

**Council of Ministers of Education,
Canada**

**School Achievement Indicators
Program**

**Science Assessment
1999
Student Questionnaire**

DIRECTIONS

In this booklet, you will find questions about yourself and your science classes. Some questions ask for facts, while others ask for opinions. Your answers will be used along with the test you just completed to help in deciding how students in Canada are doing in their science courses.

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 nobody will be able to identify you from these answers.

Some questions will be followed by a few choices indicated by a letter. For these questions, please respond by circling the letter next to or below your choice as shown in Example 1.

Example 1

strongly
disagree disagree agree strongly
agree

I like to listen to music A B C D

For other questions you will be asked to give a number or word in a blank as in Example 2. For these questions, please write clearly so that your response can be read.

Example 2

What year is this?

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

1 Are you male or female?

Male..... A
Female..... B

2 Were you born in Canada?

Yes A
No B

3 If you were not born in Canada, how old were you when you came to Canada?

I came to Canada when I was _____ years old.

4 How often do you speak English at home?

always or nearly always A
sometimes..... B
never C

5 After you finish high school, do you expect to continue your education?

yes..... A
no B

(If NO, please go to question 9.)

6 If YES, what form of further education do you intend to take?

specialized work or trade training..... A
technical or technology training B
university or college..... C
other D
don't know..... E

7 Do you expect to eventually work in a field that requires education in science or technology?

- yes..... A
- no B
- don't know..... C

(If NO or don't know, please go to question 9.)

8 If YES, which of the following areas comes closest to the area in which you would most likely want to work?

(Circle one category only)

- sciences (e.g. biologist, chemist, geologist) A
- engineering or engineering technology (e.g., civil engineer, electronics technician) B
- health sciences or technology (e.g., medical doctor, nurse, X-ray technician) C
- computer science or technology D
- science or mathematics teacher E
- other area of science or technology (excluding social sciences) F
- don't know..... G

9 How important do the following people think it is for you to do well in SCHOOL?

	very unimportant	unimportant	important	very important
parents	A	B	C	D
friends.....	A	B	C	D
teachers.....	A	B	C	D
yourself.....	A	B	C	D

10 How important do the following people think it is for you to do well in SCIENCE?

	very unimportant	unimportant	important	very important
parents.....	A	B	C	D
friends.....	A	B	C	D
science teachers.....	A	B	C	D
other teachers	A	B	C	D
yourself	A	B	C	D

11 In a normal week (*including the weekend*) how much time do you usually spend doing each of these things outside of school hours?

	no time	less than 1 hr.	1-2 hrs.	3-4 hrs.	5-6 hrs.	more than 6 hrs.
taking extra school lessons or having tutoring	A	B	C	D	E	F
taking other lessons (e.g., music, swimming)	A	B	C	D	E	F
studying or doing homework in science	A	B	C	D	E	F
studying or doing homework in other subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F
reading for enjoyment	A	B	C	D	E	F
using a computer for school purposes (e.g., research, e-mail).....	A	B	C	D	E	F
using a computer for entertainment (e.g., Internet, computer games).....	A	B	C	D	E	F

12 Please respond to each of the following statements by circling the letter that is closest to how you feel about the statement.

	strongly disagree	disagree	agree	strongly agree
Science is more difficult than other school subjects.	A	B	C	D
I am not very interested in science.	A	B	C	D
I learn lots of new things in science.	A	B	C	D
Science does more harm than good in the world.	A	B	C	D
Science is an important school subject.	A	B	C	D
Many good jobs require the study of science.	A	B	C	D

13 If I were faced with a difficult problem in science, I would be likely to ...

	strongly disagree	disagree	agree	strongly agree
ask the teacher for help.	A	B	C	D
ask a friend for help.	A	B	C	D
ask my parents for help.	A	B	C	D
keep trying until I solve the problem.	A	B	C	D
give up and not try to solve the problem.	A	B	C	D

14 Please respond to each of the following statements by circling the letter that is closest to how you feel about the statement.

	strongly disagree	disagree	agree	strongly agree
To do well in science you need. . .				
natural ability.	A	B	C	D
good luck.	A	B	C	D
hard work.	A	B	C	D
encouragement from teachers.	A	B	C	D
encouragement from parents.	A	B	C	D
When I get an unusually low mark in a science course, it is most likely because. . .				
I did not study hard enough.	A	B	C	D
the teacher marked too hard.	A	B	C	D
of bad luck	A	B	C	D
the course was difficult.	A	B	C	D
the course was not well taught.	A	B	C	D
When I get an unusually high mark in a science course, it is most likely because . . .				
I worked especially hard to do well.	A	B	C	D
the teacher was easy in marking.	A	B	C	D
of good luck.	A	B	C	D
the course was easy.	A	B	C	D
the course was well taught.	A	B	C	D

15 How satisfied are you with how well you are doing in your science courses this year?

- very satisfied..... A
- satisfied..... B
- dissatisfied C
- very dissatisfied D
- not taking science this year..... E

16 Please respond to each of the following statements by circling the letter that is closest to how you feel about the statement.

