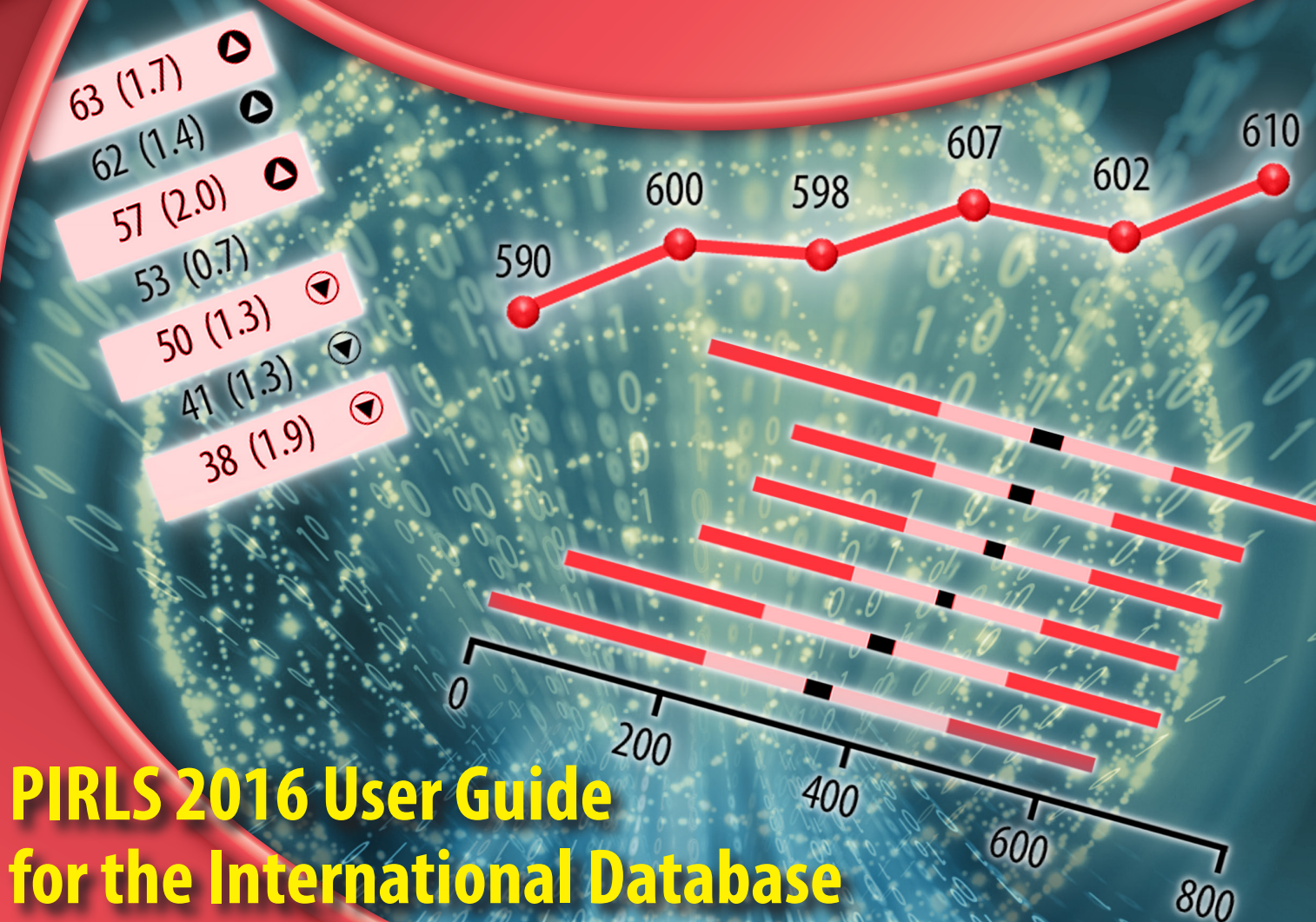


PROGRESS IN INTERNATIONAL READING LITERACY STUDY

# PIRLS



## PIRLS 2016 User Guide for the International Database

# ITEM PERCENT CORRECT STATISTICS

PIRLS Literacy 2016



**TIMSS & PIRLS**  
International Study Center  
Lynch School of Education  
BOSTON COLLEGE

# PIRLS Literacy 2016 Percent Correct Statistics for Achievement Items

**PIRLS**  
*Literacy*  
**2016**

**4<sup>th</sup>** Grade

R11F01M (Flowers on the Roof): Identity of narrator  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	54 (2.7) ▲
Morocco	39 (1.9)
Kuwait	38 (2.7)
International Avg.	36 (1.0)
South Africa	25 (1.4) ▼
Egypt	25 (1.8) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	79 (1.8) ▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
( ) Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

# PIRLS Literacy 2016 Percent Correct Statistics for Achievement Items

## R11F02M (Flowers on the Roof): Granny's farmhouse Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	56 (2.5)	▲
Kuwait	55 (2.0)	▲
Morocco	49 (2.5)	
<b>International Avg.</b>	<b>48 (1.0)</b>	
South Africa	43 (1.4)	▼
Egypt	35 (2.2)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	75 (1.9)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
( ) Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R11F03M (Flowers on the Roof): Reason Granny should move  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	66 (2.6)	▲
Kuwait	42 (2.6)	
International Avg.	41 (1.0)	
South Africa	34 (1.7)	▼
Morocco	32 (2.2)	▼
