

National Assessments (2009)

Pupil Questionnaire: Sixth class

- Summary responses -

Percentage of pupils selecting a response
shown in **RED FONT**.

Some percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.



Are you: a boy? **52%** a girl? **48%**

1. What age are you?

I am 12 (average) years old.

2. Were you born in Ireland?

Yes

85%

2a. If you were not born in Ireland, how old were you when you came to live in Ireland?

I was 6 (average) years old when I came to Ireland.

3. What languages do you speak at home?

Yes

- a) English **97%**
- b) Gaeilge (Irish) **26%**
- c) A different language **16%**

If YES, what is it called? **38%** An Eastern European language
28% A Western European language
25% An Asian language (including Arabic)
9% An African language

Yes

Do you go to extra classes in this language? **21%** *(of those who speak another language)*

4. What language do you speak at home most often?

- a) English **94%**
- b) Gaeilge (Irish) **1%**
- c) A different language **5%**

5. How often do you do ...

	<i>Hardly ever</i>	<i>Once or twice a week</i>	<i>Three or four times a week</i>	<i>Every school day</i>
English homework?	1%	10%	46%	44%
Maths homework?	1%	4%	42%	54%

6. Do you have these in your home?	<i>Yes</i>
a) Computer.....	96%
b) Games console (e.g. Playstation, Wii, Xbox)	96%
c) Broadband (high speed) internet access.....	82%
d) TV in your bedroom	62%
e) Calculator	94%

7. On a school day, how much time do you spend doing these things before or after school?

	<i>No time</i>	<i>Less than an hour</i>	<i>1-2 hours</i>	<i>More than 2 hours</i>
a) Watching TV, videos or DVDs.....	4%	29%	49%	18%
b) Playing games on a computer / console	21%	45%	25%	9%
c) Using the internet	23%	45%	24%	9%
d) Doing jobs at home	8%	60%	25%	7%
e) Doing maths homework	2%	92%	6%	1%
f) Doing English homework	2%	93%	5%	<1%
g) Reading a book, comic or magazine for fun	20%	54%	21%	6%
h) Playing sports.....	6%	18%	45%	30%
i) Attending extra classes (e.g., music, dance, art, language)	53%	13%	27%	7%
j) Playing with friends	7%	19%	33%	42%
k) Playing by yourself	41%	40%	13%	6%
l) Taking part in a hobby (not already mentioned above)	25%	24%	35%	17%

8. Outside of school, do you ever	<i>Yes</i>
a) have extra lessons in English?	4%
b) have extra lessons in maths?	4%



9. How long would you *like* to stay in school?

<i>Finish primary school</i>	<i>Do the Junior Cert.</i>	<i>Do the Leaving Cert.</i>	<i>Go to College or University</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
2%	1%	9%	76%	12%

10. How long do you think you *will actually* stay in school?

<i>Finish primary school</i>	<i>Do the Junior Cert.</i>	<i>Do the Leaving Cert.</i>	<i>Go to College or University</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
1%	1%	16%	69%	14%

About You as a Reader

11. How often do you read each of the following at home?

	<i>Hardly ever</i>	<i>A few times a month</i>	<i>Once or twice a week</i>	<i>Every day, or most days</i>
a) Magazines or comic books.....	30%	31%	27%	12%
b) Stories or novels	21%	21%	20%	37%
c) Information books	46%	30%	18%	6%
d) Emails and internet	31%	16%	27%	26%
e) Newspapers	43%	22%	25%	11%

	<i>Hardly ever</i>	<i>A few times a month</i>	<i>Once or twice a week</i>	<i>Every day, or most days</i>
12. How often are you asked to read a book – e.g., from a library – for homework? (Don't count class textbooks).....	31%	20%	24%	25%
13. How often do you borrow books from the <i>school</i> library?.....	39%	34%	22%	5%
14. How often do you borrow books from a <i>public</i> library?.....	60%	29%	10%	1%

To answer the next few questions, think about when you are asked to read silently by yourself in English class.

