

TIMSS

2019

TIMSS is an international study of maths and science achievement. It takes place every four years. In April 2018, students at Fourth class and Second Year will take part in the field trial.

What is TIMSS?

TIMSS stands for *Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study*. It is a study that compares how students are doing in maths and science across different countries. The study takes place in both primary (Fourth class) and post-primary (Second Year) schools. In 2018, students in Ireland and more than 60 other countries will be taking part in a TIMSS field trial, where new questions are tested.

How was I picked?

In Ireland, 26 post-primary schools were picked randomly to take part in the field trial. In each of these schools, up to two class groups from Second Year were selected to take part. Each student in these classes will be given a test booklet and a questionnaire to fill out.

What will I have to do?

Firstly you will be asked to do a test that contains some maths and science items. The test will last an hour and a half with a short break in the middle. After the test, you will be asked to fill out a questionnaire, which asks some questions about you, what you think about school and, in particular, what you think about maths and science. It will take about 30 minutes to fill out the questionnaire. Altogether, it will take about two-and-a-half hours to complete the test and the questionnaire, including breaks.

Do I need to study for the test?

No, you don't need to study for the test. The aim of TIMSS is to see what students in Ireland and other countries know about maths and science. You can take the test even if you don't study science.

Will anyone see my answers?

No, all the tests and questionnaires are confidential. Even your teachers will not see what you write. Your answers will be entered into a database, where you are identified only by a number, not by your name.

Why should I take part?

TIMSS is important because it helps the Department of Education and Skills know the strengths and weaknesses of students in Ireland in maths and science.

The Department of Education and Skills in Ireland will use the results to identify ways to improve our education system.

Therefore, it is important that as many students as possible take part and that students try their best on the test so that the results reflect the views of all Second Year students in Ireland. If you would like to know what type of questions are used in the

TIMSS Second Year test go to <http://www.erc.ie/timss>.

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