

What are the tests like?

- To see examples of the types of questions used in the tests, go to: <http://timssandpirls.bc.edu> and click on TIMSS 2007 Released Items.

What happens to the results of TIMSS 2011?

- The NFER will carry out the survey and send the data to the international TIMSS team for analysis. All published data will be anonymous.
- The NFER will send results for named students in each school to that school only. Names of schools will not be included in any national or international reports.
- Findings from the survey will inform education policy in England and other countries, and will be used to improve teaching and learning in maths and science for students around the world.

What have previous TIMSS surveys taught us?

Some key findings for England in 2007 were:

- England's students are among the best in the world in both maths and science.
- Scores in maths improved in both age groups, for the first time at Y9. The previous high standard in science was maintained for both groups.

- England's pupils in both Y5 and Y9 scored well in all areas of science.
- In maths, England's Y9 students were best at data handling while Y5 pupils were weakest in number.
- Students are generally confident in maths and science and enjoy their lessons, although only 40% at Y9 enjoy maths, and there has been a drop in highly positive attitudes.
- Boys are more confident than girls despite no overall differences in attainment.

We strongly hope that schools and students will be willing to represent their country in 2011, to build on these findings and to help make TIMSS 2011 a success.

Where can I get more information?

- For more information on TIMSS 2011 in England, go to <http://www.nfer.ac.uk/timss> or contact the NFER at:
email: timss2011e@nfer.ac.uk or tel: 01753 637007.
- To view the TIMSS 2007 national report for England, go to: <http://www.nfer.ac.uk/timss>



Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study

What is TIMSS?

- A world-wide research project, taking place every four years and providing data about trends in mathematics and science achievement over time.
- Assesses the knowledge and skills of students aged 9–10 and 13–14 in over 60 countries.
- Administered in England by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER).
- TIMSS 2011 takes place in England in summer 2011.
- Students in 150 primary and 150 secondary schools have been randomly selected to represent their country.

Is this the first TIMSS survey?

- No. There were TIMSS surveys in 1995, 1999, 2003, and 2007 building on earlier related surveys of maths and science achievement.
- England took part in all previous TIMSS cycles. All four previous cycles surveyed Year 9 students; Year 5 pupils were surveyed in 1995, 2003 and 2007.



How are schools and students chosen?

- All areas and all types of school are included, to give a representative sample.
- Schools are randomly selected by the international team which runs the survey. The international team also specifies which class(es) and students should participate.
- High participation targets are set to ensure that data is of good quality and that valid comparisons between countries can be made.
- It is important that the maximum number of selected schools takes part so that we can meet these strict international sample participation requirements.
- We are not allowed to invite other schools if the selected schools decline.

What are schools asked to do?

- Agree to participate, then nominate a school contact to liaise with the NFER.
- Supply class and student lists for the target age group.
- Inform the relevant teachers and students.
- Have a room available for the survey.
- Complete a questionnaire about the school and ask the relevant teacher(s) to complete a questionnaire about their teaching of the TIMSS class(es).
- Schools do not need to administer or collect the tests and questionnaires. A TIMSS administrator will bring everything to the school and run the session. We aim to minimise the demands made on the schools involved.

How will schools benefit from participating?

- Participating schools will receive test results for their students, along with average scores for the sample as a whole, for comparison.
- Each school will receive a summary of attitudinal data for its students, with comparative national information, which schools may find helpful for self-evaluation.
- Participating schools will receive a financial reward on signing-up to TIMSS 2011 in England and a further reward on successful completion of the required test booklets and questionnaires.
- Other benefits will include certificates for participating schools and students, and a free copy of the summary of the TIMSS national report.

What are students asked to do?

- Each sampled student will answer one test booklet, containing questions on maths and science.
- Students will also complete a short questionnaire about their attitudes towards and experiences of their school and their maths and science education.
- The survey will take place at the students' own school during normal school hours.
- There is no need for any special preparation or studying.