

National Assessments (2009)

Summary of answers to a questionnaire
by teachers of 6th class pupils

**Percentages of pupils taught by teachers selecting a
response shown in RED FONT.**

Some percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Background Information

1. Are you..... Male
31% Female
69%

2. Is your teaching post..... Permanent
94% Temp./Sub.
6%

3. By the end of the current school year, how many years will you have been teaching? *Exclude career breaks, etc.* **16 (mean)**

4. When did you complete your primary preservice teacher training? *Give one answer only.*

Year: **42% during 2000-2008**

25% during 1985-1999

33% during 1968-1985

5. Do you have any additional qualifications relating to your work as a teacher?

Cert/Diploma	M.Ed	M.A.(Ed)	Ph.D/Ed.D
28%	4%	3%	0%

Other (*specify*) **3% second level teaching qualification**

5% other teaching qualification

6% non-teaching qualification

6. At the moment, what classes do you teach?

<i>J. Infants</i>	<i>S. Infants</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>6th</i>
0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	8%	32%	100%

7. Including all class levels, to how many pupils do you currently teach.....

a) English... **25 (mean)** pupils b) Maths... **25 (mean)** pupils

8. Including only 6th class, to how many pupils do you currently teach.....

a) English... **21 (mean)** pupils b) Maths .. **21 (mean)** pupils

9. Do you have additional responsibility for English or mathematics in your school (e.g., promoted post)? **Yes**
- a) English **7%**
- b) Mathematics **9%**

10. Not counting any post-graduate courses, on how many days in the past three years did you:	No. of days
a) attend <i>any</i> courses on the teaching of English?.....	1.0 (mean)
b) receive assistance from a PCSP cuiditheoir or PPDS advisor on English?	1.0 (mean)
c) attend <i>any</i> courses on the teaching of mathematics?.....	0.8 (mean)
d) receive assistance from a PCSP cuiditheoir or PPDS advisor on mathematics?	0.6 (mean)

Teaching English

Unless otherwise directed, please answer the remaining questions with reference to your 6th class pupils only.

11. In a typical week, how much time do you spend teaching English?
Consider **only** 6th class pupils.

4 Hours **AND** **35** Minutes

12. How often do you provide instruction during English classes on the following?

	<i>Most days</i>	<i>Once or twice a week</i>	<i>Once or twice a month</i>	<i>Rarely or never</i>
a) Interpreting diagrammatic texts (e.g., maps, charts)	4%	24%	54%	18%
b) Developing comprehension strategies	55%	38%	7%	0%
c) Developing study strategies	18%	35%	39%	8%
d) Learning word-attack skills	25%	47%	23%	5%
e) Developing reference skills	18%	47%	31%	4%
f) Facilitating silent reading	53%	40%	7%	<1%

13. How often do you get your 6th class pupils to engage in the following activities?

	<i>Most days</i>	<i>Once or twice a week</i>	<i>Once or twice a month</i>	<i>Rarely or never</i>
a) Preparing for reading:				
1) Discuss prior knowledge	61%	33%	6%	1%
2) Identify new words and their meanings....	75%	23%	1%	<1%
3) Set goals for reading	27%	43%	22%	8%
4) Predict what might happen in a text	40%	48%	12%	<1%
b) Comprehension during reading:				
1) Relate predictions to the text	45%	43%	12%	0%
2) Self-manage reading comprehension	32%	50%	16%	3%
3) Make generalisations and inferences.....	34%	53%	13%	1%
c) Response to reading:				
1) Discuss main points of the text.....	81%	18%	1%	0%
2) Relate own experience to the text.....	37%	53%	9%	2%
3) Discuss characteristics of different genres.....	11%	44%	40%	5%
4) Summarise stories / texts orally.....	32%	53%	12%	3%
5) Dramatise stories	1%	10%	52%	36%

14. How often do your 6th class pupils read books of their own choosing during class?

<i>Every day</i>	<i>Most days</i>	<i>A few times a month</i>	<i>Rarely or never</i>
32%	45%	20%	3%

15. In the past month, have you encouraged pupils in your 6th class to do the following outside school?

	Yes
a) Engage in paired or shared reading with their parents	35%
b) Discuss with their parents a book they (the pupils) have read.....	47%
c) Visit a public library	67%
d) Read a book for enjoyment	100%

16. How often do you organise your English lessons in the following ways?

Consider only 6th class, even if you teach in a multigrade classroom.

