish Grade 9 ---

Finish Grade 12 ---

Finish post-matric certificate ---

Finish a diploma ---

Finish Bachelor's degree ---

Finish a postgraduate degree:  
Master's or Doctorate ---

B. How far in his/her education do you hope your child goes?

Tick **one** circle only.

Finish Grade 9 ---

Finish Grade 12 ---

Finish post-matric certificate ---

Finish a diploma ---

Finish Bachelor's degree ---

Finish a postgraduate degree:  
Master's or Doctorate ---

**14**

How often does your child speak English at home?

Tick **one** circle only.

- Always---
- Almost always---
- Sometimes---
- Never---

**15**

What is the highest level of education **completed** by the child's father (or male guardian or parent A) and mother (or female guardian or parent B)?

Tick **one** circle in each column.

	Father/ Parent A	Mother/ Parent B
a) Did not go to school -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Some primary school (Grades 1-8)-----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Finished Grade 9 -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Finished Grade 12-----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) Finished post-matric certificate -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f) Finished diploma -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g) Finished first degree -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h) Finished Masters or Doctoral degree ---	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i) Not applicable -----	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**7**

Could your child do the following when he/she began Grade 1?

Tick **one** circle for each line.

- |                                    | Not at all            | Up to 10              | Up to 20              | Up to 100 or higher   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| a) Count by himself/herself -----  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| b) Recognise written numbers ----- | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| c) Write numbers -----             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| d) Do simple addition -----        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |                       |                       |
| e) Do simple subtraction -----     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |                       |                       |
| f) Count money-----                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |                       |                       |

## Studying Outside of School

**8**

**A. During the last 12 months, has your child attended extra lessons or tutoring not provided by the school in the following subjects?**

Tick **one** circle for each line.

		Yes, to excel in class		
			Yes, to keep up in class	
				No
a) Mathematics	-----	<input type="radio"/>	-----	<input type="radio"/>
b) Science	-----	<input type="radio"/>	-----	<input type="radio"/>

**B. For how many of the last 12 months has your child attended extra lessons or tutoring?**

Tick **one** circle for each line.

		Did not attend		
			Less than 4 months	
				4-8 months
				More than 8 months
a) Mathematics	-----	<input type="radio"/>	-----	<input type="radio"/>
b) Science	-----	<input type="radio"/>	-----	<input type="radio"/>

**C. Approximately, how often does your child do schoolwork at home?**

Tick **one** circle only.

- My child does not do schoolwork at home ---
- Every day ---
- 3 or 4 times a week ---
- 1 or 2 times a week ---
- Less than once a week ---

The following questions are about the child's father (or male guardian or parent A) and mother (or female guardian or parent B). If the child has only one parent/guardian, answer for Parent A.

**12**

**Were the child's parents /guardians born in South Africa?**

**A. Father/ Parent A**

Tick **one** circle only.

- Yes ---
- No ---
- Not applicable ---

**B. Mother/ Parent B**

Tick **one** circle only.

- Yes ---
- No ---
- Not applicable ---

**13**

**Do the child's parents/guardians talk with the child in the following languages?**

Tick **all** that apply.

	Father/ Parent A	Mother/ Parent B
a) English	----- <input type="radio"/>	----- <input type="radio"/>
b) Afrikaans	----- <input type="radio"/>	----- <input type="radio"/>
c) isiNdebele	----- <input type="radio"/>	----- <input type="radio"/>
d) Sepedi	----- <input type="radio"/>	----- <input type="radio"/>
e) Sesotho	----- <input type="radio"/>	----- <input type="radio"/>
f) Seswati	----- <input type="radio"/>	----- <input type="radio"/>
g) Setswana	----- <input type="radio"/>	----- <input type="radio"/>
h) Tshivenda	----- <input type="radio"/>	----- <input type="radio"/>
i) IsiXhosa	----- <input type="radio"/>	----- <input type="radio"/>
j) IsiZulu	----- <input type="radio"/>	----- <input type="radio"/>
k) Xitsonga	----- <input type="radio"/>	----- <input type="radio"/>
l) Other	----- <input type="radio"/>	----- <input type="radio"/>
m) Not applicable	----- <input type="radio"/>	----- <input type="radio"/>



**How much do you agree with these statements about mathematics and science?**

Tick **one** circle for each line.

- Agree a lot  
 Agree a little  
 Disagree a little  
 Disagree a lot
- a) Most jobs need skills in math, science or technology --  --  --  --
  - b) Science and technology can help solve the world's problems ----  --  --  --
  - c) Science explains how things in the world work -----  --  --  --
  - d) My child needs mathematics to get ahead in the world -----  --  --  --
  - e) Learning science is for everyone -----  --  --  --
  - f) Technology makes life easier --  --  --  --
  - g) Mathematics can be used in real life -----  --  --  --
  - h) Engineering is necessary to design things that are safe and useful -----  --  --  --

(continued)

**D. How often do you or someone else in your home do the following things?**

Tick **one** circle for each line.

- Often  
 Sometimes  
 Never or almost never
- a) Ask if your child has done his/her schoolwork-----  --  --
  - b) Help your child with schoolwork at home-----  --  --
  - c) Review your child's schoolwork to make sure it is correct -----  --  --
  - d) Make sure your child sets aside time for schoolwork at home -  --  --
  - e) Attend school meetings-----  --  --

**E. How often does the following happen?**

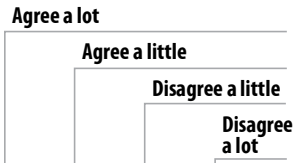
Tick **one** circle for each line.

- Often  
 Sometimes  
 Never or almost never
- a) My child's work is in a language I do not understand-----  --  --
  - b) My child's school work is so difficult that I am not able to help -----  --  --

**9**

**What do you think of your child's school?**

*Tick **one** circle for each line.*



- a) My child's school does a good job including me in my child's education ----  --  --  --
- b) My child's school provides a safe environment -----  --  --  --
- c) My child's school cares about my child's progress in school -----  --  --  --
- d) My child's school does a good job informing me of his/her progress -----  --  --  --
- e) My child's school promotes high academic standards -----  --  --  --
- f) My child's school does a good job in helping him/her become better in reading -----  --  --  --
- g) My child's school does a good job in helping him/her become better in mathematics -----  --  --  --
- h) My child's school does a good job in helping him/her become better in science -----  --  --  --
- i) My child' is safe from bullying at school -----  --  --  --

**10**

**A. About how many books are there in your home? (Do not count eBooks, magazines, newspapers, or children's books.)**

*Tick **one** circle only.*

- 0-10 ---
- 11-25 ---
- 26-100 ---
- 101-200 ---
- More than 200 ---

**B. About how many children's books are there in your home? (Do not count children's eBooks, magazines, or school books.)**

*Tick **one** circle only.*

- 0-10 ---
- 11-25 ---
- 26-50 ---
- 51-100 ---
- More than 100 ---