# Council of Ministers of Education, Canada 

## Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP)

## PCAP-13 Reading, Mathematics, and Science Assessment (2007)

## Student Questionnaire

## DIRECTIONS

In this part of the assessment, you will find questions about yourself, your experiences at school, and your reading skills and habits, both in school and out of school. Some questions ask for facts, while others ask for opinions. There will also be some questions about the assessment itself. Your answers, along with your test results and those of other students, will provide a picture of how students in Canada are doing in school in general and in their language arts courses in particular.

Please read each question carefully and answer as accurately as possible. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. Your answers are confidential, and no one will be able to identify you from these answers.

Most of the questions will be followed by a few choices indicated by a number. For these questions, please respond by checking the box next to or below your choice as shown in the example.

## Example

(Check the appropriate box.)

I like to listen to music. ........................ \begin{tabular}{ccccc}

\& | strongly |
| :---: |
| disagree | \& $\square_{1}$ \& $\square_{2}$ \& $\square_{3}$

\end{tabular}

## Thank you for your time, effort, and thought in completing this questionnaire.

## Section 1

## 1. Are you male or female?

Male ................................................................................................................................ $\square_{1}$
Female............................................................................................................................ $\square_{2}$
2. What grade are you in?

Grade 6.......................................................................................................................... $\square_{1}$
Grade 7 (Secondary 1 - QC) .......................................................................................... $\square_{2}$
Grade 8 (Secondary 2 - QC) .......................................................................................... $\square_{3}$
Grade 9 (Secondary 3 - QC) ......................................................................................... $\square_{4}$
Grade 10 (Secondary 4 - QC, Level I - NL).................................................................. $\square_{5}$
3. Were you born in Canada?

Yes ................................................................................................................................. $\square_{1}$
No .................................................................................................................................. $\square_{2}$
4. If you were not born in Canada, how old were you when you came to Canada?

Less than 5 years old....................................................................................................... $\square_{1}$
5 to 9 years old............................................................................................................... $\square_{2}$
10 years old or older ...................................................................................................... $\square_{3}$
5. What language is most often spoken in your home? (Please check ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)
English

$\qquad$
French

$\qquad$
Canadian Aboriginal (e.g., Cree, Inuktitut)

$\qquad$ ..... $\square_{3}$
Other (e.g., German, Mandarin)

$\qquad$

## 6. Are you of Aboriginal ancestry (First Nations, Inuit, Métis)?

$\qquad$
7. About how many books are there in your home? (Do not count magazines, newspapers, or your school books.)

None or very few ( 0 to 10 books).................................................................................. $\square_{1}$
Enough to fill one shelf (11 to 25 books) ...................................................................... $\square_{2}$
Enough to fill one bookcase (26 to 100 books) ............................................................. $\square_{3}$
Enough to fill two bookcases (101 to 200 books) .......................................................... $\square_{4}$
Enough to fill three or more bookcases (more than 200 books)..................................... $\square_{5}$

## 8. What is the highest level of education completed by your mother (or stepmother or female guardian)?

Did not complete high school ........................................................................................ $\square_{1}$
Completed high school .................................................................................................. $\square_{2}$
Had some education after high school........................................................................... $\square_{3}$
Completed education at a college or cégep .................................................................... $\square_{4}$
Had some university education but did not complete a degree ...................................... $\square_{5}$
Completed one or more university degrees .................................................................... $\square_{6}$
I don’t know................................................................................................................... $\square_{7}$
9. In what language are most of your school subjects taught?

English ........................................................................................................................... $\square_{1}$
French ............................................................................................................................. $\square_{2}$
Canadian Aboriginal (e.g., Cree, Inuktitut) ................................................................... $\square_{3}$
Other (e.g., German, Mandarin) ..................................................................................... $\square 4$
10. Are you currently in a French Immersion program?

Yes. $\square$
No .................................................................................................................................. $\square_{2}$
11. Have you ever been in an English-as-a-Second-Language or French-as-a-SecondLanguage program or course (other than French Immersion)?

Yes, I am now. ................................................................................................................ $\square_{1}$
Yes, I have been in the past. .......................................................................................... $\square_{2}$
No, I have not ever been................................................................................................ $\square_{3}$

## Section 2

1. Please check the box that best shows how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about school.

|  | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (a) I like school. | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| (b) My teachers treat me fairly .......... | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| (c) My teachers care about me........... | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| (d) At school, I feel that I belong........ | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| (e) At school, I make friends easily..... | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |

2. Please check the box that best shows how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about reading.
(a) I enjoy reading...........................
(b) I read only if I have to. $\qquad$
(c) I like it when I receive a book for a present $\qquad$
(d) For me, reading is a waste of time...
(e) I cannot read for more than a few minutes because I cannot sit still for a long time.
(f) I enjoy going to a bookstore or library. $\qquad$
(g) I believe I am a good reader. $\qquad$
(h) I am confident about reading difficult material
(i) I feel nervous when I have to read aloud in school $\qquad$
(j) I think being a good reader makes a difference in the "real world" $\qquad$
(k) Most of the reading I do in school is boring. $\qquad$