Egypt	30 (1.5)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	76 (2.0)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R11F04M (Flowers on the Roof): Who offered to look after animals  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	70 (2.8)	▲
Kuwait	60 (2.4)	▲
International Avg.	52 (1.0)	
Morocco	49 (2.2)	
Egypt	43 (1.6)	▼
South Africa	39 (1.6)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	77 (1.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

# PIRLS Literacy 2016 Percent Correct Statistics for Achievement Items

R11F05M (Flowers on the Roof): Granny was unhappy  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	65 (2.5) ▲
International Avg.	38 (0.9)
Morocco	36 (2.1)
Kuwait	32 (2.3) ▼
South Africa	31 (1.6) ▼
Egypt	27 (1.8) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	56 (2.1) ▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
( ) Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R11F06C (Flowers on the Roof): Granny screamed  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	49 (2.7)	▲
Kuwait	31 (2.2)	▲
International Avg.	25 (0.8)	
Egypt	20 (1.6)	▼
Morocco	16 (1.4)	▼
South Africa	10 (0.9)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	56 (2.2)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R11F07C (Flowers on the Roof): Granny crouched down  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	20 (2.0) ▲	35 (2.7) ▲
Kuwait	7 (1.2)	23 (1.7) ▲
International Avg.	7 (0.5)	19 (0.8)
South Africa	4 (0.7) ▼	11 (1.0) ▼
Morocco	3 (0.7) ▼	10 (1.3) ▼
Egypt	2 (0.5) ▼	14 (1.2) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	27 (1.7) ▲	49 (2.3) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