	<i>Most lessons</i>	<i>Some lessons</i>	<i>Rarely or never</i>
a) Whole class teaching	80%	18%	2%
b) Small group work – similar ability	6%	58%	36%
c) Small group work – mixed ability	4%	76%	19%
d) Small group work – pairs.....	9%	79%	13%
e) Individual (independent) work	58%	39%	2%
f) Team teaching with a class teacher	6%	10%	80%
g) Team teaching with a support teacher	4%	25%	71%

17. If you teach a multigrade class (e.g., combined 5th/6th), do you group 6th class pupils with pupils from other class levels for English?

<i>Always</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Never</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
9%	18%	3%	70%

18. How often do you engage your 6th class pupils in the following writing activities?

	<i>Most days</i>	<i>Once or twice a week</i>	<i>Once or twice a month</i>	<i>Rarely or never</i>
a) Creative writing	5%	60%	35%	0%
b) Expository (informational) writing	7%	50%	40%	2%
c) Writing in response to reading	29%	58%	11%	2%
d) Reading other pupils' writing	4%	34%	47%	15%

19. During the current school year, how often have you used the following materials in English classes?

	<i>Most days</i>	<i>Once or twice a week</i>	<i>Once or twice a month</i>	<i>Rarely or never</i>
a) Published reading schemes / materials	56%	28%	8%	8%
b) Children's literature (<i>NOT part of reading schemes</i>)	30%	37%	26%	6%
c) Reference materials (e.g., <i>encyclopaedia</i>)	8%	36%	49%	6%
d) 'Real-life' texts or documents (e.g., <i>newspaper articles, maps, menus</i>)	4%	28%	60%	7%
e) Workbooks or worksheets	33%	53%	12%	2%
f) Digital texts (e.g., <i>on web pages</i>).....	3%	33%	43%	21%
g) Informational texts.....	4%	43%	49%	4%

20. How confident do you feel doing each of the following?

	<i>Very Confident</i>	<i>Somewhat Confident</i>	<i>Not confident</i>
a) Teaching high achievers in reading.....	58%	41%	1%
b) Working with lower-achieving pupils in reading (including identifying difficulties)	40%	57%	3%
c) Teaching reading skills in other subject areas (e.g., science).....	48%	49%	3%
d) Using computers to teach English.....	25%	51%	24%

21. Between September 2008 and June 2009, how often will your 6th class pupils have been assessed using a standardised reading test?

Do NOT include the test taken for this study, unless it replaces a planned test.

<i>Once</i>	<i>Twice</i>	<i>At least three times</i>	<i>Not assessed</i>
71%	15%	2%	12%

22. Below is a list of non-standardised assessment measures. How often do you assess your pupils' progress in English reading, using these measures?

	<i>At least weekly</i>	<i>At least monthly</i>	<i>Once a term</i>	<i>Once or twice a year</i>	<i>Never</i>
a) Teacher-made tests	31%	28%	32%	8%	1%
b) Teacher-made checklists	12%	36%	24%	15%	13%
c) Documented observations	16%	31%	26%	20%	6%
d) Published progress tests or checklists	3%	12%	16%	37%	33%
e) Pupil self-assessment.....	16%	21%	16%	15%	32%
f) Curriculum profiles	3%	10%	14%	20%	53%
g) Portfolios	4%	12%	21%	22%	42%
h) Diagnostic tests.....	2%	7%	10%	60%	21%
i) Teacher questioning.....	88%	7%	<1%	1%	3%
j) Reflective journal	4%	14%	16%	14%	53%

23. Consider last week's English lessons. Please list the three main resources that you used to plan the lessons.

Resources refer to anything you used – e.g., curriculum teacher guidelines, materials from the internet, methods textbooks, a colleague's notes, pupils' texts, a newspaper, etc.

