

TIMSS is an international study of maths and science achievement. It takes place every four years. In spring 2023, students at Fourth class and Second Year will take part in the TIMSS Main Study.

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, including Ireland. The study takes place in both primary (Fourth class) and post-primary (Second Year) schools. The 2023 cycle of TIMSS will mark Ireland's transition to computer-based assessment of maths and science, with some students completing the assessment on a computer and some on paper.

How am I picked to take part?

In Ireland, approximately 160 post-primary schools were selected to take part in the TIMSS 2023 Main Study. In each of these schools, up to two class groups from Second Year were selected randomly to take part in the study.

What will I have to do?

Firstly, you will be asked to do a test that contains some maths and science questions either on a computer or on paper. The test will last an hour and a half with a short break in the middle. After the test, you will be asked a few questions about how you found the test. After another break, you will be asked to fill out a questionnaire, which asks some questions about you, what you think about school, and your experiences of school (for example, what you think about maths and science, and whether you have experienced negative behaviour by another student). It will take about 30 minutes to fill out this questionnaire. Altogether, it will take about two and a half hours to complete the test and the questionnaires, including breaks. Testing will take place sometime **between March 20th and April 28th, 2023**.

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 answers to the tests and questionnaires are confidential and they 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 know the strengths and weaknesses of students in Ireland in maths and science. The Department of Education 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 and are honest while completing the questionnaires so that the results reflect the performance and views of all Second Year students in Ireland.

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If you would like to know what type of questions are used in the TIMSS Second Year test, click [here](#)