	strongly disagree	disagree	agree	strongly agree
I like to learn new things.	A	B	C	D
I have lots of friends in school.	A	B	C	D
I feel good about school.	A	B	C	D
I am bossed around too much in school.	A	B	C	D
I know how to cope with school work.	A	B	C	D
I am genuinely interested in school work.	A	B	C	D
I get along with most students in my school.	A	B	C	
	D			
I know that people respect me in school.	A	B	C	D
I am usually bored in school.	A	B	C	D
My teachers treat me fairly.	A	B	C	D
I enjoy going to school.	A	B	C	D
I feel good about my school work.	A	B	C	D
There is not much interesting to do in school.	A	B	C	D
I feel important in school.	A	B	C	D
Teachers give me the marks I deserve.	A	B	C	D

17 How many days of school would you say you have been absent this year?

none	A
one or two	B
three to five	C
six to ten	D
more than ten	E

18 How often do you and your parent(s) or guardian(s) ...

rarely	a few	a few	almost
or	times	times	every
never	a month	a week	day

work together on your science homework?	A	B	C	D
work together on homework in other subjects?	A	B	C	D
discuss your schoolwork?	A	B	C	D
discuss your future?	A	B	C	D
discuss your daily activities?	A	B	C	D

19 What is your average mark in your science courses this year?

above 90	A
between 80 and 90	B
between 70 and 80	C
between 60 and 70	D
between 50 and 60	E
below 50.....	F
don't know or no grades given	G
not taking science this year.....	H

20 Which of these science subjects are you currently taking?

(Circle all that apply)

	Yes	No
general science	A	B
physics	A	B
chemistry	A	B
earth science	A	B
biology	A	B
other science	A	B
no science	A	B

Please complete questions 21 to 24 for the FIRST course you selected in question 20. For example, if you are taking biology and physics, complete questions 21 to 24 for physics. If you are not now taking any science, please go to question 25.

21 Which course did you choose?

22 Is this a full-year or a semester (half-year) course?

Full-year A
 Semester (half-year)..... B

23 In this course, how often do the following things happen?

	rarely or never	a few times a month	a few times a week	almost every day
The teacher gives notes.	A	B	C	D
The teacher shows how to do problems.	A	B	C	D
We participate in science projects.	A	B	C	D
We work in pairs or small groups.	A	B	C	D
We do laboratory experiments.	A	B	C	D
The teacher demonstrates an experiment.	A	B	C	D
The teacher assigns homework.	A	B	C	D
We discuss a coming quiz or test or one just finished.	A	B	C	D
We work alone on assigned work.	A	B	C	D
We study the textbook.	A	B	C	D
The teacher reads from or summarizes the textbook.	A	B	C	D
The teacher asks questions of students or the class.	A	B	C	D
Students ask the teacher questions.	A	B	C	D
We go outdoors or on a field trip.	A	B	C	D
There is noise or disorder in the classroom.....	A	B	C	D
We lose 5 or 10 minutes because of disruptions.....	A	B	C	D
We have discussions on the lesson topic.	A	B	C	D
We discuss or do things other than the topic of the lesson.	A	B	C	D

24 The teacher helps individual students with their work. A B C D

How often are the following resources used in this science course? (The course you chose in question 21)

	rarely or never	a few times a month	a few times a week	almost every day
science books and magazines (other than textbooks)	A	B	C	D
guest speakers or experts in science.....	A	B	C	D
computers	A	B	C	D
graphing calculators	A	B	C	D
overhead projector	A	B	C	D
slides, films, or videos	A	B	C	D
the Internet or World Wide Web.....	A	B	C	D
a laboratory (separate from the classroom)	A	B	C	D
a laboratory (part of the regular classroom space).....	A	B	C	D
a computer lab (separate from the classroom)	A	B	C	D
museums, zoos, conservation areas, and similar out-of-school sites	A	B	C	D
laboratory apparatus, specimens, or other resources not mentioned above	A	B	C	D

25 **How far in school did your mother (or female guardian) and father (or male guardian) go?**

(Circle the highest level.)

	Mother	Father
less than high school completion	A	A
completed high school	B	B
some education after high school	C	C
technician or technology education.....	D	D
some university education.....	E	E
completed university degree(s).....	F	F
I don't know.....	G	G

26 What kind of jobs do your mother (or female guardian) and father (or male guardian) have?

(If your mother or father is not working now, please think about the job they had for most of the time when they were working. Also think about the kind of work they do, not who they work for.)

(Circle one category only for mother and one for father)

	Mother	Father
General worker (e.g., warehouse person, taxi driver, construction worker, server in restaurant)	A	A
Plant or machine operator or production worker (e.g., truck driver, factory or plant worker)	B	B
Farmer/fisher/logger/hunter/trapper	C	C
Sales or service worker (e.g., clerk, secretary, salesperson)	D	D
Trades or crafts person (e.g., carpenter, mechanic police officer)	E	E
Technologist or associate professional (e.g., medical technologist, computer programmer or analyst, pilot)	F	F
Manager (e.g., small business owner/operator, manager in a large business or government office)	G	G
Professional (e.g., lawyer, accountant, engineer, doctor, professor, teacher)	H	H
Senior official, executive, or large business owner (e.g., legislator, senior civil servant, judge, senior officer, or owner of a large company)	I	I
Home duties.....	J	J
Other	K	K
I don't know.....	L	L

27 Do you have these things in your home?

	Yes	No
computer	A	B
calculator.....	A	B
dictionary.....	A	B
encyclopedia	A	B
Internet connection.....	A	B
a study desk or table mainly for your own use.....	A	B

Thank you again for taking time to complete this questionnaire.