R11F08C (Flowers on the Roof): Granny winked and grinned  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	43 (2.9) ▲
Morocco	25 (1.8)
Kuwait	25 (2.4)
International Avg.	22 (0.9)
South Africa	9 (1.2) ▼
Egypt	8 (1.0) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	63 (2.1) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R11F09C (Flowers on the Roof): Granny made new flat like home  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	33 (3.0) ▲	49 (3.2) ▲
Kuwait	19 (1.6)	44 (2.0) ▲
International Avg.	17 (0.8)	36 (1.0)
Morocco	14 (1.5) ▼	35 (1.9)
Egypt	12 (1.2) ▼	29 (1.6) ▼
South Africa	9 (1.2) ▼	22 (1.4) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	61 (2.5) ▲	80 (2.1) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R11F10C (Flowers on the Roof): How Granny feels at end of story  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	68 (2.5) ▲
Kuwait	45 (2.3)
International Avg.	43 (0.9)
Morocco	38 (1.6) ▼
Egypt	32 (1.9) ▼
South Africa	32 (1.6) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	88 (1.6) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R11F11M (Flowers on the Roof): Purpose of last line of story  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	42 (3.0) ▲
International Avg.	26 (0.9)
Kuwait	25 (2.4)
South Africa	24 (1.3)
Morocco	22 (1.7) ▼
Egypt	19 (1.8) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	66 (2.1) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R11F12C (Flowers on the Roof): Little boy's feelings  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Kuwait	9 (1.1) ▲	24 (2.0) ▲
Egypt	8 (0.8)	18 (1.4)
International Avg.	7 (0.5)	17 (0.7)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	6 (1.2)	16 (1.9)
Morocco	6 (1.2)	15 (1.6)
South Africa	4 (0.7) ▼	14 (1.2) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	19 (1.4) ▲	42 (2.1) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R11F13M (Flowers on the Roof): Lesson learned from story  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	54 (2.8) ▲
Kuwait	37 (2.5)
International Avg.	36 (0.9)
South Africa	32 (1.5) ▼
Morocco	31 (2.0) ▼
Egypt	28 (1.5) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	67 (1.9) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

**L21B01C (Pemba Sherpa): What is Pemba's dream**  
**Constructed Response (1 Point)**

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	79 (1.8)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	76 (2.6)	▲
Morocco	72 (2.5)	
<b>International Avg.</b>	<b>71 (1.0)</b>	
Egypt	67 (2.2)	▼
South Africa	63 (1.5)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	91 (1.2)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21B02M (Pemba Sherpa): Why does Pemba have to get up early  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	82 (2.2)	▲
Kuwait	81 (1.5)	▲
Morocco	76 (2.1)	▲
International Avg.	71 (0.9)	
South Africa	63 (1.6)	▼
Egypt	53 (2.0)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	95 (1.0)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L21B03M (Pemba Sherpa): Why does Yang Ki want to carry wood  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	83 (2.2)	▲
Kuwait	83 (1.5)	▲
Morocco	81 (2.0)	▲
International Avg.	76 (0.8)	
Egypt	69 (1.9)	▼
South Africa	63 (1.5)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	92 (1.1)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21B04C (Pemba Sherpa): What does Yang Ki say that makes Pemba laugh  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	63 (3.0)	▲
Kuwait	61 (2.6)	▲
International Avg.	51 (1.1)	
Egypt	47 (2.0)	▼
Morocco	46 (2.6)	▼
South Africa	40 (2.0)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	81 (1.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21B05M (Pemba Sherpa): How does Pemba know Yang KI is following him  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Morocco	68 (2.5)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	66 (2.6)	▲
Kuwait	60 (2.7)	
International Avg.	60 (1.0)	
South Africa	56 (1.5)	▼
Egypt	49 (2.1)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	83 (1.8)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