15. <u>Before I read...</u>	<i>Never</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Often</i>	<i>Always</i>
a) I make some guesses about what will happen	27%	54%	15%	5%
b) I think about what I am going to read.	22%	42%	23%	14%
c) I ask questions I would like answered	40%	26%	15%	9%
d) I read the title to see what the story (or poem) is about.....	9%	20%	22%	49%
e) I think about where the story might be taking place	22%	38%	23%	17%
16. <u>While I read...</u>	<i>Never</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Often</i>	<i>Always</i>
a) I check to see if I understand what has happened so far	12%	37%	27%	24%
b) I see if I can answer the questions I asked before I started reading	44%	36%	14%	6%
c) I try to work out what will happen next ...	20%	40%	25%	16%
d) I re-read parts that I don't understand.	14%	28%	24%	34%
17. <u>After I read...</u>	<i>Never</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Often</i>	<i>Always</i>
a) I check to see if I found out what I wanted to	28%	42%	19%	12%
b) I check to see if I understand the main points.....	16%	34%	28%	21%
c) I think about how I would have acted if I were the main character	34%	32%	20%	15%
d) I compare the story to other stories I have read	36%	34%	18%	13%



**Here are some things that people say about reading and school.
You might agree with some of the things and not with others.
Mark on each line the answer that suits you best.**

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
18. 'I like reading'	28%	42%	17%	9%	5%
19. 'Reading is boring'	7%	12%	16%	39%	27%
20. 'I only read if I have to'	7%	14%	12%	40%	26%
21. 'I feel happy if I get a book as a present'	16%	36%	23%	25%	11%
22. 'For me, reading is a waste of time'	5%	7%	14%	37%	37%
23. 'I enjoy going to a bookshop or library'	21%	33%	20%	15%	10%
24. 'I read only to get the information I need'	6%	16%	18%	44%	15%
25. 'I cannot sit and read for more than a few minutes'	7%	10%	9%	39%	34%
26. 'My teacher thinks I am a good reader'	13%	26%	54%	4%	3%
27. 'I don't like reading something when the words are too difficult'	13%	26%	17%	30%	13%
28. 'Complicated stories are no fun to read'	18%	25%	18%	24%	15%
29. 'It is important for me to do well at reading'	38%	42%	14%	4%	2%
30. 'I know I will be good at reading next year'	26%	36%	33%	3%	2%
31. 'I am a good reader'	23%	40%	29%	6%	3%
32. 'I learn more from reading than most other pupils in the class'	7%	14%	27%	16%	6%
33. 'I can understand the most difficult school books I am asked to read'	13%	28%	35%	16%	8%



About You and Your Maths

34. When you are doing maths homework, how often do you do the following?

	<i>Never</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Often</i>	<i>Always</i>
a) Ask someone for help to do sums	22%	64%	11%	3%
b) Ask someone to check your answers ..	41%	35%	14%	10%
c) Use a calculator	46%	45%	7%	2%
d) Use a computer	83%	13%	3%	2%
e) Use things at home to help solve problems (e.g., weighing scales, measuring tape)	49%	41%	8%	2%

35. How often does each of these things happen in your maths lessons at school?

	<i>Never</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Often</i>	<i>Always</i>
a) I use a calculator	20%	72%	8%	1%
b) I use a computer for maths	85%	13%	2%	<1%
c) I estimate (guess) the answer to a sum before doing it	31%	52%	15%	2%
d) I work in a pair or a small group	42%	50%	6%	2%
e) I use maths equipment (e.g., weighing scales, measuring tape) to solve problems	35%	55%	9%	1%
f) I do a maths test	3%	41%	41%	15%
g) We talk about a maths problem before doing it on our own	5%	26%	30%	39%
h) I explain to the teacher how I got the answer to a question	7%	40%	31%	21%
i) I begin my homework in class	50%	41%	6%	3%
j) I do a sum on the board in front of the class	27%	62%	9%	2%
k) I use a tablebook	72%	22%	4%	2%

**Here are some things that people say about maths and school.
You might agree with some of the things and not with others.
Mark on each line the answer that suits you best.**

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
36. 'I often think about how I can use maths in everyday life'	12%	43%	26%	14%	5%
37. 'I often think of other ways to get the answer to a problem'	13%	58%	18%	9%	3%
38. 'I learn as much maths as I can off by heart'	18%	46%	21%	12%	4%
39. 'I try to understand new ideas in maths by thinking about what I already know'	19%	51%	21%	7%	3%
40. 'I go through examples again and again to help me remember them'	15%	43%	21%	16%	5%
41. 'I try to remember every step when doing a problem'	25%	55%	13%	6%	2%
42. 'I worry that I will find maths class hard'	14%	24%	20%	28%	16%
43. 'I am not very good at maths'	7%	14%	23%	32%	23%
44. 'I get worried when I have to do maths homework'	4%	6%	13%	41%	35%
45. 'I get good marks in maths'	21%	46%	24%	6%	3%
46. 'I learn maths quickly'	20%	37%	25%	14%	3%
47. 'Maths is one of my best subjects'	26%	27%	18%	17%	13%
48. 'In my maths class, I understand even the hardest problems'	10%	23%	33%	24%	11%
49. 'I worry that I will get poor marks in maths'	10%	22%	17%	30%	21%



Thank you for answering our questions.