Strongly
disagree
$\square_{1}$
$\square_{1}$
$\square_{1}$


Strongly disagree

Disagree $\square_{2}$$\square_{2}$

$\square_{2}$

(1) Most of the reading I do in school is easy $\qquad$
$\square$
$\square_{2}$
$\square_{3}$
(m) I would rather read for information than read stories $\qquad$
3. If I do especially well in English Language Arts in school, it is because of...

|  | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (a) natural ability.. | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| (b) good luck.. | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| (c) studying especially hard............. | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| (d) good teaching...................... | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| (e) encouragement from parents......... | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| (f) encouragement from friends............... | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |

4. If I do especially poorly in English Language Arts in school, it is because of...

|  | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly agree |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (a) not enough natural ability............. | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| (b) bad luck.............................. | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| (c) not studying hard enough............. | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square \square_{3}$ | $\square \square_{4}$ |
| (d) poor teaching......................... | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| (e) no encouragement from parents..... | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| (f) no encouragement from friends...... | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |

## Section 3

1. How much time IN AN AVERAGE WEEK (including the weekend), do you usually spend doing each of these activities OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL HOURS?

|  | No time | Less than <br> $\mathbf{1}$ hour | $\mathbf{1}$ to 2 <br> hours | $\mathbf{3}$ to 4 <br> hours | $\mathbf{5}$ to 6 <br> hours | More than <br> $\mathbf{6}$ hours |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (a)Outside-of-class reading <br> for all your courses....... | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ | $\square_{5}$ | $\square_{6}$ |
| (b) Reading for enjoyment |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| and/or general interest.... | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ | $\square_{5}$ | $\square_{6}$ |

(c) Doing sports or other school and community activities $\qquad$
(d) Taking extra school lessons or going to tutors
$\square_{1}$

(e.g., music, swimming)
(f) Watching television or movies $\qquad$
(g) Using a computer for school purposes (e.g., research, writing). $\qquad$
(h) Playing computer, video,
or other electronic games
$\square_{1}$ $\square_{1}$ personal reasons (e.g., Internet, e-mail) $\qquad$
2. On average, how much time do you spend in total EACH WEEK on homework in all of your school subjects?

Less than 30 minutes $\qquad$
30 minutes to one hour .................................................................................................. $\square_{2}$
One to two hours. $\qquad$
Two to three hours $\qquad$
More than three hours $\qquad$ $\square_{5}$
3. On average, how much time do you spend in total EACH WEEK on homework in English Language Arts?

Less than 30 minutes ..................................................................................................... $\square_{1}$
30 minutes to one hour .................................................................................................. $\square_{2}$
One to two hours............................................................................................................ $\square_{3}$
More than two hours ...................................................................................................... $\square_{4}$
4. How many days have you been absent from school over this school year?

0 to 2 days...................................................................................................................... $\square_{1}$
3 to 5 days...................................................................................................................... $\square_{2}$
6 to 10 days.................................................................................................................... $\square_{3}$
11 to 20 days.................................................................................................................. $\square_{4}$
More than 20 days ......................................................................................................... $\square_{5}$
5. How many full school days this year have you spent on field trips, sport activities, music or cultural events, and similar things that are not part of your regular classes?

6. How often do the following things happen in your English Language Arts classes?

| Rarely |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| or never | Sometime | Often |

(a) There is noise or disorder in the classroom $\qquad$
$\qquad$ $\square_{2}$
(b) We lose 5 or 10 minutes because of disruptions. $\qquad$$\square_{1}$$\square_{3}$
(c) We discuss or do things other than the topic of the lesson. $\qquad$$\square_{2}$ $\square_{3}$

## Section 4

1. In your English Language Arts classes, how often are you given marks or grades using the following methods?
Rarely or
never Sometimes Often
(a) True/false or matching questions.......
$\square_{1}$
$\square_{1}$
(b) Multiple-choice questions $\qquad$
$\square_{1}$
$\square_{2}$


$\square_{1}$ $\square_{2}$ two)
$\square_{1}$ $\square_{1}$

$$
\square_{3}
$$

(e) Long-answer questions (a paragraph or more) $\qquad$
(f) Essays (one page or more). $\qquad$
(g) Presentations, speeches, and other performances $\qquad$

## 4. How often are rubrics used for marking tests or assignments in your English Language Arts classes?

Rarely or never

$\qquad$ ..... $\square_{1}$
Sometimes ..... $\square_{2}$
Often ..... $\square_{3}$
I don't know ..... $\square_{4}$
5. Normally, are you given a rubric when you start an assignment in your English Language Arts classes?
$\qquad$
No ..... $\square_{2}$
I don't know ..... $\square_{3}$
6. How well do you feel you performed on the PCAP test you just completed?
Very well ..... $\square_{1}$
Somewhat well ..... $\square_{2}$
Not at all well. ..... $\square_{3}$
7. Do you think the PCAP test was a fair measure of your ability?
Very fair. ..... $\square_{1}$
Somewhat fair ..... $\square_{2}$
Not at all fair