## PIRLS Literacy 2016 Percent Correct Statistics for Achievement Items

L21B06M (Pemba Sherpa): What makes Pemba fall  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Morocco	69 (2.3)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	68 (2.9)	▲
International Avg.	60 (1.0)	
Kuwait	59 (2.0)	
South Africa	57 (1.5)	▼
Egypt	48 (2.1)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	89 (1.3)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21B07C (Pemba Sherpa): What stops Pemba from falling off the edge  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	68 (2.2) ▲
International Avg.	46 (0.9)
Egypt	45 (1.8)
Kuwait	44 (2.1)
Morocco	38 (2.4) ▼
South Africa	33 (1.5) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	67 (1.9) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21B08C (Pemba Sherpa): Why does Yang Ki get a long bamboo pole  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	57 (2.7) ▲
Egypt	36 (1.9)
International Avg.	35 (1.0)
Kuwait	29 (2.3) ▼
South Africa	28 (1.5) ▼
Morocco	25 (2.1) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	86 (1.4) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21B09C (Pemba Sherpa): What does Pemba do before he starts  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	60 (2.6)	▲
Egypt	50 (2.1)	▲
International Avg.	44 (1.0)	
Kuwait	38 (2.0)	▼
Morocco	36 (2.4)	▼
South Africa	35 (1.6)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	75 (1.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21B10M (Pemba Sherpa): Why does it say Yang Ki's arms are like steel  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	42 (2.6) ▲
Morocco	39 (2.4)
International Avg.	36 (0.9)
Kuwait	34 (2.3)
South Africa	34 (1.4)
Egypt	30 (1.5) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	56 (2.3) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L21B11M (Pemba Sherpa): Why does Pemba slump to the ground  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	69 (3.0) ▲
Kuwait	50 (2.3)
International Avg.	49 (1.0)
Morocco	47 (2.4)
South Africa	47 (1.6)
Egypt	35 (1.9) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	80 (2.1) ▲
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▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21B12M (Pemba Sherpa): Why does Yang Ki leave Pemba  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	78 (2.7)	▲
Kuwait	74 (1.8)	▲
International Avg.	66 (1.0)	
Morocco	65 (2.4)	
Egypt	58 (1.9)	▼
South Africa	57 (1.6)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	88 (1.6)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21B13C (Pemba Sherpa): Finish the two sentences  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Kuwait	30 (2.0) ▲	60 (2.0) ▲
Egypt	27 (1.7) ▲	52 (2.2)
International Avg.	20 (0.8)	51 (1.0)
Morocco	19 (1.9)	42 (2.5) ▼
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	16 (1.8) ▼	65 (2.8) ▲
South Africa	10 (0.8) ▼	36 (1.6) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	49 (2.3) ▲	83 (1.8) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21B14M (Pemba Sherpa): What does Yang Ki do when Pemba is angry  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	49 (3.1) ▲
Kuwait	34 (2.1)
International Avg.	32 (1.0)
Morocco	32 (2.1)
South Africa	26 (1.4) ▼
Egypt	20 (1.5) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	76 (2.1) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21B15C (Pemba Sherpa): Why does Yang Ki say this to her big brother  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	31 (2.7)	▲
Egypt	30 (1.7)	▲
International Avg.	26 (0.9)	
Kuwait	25 (2.1)	
Morocco	24 (2.5)	
South Africa	20 (1.1)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	37 (2.4)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21B16C (Pemba Sherpa): How did Yang Ki change Pemba's thinking  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	21 (2.3) ▲	51 (2.6) ▲
Egypt	18 (1.5) ▲	37 (2.1)
International Avg.	15 (0.7)	35 (1.0)
Morocco	14 (1.7)	28 (2.4) ▼
Kuwait	14 (1.4)	38 (2.1)
South Africa	6 (0.7) ▼	22 (1.0) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	29 (2.4) ▲	64 (2.3) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21B17C (Pemba Sherpa): Describe what Yang Ki is like  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	23 (2.0) ▲	56 (2.2) ▲
Egypt	17 (1.6) ▲	35 (2.2)
Kuwait	15 (1.6)	38 (2.3)
International Avg.	14 (0.7)	35 (0.9)
Morocco	9 (1.6) ▼	24 (2.3) ▼
South Africa	4 (0.7) ▼	22 (1.4) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	24 (2.0) ▲	72 (2.1) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R21K01C (Sharks): Two things about a shark's teeth  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Kuwait	45 (1.8) ▲	72 (1.8) ▲
Morocco	38 (2.3) ▲	63 (3.0)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	36 (2.6)	68 (2.7) ▲
International Avg.	33 (0.9)	60 (1.0)
Egypt	32 (1.9)	55 (2.1) ▼
South Africa	15 (1.1) ▼	44 (1.8) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	45 (2.5) ▲	77 (1.9) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



