TIMSS and PIRLS 2011 Modular Design for Background Questionnaires

TIMSS and PIRLS 2011—Fourth Grade

To reduce the response burden on countries participating in both TIMSS and PIRLS at the fourth grade, the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center implemented a modular design for the student and teacher questionnaires that allowed administration of the appropriate questions for each assessment without duplication. The Student Questionnaire comprised three modules: 1) a general module inquiring about students' home backgrounds and attitudes toward school, 2) a reading module inquiring about reading attitudes and behaviors, and 3) a mathematics and science module asking about attitudes toward mathematics and science. Similarly, the Teacher Questionnaire consisted of a general module asking about teachers' backgrounds and preparation to teach, as well as their perceptions of various aspects of classrooms and schools. The general module could be paired with one, two, or all three subject-specific modules, depending on whether reading, mathematics, or science was taught by the same or different teachers. The modular questionnaire design used at the fourth grade is shown below.

Fourth Grade TIMSS and PIRLS 2011 Modular Background Questionnaire Design

	Countries Participating in …		
	TIMSS and PIRLS	PIRLS/prePIRLS	TIMSS
Student Questionnaire			
General Module	√	√	√
Reading Module	√	√	
Mathematics and Science Module	√		√
Home Questionnaire	√	√	
Teacher Questionnaire			
General Module	√	√	√
Reading Module	√	√	
Mathematics Module	√		√
Science Module	√		√
School Questionnaire	√	√	√

TIMSS 2011—Eighth Grade

At the eighth grade, TIMSS 2011 had questionnaires for students, mathematics teachers, science teachers, and school principals. Although the TIMSS questionnaires for the eighth grade followed a sectional organization similar to that of the fourth grade, with general questions followed by mathematics- and science-related questions, these questionnaires were not organized by modules.

Eighth Grade TIMSS 2011 Background Questionnaires

Student Questionnaire
Mathematics Teacher Questionnaire
Science Teacher Questionnaire
School Questionnaire

TIMSS and PIRLS 2011—Curriculum Questionnaire

Because many countries participating in TIMSS also participated in PIRLS in 2011, the Curriculum Questionnaire was developed jointly for both studies, with modular sections designed to streamline the collection of information and reduce the burden on respondents. Each country responded to the general module along with applicable subject-specific modules. For example, a country participating in TIMSS and PIRLS at the fourth grade completed the general module, the PIRLS/prePIRLS module, and the TIMSS fourth grade module.

TIMSS and PIRLS 2011 Modular Curriculum Questionnaire Design

	Countries Participating in …
General Module	TIMSS and/or PIRLS/prePIRLS
PIRLS/prePIRLS (Reading) Module	PIRLS/prePIRLS
TIMSS Fourth Grade (Mathematics and Science) Module	TIMSS at the Fourth Grade
TIMSS Eighth Grade (Mathematics and Science) Module	TIMSS at the Eighth Grade