PIAAC
Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies

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Educational Testing Service
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Overview

- What is PIAAC?
- Which countries are participating?
- Who takes PIAAC in each country?
- How is PIAAC delivered?
- What’s new about PIAAC?
- What does PIAAC Assess?
- What can PIAAC provide?
What is PIAAC?

- PIAAC is designed as an international, multi-cycle assessment of adults 16–65 years of age.
- It is the most comprehensive international survey of adult skills ever undertaken.
- PIAAC assesses the level of core skills possessed by adults in participating countries and provides important background information about these adults and their lives.
- Round 1 involves 24 OECD and partner countries. Round 2 adds an additional 9 countries.
- Round 1 results will be reported in October 2013 and Round 2 in May 2016.
### Which countries are participating?

**Round 1 Countries**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Chile</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Greece</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Korea, Rep of</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
<td>United States</td>
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**Round 2 Countries**

- Chile
- Greece
- Indonesia
- Israel
- Lithuania
- New Zealand
- Singapore
- Slovenia
- Turkey
How is PIAAC carried out?

- PIAAC is administered in face-to-face interviews in the homes of at least 5,000 participating adults using either household or registry-based samples.

- The primary mode of delivery is laptop computers.

- Adults who are unable to use a computer are provided with a paper and pencil assessment booklet.
What is new about PIAAC?

- Links to previous adult assessments including IALS and ALL
- Includes a study of mode effects to be able to link across P&P and CBA
- Expands the range of skills being measured
- Introduces the use of multi-stage adaptive testing
- Incorporates the use of automated scoring
- Expands the types of information that is captured through the use of log files
What Does PIAAC Assess?

The Main Elements of PIAAC include ...

- Reading Components
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Problem Solving in Technology Rich Environments
- Background Questionnaire
## PIAAC vs IALS and ALL in the US

<table>
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<th>IALS</th>
<th>ALL</th>
<th>PIAAC</th>
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What can PIAAC provide?

• A deeper understanding of the distribution of human capital especially for those demonstrating high and low skill levels
• Comparisons across countries, modes and over time
• An investigation of the links between key cognitive skills and a range of variables
• Information on the extent individuals who have obtained qualifications from education and training systems hold relevant skills and are able to deploy them in society and the world of work.
Expected Prociciency Values of CS and PS

Prose Proficiency

Probability

- Blue line: Component
- Red line: PS example
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Comparing skills against education levels, across countries

Skills scores on a scale of foundation skills, by qualification levels, individuals aged 16 to 65

Country A
Not completed school | Upper secondary | University

Country B
Not completed school | Upper secondary | University

Country C
Not completed school | Upper secondary | University

Note: This figure is based on results of the PIAAC field trial. It is not based on representative samples and is therefore only illustrative. See footnote 2 in Figure 1.1 for a definition of foundation skills.

Source: PIAAC field trial data (2010).
Foundation skills and economic disadvantage

The increased likelihood\(^1\) of experiencing economic disadvantage, by foundation skills\(^2\) level, individuals aged 16 to 65, country average

- In lowest decile of personal income
- Unemployed
- Received unemployment, disability or sickness benefits in last year

Note: This figure is based on results of the PIAAC field trial. It is not based on representative samples and is therefore only illustrative.

1. Adjusted for age, gender, education, parents' education and immigrant status.
Figure 2.1

Unused skills may be more likely to atrophy

Foundation skills of 16-65-year-olds, by high and low levels of reading engagement, adjusted for years of schooling and foreign-born status, country average

- Blue line: Average proficiency of adults who engage the least in reading at work and in daily life (bottom 25%)
- Green dashed line: Average proficiency of adults who engage the most in reading at work and in daily life (top 25%)

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Questions and Discussion