**R21K02C (Sharks): Three kinds of animals sharks eat**  
**Constructed Response (1 Point)**

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	45 (2.4)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	43 (3.2)	▲
International Avg.	32 (1.0)	
South Africa	29 (1.7)	
Egypt	24 (1.8)	▼
Morocco	20 (2.0)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	74 (1.8)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 ( ) Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R21K03M (Sharks): Why tiger shark called garbage-can  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct
Kuwait	40 (2.2) ▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	31 (2.7)
Morocco	31 (2.0)
International Avg.	30 (0.9)
Egypt	28 (1.9)
South Africa	22 (1.3) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	58 (2.8) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R21K04M (Sharks): Sense used to first to find prey  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	52 (3.1) ▲
Kuwait	42 (2.0)
South Africa	42 (1.7)
International Avg.	40 (1.1)
Morocco	36 (2.6)
Egypt	29 (2.1) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	66 (2.2) ▲
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▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R21K05C (Sharks): Why eyes glow in the dark  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	34 (2.4) ▲
Kuwait	31 (2.4) ▲
International Avg.	20 (0.8)
Egypt	18 (1.4)
Morocco	15 (1.8) ▼
South Africa	5 (0.7) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	44 (2.4) ▲
-------------	------------

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R21K06M (Sharks): Why sharks give a test bite  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	42 (2.7)	▲
Kuwait	38 (2.4)	▲
International Avg.	33 (1.0)	
Egypt	31 (1.7)	
Morocco	29 (2.3)	▼
South Africa	24 (1.3)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	66 (2.4)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R21K07C (Sharks): Shark's senses of touch and hearing  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Kuwait	22 (2.2) ▲	47 (2.7) ▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	18 (2.0) ▲	49 (2.1) ▲
Egypt	15 (1.3)	37 (1.7)
International Avg.	14 (0.7)	35 (0.9)
Morocco	8 (1.1) ▼	24 (2.3) ▼
South Africa	5 (0.6) ▼	16 (1.2) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	27 (2.1) ▲	56 (2.3) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R21K08M (Sharks): Sense used to detect prey  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	34 (2.3) ▲
Kuwait	30 (2.3)
Morocco	30 (1.9)
International Avg.	27 (0.9)
Egypt	22 (1.7) ▼
South Africa	18 (1.1) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	50 (2.4) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R21K09M (Sharks): How diagram explains good hunters  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	44 (2.4)	▲
Kuwait	37 (2.8)	▲
International Avg.	31 (1.0)	
South Africa	28 (1.4)	▼
Egypt	27 (1.9)	▼
Morocco	22 (1.9)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	63 (2.2)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



R21K10C (Sharks): Order of senses when hunting  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Kuwait	9 (1.4) ▲	16 (2.0) ▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	6 (1.2)	12 (1.7)
International Avg.	5 (0.4)	11 (0.7)
Morocco	3 (1.0)	9 (1.5)
Egypt	3 (0.8) ▼	11 (1.5)
South Africa	1 (0.3) ▼	5 (0.7) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	13 (1.4) ▲	40 (2.3) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R21K11M (Sharks): Sharks with huge mouths  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	37 (2.9) ▲
International Avg.	29 (1.0)
Morocco	28 (2.2)
Kuwait	28 (2.6)
Egypt	28 (1.9)
South Africa	24 (1.1) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	53 (2.0) ▲
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▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