Resource 1 **Textbooks** (*most common answer*)

Resource 2 **Internet**

Resource 3 **Other texts**

24. Consider your personal in-career development needs (ICD) in relation to English for 6th class. Write your own priority topics for ICD below.

Please rank order so that 1 is the area or topic on which you would most like ICD. Include up to three topics.

1. **Writing skills** (*most common answer*)
2. **ICT**
3. **Teaching low achievers**

Teaching Mathematics

Please answer the remaining questions with reference to 6th class pupils only.

25. On average, how much time per week do you allocate to teaching mathematics?

4 *Hours* **AND** **19** *Minutes*

26. How often are calculators used for the following purposes in your 6th class mathematics lessons?

	<i>Most or all lessons</i>	<i>Once or twice a week</i>	<i>Once or twice a month</i>	<i>Rarely or never</i>
a) Routine calculations.....	10%	25%	34%	31%
b) Checking answers.	15%	35%	28%	23%
c) Developing estimation skills.....	7%	26%	38%	29%
d) Developing number concepts (e.g., number sequences).....	5%	16%	43%	36%

27. How often do your pupils in 6th class use calculators in tests and examinations?

<i>Always</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Hardly ever</i>	<i>Never</i>
1%	28%	34%	37%

28. How often are the following used in your 6th class mathematics lessons?

	<i>Most or all lessons</i>	<i>Once or twice a week</i>	<i>Once or twice a month</i>	<i>Rarely or never</i>
a) Manipulatives (e.g., blocks)	0%	10%	41%	48%
b) Mathematics games.....	6%	19%	55%	20%
c) Tablebooks.....	9%	29%	20%	42%
d) Textbooks.....	89%	10%	0%	1%
e) Workbooks / worksheets.....	45%	41%	11%	2%
f) Real-life materials (e.g., timetables, weights)	10%	33%	53%	5%
g) Calculators	6%	37%	35%	22%

29. How often do your 6th class pupils use computers to ...

	<i>Most or all lessons</i>	<i>Once or twice a week</i>	<i>Once or twice a month</i>	<i>Rarely or never</i>
a) Practice mathematical facts and basic skills (e.g., tables, computation)?.....	5%	17%	29%	49%
b) Learn mathematical concepts (e.g., number, space, time)?.....	5%	11%	36%	48%
c) Engage in non-routine problem-solving or higher-level thinking (e.g., Lego logo?).....	0%	5%	23%	72%
d) Handle data (e.g., graphs, tables)?.....	<1%	6%	36%	58%

30. If you teach a multigrade class (e.g., combined 5th/6th), do you group 6th class pupils with pupils from other class levels for mathematics?

<i>Always</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Never</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
2%	18%	12%	68%

31. How often do you organise your mathematics lessons in the following ways?

Consider only 6th class, even if you teach in a multigrade classroom.

	<i>Most lessons</i>	<i>Some lessons</i>	<i>Rarely or never</i>
a) Whole class teaching.....	83%	14%	3%

b) Small group work – similar ability	8%	69%	23%
c) Small group work – mixed ability	4%	63%	33%
d) Small group work – working in pairs	7%	78%	16%
e) Individual (independent) work.....	67%	31%	2%
f) Team teaching with a class teacher.....	7%	8%	84%
g) Team teaching with a support teacher	10%	19%	71%

32. How confident do you feel doing each of the following?

	<i>Very confident</i>	<i>Somewhat confident</i>	<i>Not confident</i>
a) Using computers to teach mathematics.....	19%	45%	36%
b) Working with lower-achieving pupils in mathematics (including identifying difficulties).....	51%	42%	7%
c) Extending higher-achieving pupils in mathematics	55%	36%	9%
d) Teaching mathematical vocabulary	75%	25%	0%
e) Integrating mathematics into other subjects	51%	45%	4%
f) Developing higher-level mathematics thinking skills.....	35%	53%	12%
g) Teaching real-life problem solving.....	56%	42%	2%
h) Using calculators to teach mathematics.....	39%	53%	9%

33. Between September 2008 and June 2009, how often will your 6th class pupils have been assessed using a standardised mathematics test?