$\qquad$ ..... $\square_{3}$

## Section 5

1. How often do you do the following things in your English Language Arts classes?

|  | Rarely or never | Sometime <br> $\mathbf{s}$ | Often |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (a) Read a textbook. | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| (b) Read magazines or newspapers...... | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square \square_{2}$ | $\square \square_{3}$ |
| (c) Read novels or short stories (fiction) | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square \square_{3}$ |
| (d) Read information or non-fiction material. | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| (e) Read material found on the Internet | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| (f) Use on-line encyclopedias or other electronic subscriptions. | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| (g) Watch videos or DVDs or go to the movies. | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| (h) Read books or other material from the school library. | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| (i) Read books or other material from the public library | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |

2. In your English Language Arts classes, how often do you have the following kinds of assignments?
Rarely or
never

Sometimes Often
(a) Questions from textbooks, workbooks, or worksheets $\qquad$
(b) Group work in the classroom
(c) Individual projects requiring work outside of class. $\qquad$
(d) Group projects requiring work outside of class.

## 3. How much does each of these apply to reading in your English Language Arts classes?

|  | Not at all | A little | More than <br> a little | A lot |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (a) The reading we do in school is more <br> appropriate for girls than boys....... | $\square_{1}$ |  | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |

## Section 6

## 1. How would you describe your school library? (Check ALL that apply.)

(a) It has a variety of books that are interesting and useful to me $\qquad$
(b) It has a good collection of reference materials for doing research. $\qquad$
(c) It is a place I like to go to read or to study $\qquad$
(d) It is available during all/almost all school hours $\qquad$
(e) It has someone who can help me most of the time $\qquad$
(f) We don't have a school library $\qquad$
2. How often do you use the following strategies to help you understand what you are reading?
(a) Reading out loud to myself. $\qquad$
Rarely or never
(b) Sounding out as many words as I can..
Sometimes
Often
(c) Looking for clues such as headings or captions. $\qquad$
(d) Trying to make connections to what I already know $\qquad$
(e) Thinking about the author's message..
(f) Looking at charts and pictures $\qquad$
(g) Asking someone to help me. $\qquad$
$\square_{1}$
$\square_{2}$
$\square_{3}$
$\square_{2}$ $\qquad$
$\square$

(n) Sometimes reading more quickly or more slowly, depending on the $\square_{1}$
 material.
(o) Trying to predict what the material is about. $\qquad$ ..
$\square_{2}$ $\qquad$
3. How often did your parents or guardians do these things when you were younger?

## Rarely or <br> never

(b) They encouraged me to read.
(c) They showed an interest in what I was reading at school $\qquad$
(d) They did what they could to help me with my reading homework. $\qquad$
(e) They asked me about what I was reading $\qquad$
(f) They praised me when I did well in reading. $\qquad$

Sometimes
 $\square_{2}$$\square_{1}$ $\square_{1}$ $\square_{1}$

Often
$\square_{3}$
4. How often do your parents read at home?

|  | Rarely or <br> never | Sometime <br> s | Often | Not <br> applicable |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (a) My mother/female guardian...... | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |
| (b) My father/male guardian......... | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ | $\square_{4}$ |

## 5. When did you first learn to read?

Before kindergarten ..... $\square_{1}$
Kindergarten

$\qquad$ ..... $\square_{2}$
Grade 1

$\qquad$
$\square_{3}$
Grade 2.

$\qquad$
Later than grade 2

$\qquad$ ..... $\square_{5}$
I don't remember

$\qquad$
$\square_{6}$
6. What do you remember about how you first learned to read?

|  | Yes | No | $\begin{gathered} \text { I don't } \\ \text { remembe } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (a) I was taught to sound out words... | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| (b) I was taught to recognize words by sight. | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| (c) I read aloud a lot..................... | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| (d) I was taught to use picture clues, sentences, and other hints to figure things out. | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| (e) I was read to a lot.. | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| (f) I filled out worksheets.............. | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square \square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| (g) I read picture books................. | $\square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |
| (h) I read little books or chapter books. | $\square \square_{1}$ | $\square_{2}$ | $\square_{3}$ |

7. How much did each of the following people help you when you first learned to read? Not at all A little
(a) My parents/guardians $\qquad$

More than
a little $\quad$ A lota little$\square_{3}$
(e) Other people. $\qquad$
(b) Other relatives. $\qquad$
(c) My teachers. $\qquad$
(d) My friends $\qquad$$\square_{1}$$\square_{1}$
$\square_{2}$
$\square_{2}$
$\square_{2}$
$\square$
$\square_{2}$
$\square_{2}$Not at allA little
8. Check ALL of the items that apply to you.
(a) I have had ear infections in the past $\qquad$ $\square_{1}$
(b) There was a time in my schooling when I had difficulty seeing to read $\qquad$ $\square_{1}$
(c) I wear glasses or I have worn glasses in the past.................................................. $\square_{1}$
(d) I get headaches when I read a lot $\qquad$ $\square_{1}$
(e) I find it difficult to read in a noisy classroom $\qquad$ $\square_{1}$

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

