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## What is the DPPT-Read?

The Drumcondra Post-Primary Reading Test (DPPT-Read) is a **curriculum-based** test of reading achievement. It is aimed at students near the end of Second Year.

## What does it measure?

The test has two main sections:

- Reading Vocabulary (understanding of word meanings)
- Reading Comprehension (understanding of texts)

Reading comprehension can be further divided into

- Comprehension of Continuous Texts (such as extracts from a novel, reviews and newspaper articles)
- Comprehension of Non-continuous Texts (such as graphs, information leaflets, web pages and theatre programmes)

In the test, there are 40 Vocabulary questions, and 40 Comprehension questions (of which half are based on Continuous texts, and half on Non-continuous texts).

## What do the scores mean?

The DPPT-Read is a *standardised* test. This means it has previously been taken by a large number of Second year students in Ireland, so we know, on average, how easy or difficult the questions are. We use this information to create standard scores to describe how your child did on the test, relative to other Second year students in Ireland. These scores range from about 60 to 140. The average score is 100 and most students score between 85 and 115. Using the table below, you can see where your child's scores fit in, relative to other Second year students in Ireland.

Score Range	What does it mean?	Percent in this category
120 or higher	Above average	10%
109-119	High average	20%
93-108	Average	40%
81-92	Low average	20%
80 or lower	Below average	10%

Standard scores can also be converted to STen scores, which are broad categories that go from 1 up to 10. The average STen score is 5.5 and most students have a STen score in the range of 4 to 7.

## Your child's scores

Your child's **Overall Reading** score is **113**, which is in the **High average** range for overall reading achievement. This converts to a **STen score** of **7**.

Test	No. of questions attempted	Standardised score	Range
Overall Reading	60/80	113	High average

The table below shows your child's score on each of four reading subscales, and how many questions your child answered (whether right or wrong). If your child didn't answer many questions, this will affect scores, as marks are only awarded for items that have been attempted and answered correctly.

Test	No. of questions attempted	Standardised score	Range
Vocabulary	30/40	113	High average
Comprehension	30/40	110	High average
Continuous	15/20	110	High average
Non-Continuous	15/20	109	High average

## Scores on the reading components

You might find that your child gets a higher or lower score on one or more of components of reading, compared with the others. Most students will have gaps of a few points between their scores on the components, such as between Reading Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension, or between understanding of Continuous and Non-continuous texts.

Usually, the gap should be at least 15 points before it can be considered genuine. A gap of 15 points or higher might arise because your child performs better on Vocabulary, compared with Comprehension, or has more experience in reading Continuous texts, compared with Non-continuous texts. Another possible reason for a low score in one area is if that section was last in the test, and your child ran out of time.

However, it could be that your child has a genuine strength on one aspect of reading compared with another. If you think this is the case, it might help to discuss it with your child's teacher.

For example, students with very high scores might benefit from extra learning opportunities, while those with very low scores might benefit from extra support, using more accessible texts.

## What next?

Like any test, these results are an estimate of your child's achievement on one day, on one test. The DPPT-Read provides useful information on reading achievement, but it is only one piece in the jigsaw of information about your child. If your child's test scores are not what you expected, please talk to your child's teacher. He/she will be able to put the test results in context.

Also, the NCCA has developed online resources relating to standardised testing for parents ([www.ncca.ie/parents](http://www.ncca.ie/parents)), which you might find helpful.