Do NOT include the test taken for this study, unless it replaces a planned test.

<i>Once</i>	<i>Twice</i>	<i>At least three times</i>	<i>Not assessed</i>
72%	15%	3%	10%

34. Below is a list of non-standardised assessment measures. How often do you assess your pupils' progress in mathematics, using these measures?

	<i>At least weekly</i>	<i>At least monthly</i>	<i>Once a term</i>	<i>Once or twice a year</i>	<i>Never</i>
a) Teacher-made tests	30%	49%	18%	4%	0%

b) Teacher-made checklists	11%	41%	24%	14%	10%
c) Documented observations	14%	33%	28%	16%	8%
d) Published progress tests or checklists	5%	13%	32%	25%	24%
e) Diagnostic mathematics tests	1%	5%	11%	59%	24%
f) Curriculum profiles	3%	4%	13%	24%	56%
g) Portfolios	5%	6%	12%	13%	64%
h) Reflective journal	<1%	7%	10%	10%	72%
i) Error analysis.....	38%	25%	10%	8%	18%
j) Teacher questioning.....	93%	4%	1%	1%	1%

35. Consider last week's mathematics lessons. Please list the three main resources that you used to plan the lessons.

Resources refer to anything you used – e.g., curriculum teacher guidelines, materials from the internet, textbooks, a colleague's notes, etc.

Resource 1 **Textbook (most common answer)**

Resource 2 **Curriculum guidelines**

Resource 3 **ICT**

36. Consider your personal in-career development needs (ICD) in relation to mathematics for 6th class. Write your own priority topics for ICD below.

Rank order so that 1 is the area or topic on which you would most like ICD. Include up to three topics.

1. **ICT (most common answer)**

2. **Teaching problem-solving and higher-order thinking**

3. **Identification and use of appropriate manipulative materials**

Resources and Support

37. Roughly how many books are there in the class library in your classroom? **251 (mean)**

38. Roughly what percentage of books in the class library are...

a) Fiction?	67 (mean)	%
b) Non-fiction (e.g., history, biography)?	21 (mean)	%
c) Reference material (e.g., encyclopaedias)?	12 (mean)	%

39. Roughly how many new books were added to your class library since September? **33 (mean)**

40. Do you have access to the following in your classroom? Yes

a) Computers (for pupils' use)	76%
b) An interactive whiteboard	30%
c) A digital projector (linked to a computer)	33%

41. Do you have access to the following in a central computer room?

	Yes	No	N/A (no CC room)
a) An interactive whiteboard	16%	48%	36%
b) A digital projector (linked to a computer)	28%	36%	36%

42. How often are the following used in your 6th class English lessons?

	<i>Most or all lessons</i>	<i>Once or twice a week</i>	<i>Once or twice a month</i>	<i>Rarely or never</i>
a) Computers	1%	22%	47%	30%
b) Interactive whiteboard	14%	13%	4%	68%
c) Digital projector	3%	12%	14%	71%

43. How often are the following used in your 6th class mathematics lessons?

	<i>Most or all lessons</i>	<i>Once or twice a week</i>	<i>Once or twice a month</i>	<i>Rarely or never</i>
a) Computers	2%	13%	36%	49%
b) Interactive whiteboard	16%	9%	6%	68%
c) Digital projector	4%	7%	10%	79%

44. Which option below best describes how specific pupils receive support from the special education team?

(Tick one box for mathematics and one for English)

	Maths	English
a) In-class support.....	11%	5%
b) Withdrawal from class – in a group	58%	65%
c) Withdrawal from class – individually	21%	24%
d) No additional support provided.....	9%	5%

45. To what extent is there cohesion between pupils' class programme and learning support / resource programme?

<i>A great extent</i>	<i>Some extent</i>	<i>Very little</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Not known</i>
46%	40%	11%	2%	2%

46. Please use the space below if you wish to add comments about the teaching of English and / or mathematics.

Thank you for completing the questionnaire.