General Information About PISA

What is PISA?

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a periodic international comparative study that tests 15-year-olds' ability to use their knowledge and skills in reading, mathematics, and science. It is designed and developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Recently, it has been participated in by more than 80 countries and economies.

Why did the Philippines participate in PISA?

PISA provides the Philippines an opportunity to assess how well students nearing the end of compulsory basic education are prepared to enter the workforce or post-secondary education, compared to their peers from other participating countries and economies. By participating in PISA, schools and students contribute to ongoing efforts to improve education in our country. PISA helps identify the strengths and weaknesses of Filipino students in the domains of mathematics, reading, and science, and offers insights into successful policies and practices around the world.

What does PISA measure?

PISA assesses students' performance in reading, mathematics, and science to measure the extent to which students can use what they learned in and out of school in real-life situations. PISA also collects valuable information on students' attitudes and motivations, dispositions and beliefs, home background, learning experiences, school management and organization, and the learning environment.

Who takes the PISA test?

PISA assesses students between the ages of 15 years and 3 months and 16 years and 2 months at the time of the assessment, and who are enrolled in an educational institution at grade 7 or higher.

Why does PISA test 15-year-olds?

The age of 15 was chosen because, at this age, young people in most countries and economies are nearing the end of compulsory education.

How are schools and students selected to participate in PISA?

The sampling in PISA is done using a two-stage sampling design. In the first stage, schools are sampled systematically with probabilities proportional to a measure of size (PPS) of PISA-eligible students enrolled. In the second stage, 42 students within each sampled school are drawn randomly.

How is the PISA test administered and why?

Computers and computer technology are part of our everyday lives, and it is appropriate and inevitable that PISA has progressed to a computer-based delivery mode. PISA tasks were developed that made use of the affordances of computer-based testing and that reflected the new situations in which students apply their skills in real life. Just like the majority of participating countries and economies, PISA is administered as a Computer-Based Assessment (CBA) in the Philippines.

What is the language of the test in PISA?

The language used for the test in PISA is English, adapted to fit the Philippine context. This choice aligns with the country's language of instruction policy and the language of assessment indicated in the PISA standards.

How long does it take to finish the PISA test?

Students take a 2-hour computer-based assessment and a 35-minute computer-based student questionnaire, while school principals take an approximately 45-minute school questionnaire.

What type of test items are used in PISA and why?

PISA uses multiple-choice testing as the primary feature of its assessments because it is reliable, efficient, and supports robust and scientific analyses. Multiple-choice questions in PISA have a variety of formats, including highlighting a word within a text, connecting pieces of information, and making multiple selections from drop-down menus. In addition, typically up to one-third of questions in a PISA assessment are open-ended, requiring students to construct their response to the task.

Why don't all students answer all the same test questions?

The PISA test is designed to provide an assessment of performance at the system (or country) level. It is not designed to produce scores for individual students, so it is not necessary for each student to receive exactly the same set of test items. Thus, PISA adopts an efficient design in which the full set of test material, covering all aspects of the framework, is distributed over a large number of test forms. This procedure enables a much greater coverage of the content than if all students had completed the same version of the test.

How are students scored in PISA?

Some questions are scored by the computer, while others are reviewed and scored by a team of trained coders.

How are scores reported in PISA?

The raw scores in the PISA test are transformed and reported as scale scores. These scores can be located on PISA scales that represent varying levels of proficiency. This approach allows for the reporting of specific descriptions of what students *know and can do* for each domain of assessment based on the location of their scores on the PISA scale.

Are individual scores reported in PISA?

PISA, as a system assessment, does not report individual scores but aggregates data across all students. It provides comparable data within and among participating countries and economies in order to measure educational outcomes and to probe what makes high-performing education systems successful.

Prepared by

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