R21K12C (Sharks): Shark information table  
 Constructed Response (3 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 2 Points	Percent at Least 1 Point
Kuwait	9 (1.2) ▲	22 (2.5) ▲	41 (2.7) ▲
Morocco	6 (1.2)	12 (1.7)	31 (2.3)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	5 (0.9)	18 (1.9) ▲	43 (2.1) ▲
International Avg.	5 (0.4)	14 (0.8)	33 (1.0)
Egypt	3 (0.6) ▼	13 (1.3)	33 (2.2)
South Africa	2 (0.4) ▼	6 (0.7) ▼	19 (1.4) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>			
Denmark (3)	18 (1.7) ▲	37 (2.4) ▲	61 (2.4) ▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E01C (How Did We Learn to Fly?): Who invented the first kites  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	83 (2.5)	▲
Kuwait	82 (1.9)	▲
South Africa	78 (1.5)	
International Avg.	78 (0.9)	
Morocco	77 (2.5)	
Egypt	68 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	95 (1.1)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E02C (How Did We Learn to Fly?): What were the first kites made from  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	80 (2.8)	▲
Kuwait	67 (2.0)	▲
Morocco	60 (2.6)	
International Avg.	60 (1.0)	
Egypt	49 (2.0)	▼
South Africa	44 (1.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	93 (1.3)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E03M (How Did We Learn to Fly?): Why first kites were for rich people  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct	
Morocco	59 (2.6)	▲
Kuwait	51 (2.3)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	41 (2.2)	
International Avg.	41 (0.9)	
Egypt	35 (1.8)	▼
South Africa	17 (1.3)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	72 (2.2)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E04M (How Did We Learn to Fly?): How Marco Polo found out about kites  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	49 (2.0)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	44 (2.7)	▲
International Avg.	39 (1.0)	
Morocco	36 (2.4)	
South Africa	35 (1.3)	▼
Egypt	29 (2.1)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	66 (1.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E05M (How Did We Learn to Fly?): Why were soldiers sometimes tied on to kites  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	74 (3.1)	▲
Kuwait	72 (1.9)	▲
Morocco	67 (2.0)	▲
International Avg.	61 (1.0)	
South Africa	46 (1.8)	▼
Egypt	46 (2.1)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	88 (1.5)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L21E06M (How Did We Learn to Fly?): What kind of kite did an Australian invent  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	86 (2.4) ▲
Morocco	81 (1.8)
South Africa	81 (1.3) ▲
Kuwait	79 (1.9)
International Avg.	78 (0.9)
Egypt	64 (2.2) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	97 (0.6) ▲
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▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E07C (How Did We Learn to Fly?): Two things Australian did to make kites lift a man  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Kuwait	40 (2.1) ▲	62 (2.0) ▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	36 (2.3) ▲	56 (2.9)
International Avg.	29 (0.9)	51 (1.0)
Morocco	24 (2.2) ▼	50 (2.4)
South Africa	23 (1.4) ▼	43 (1.9) ▼
Egypt	22 (1.8) ▼	45 (2.0) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	43 (2.4) ▲	70 (1.9) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E08M (How Did We Learn to Fly?): Why was the Australian's invention important  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	54 (3.3)	▲
Kuwait	47 (2.3)	▲
International Avg.	41 (1.0)	
Morocco	40 (2.1)	
South Africa	33 (1.7)	▼
Egypt	33 (1.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	72 (1.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E09M (How Did We Learn to Fly?): What does photograph help you to understand  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	49 (2.5) ▲
Morocco	43 (2.3)
Egypt	43 (1.7)
International Avg.	40 (0.9)
South Africa	35 (1.5) ▼
Kuwait	29 (1.7) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	56 (2.1) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E10C (How Did We Learn to Fly?): How many meters could the Bat lift a man  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	77 (1.6)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	76 (2.1)	▲
Morocco	72 (2.4)	
International Avg.	68 (0.9)	
Egypt	59 (1.9)	▼
South Africa	58 (1.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	91 (1.3)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E11M (How Did We Learn to Fly?): Why people stopped using war kites  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	61 (3.1) ▲
Kuwait	42 (2.0)
International Avg.	42 (1.0)
Morocco	41 (2.2)
South Africa	36 (1.7) ▼
Egypt	29 (1.7) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	76 (1.8) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E12C (How Did We Learn to Fly?): In which country did the Wright Bros live  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	83 (3.4)	▲
Kuwait	76 (2.2)	▲
International Avg.	61 (1.1)	
South Africa	51 (1.8)	▼
Egypt	48 (2.2)	▼
Morocco	48 (2.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	96 (0.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E13C (How Did We Learn to Fly?): What was the successful first flight  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	45 (2.4)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	42 (3.2)	▲
International Avg.	32 (1.0)	
Egypt	28 (1.8)	▼
Morocco	28 (2.1)	▼
South Africa	16 (1.2)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	42 (2.4)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L21E14C (How Did We Learn to Fly?): How was experimental aircraft like a kite  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	20 (2.1) ▲	53 (3.3) ▲
Kuwait	13 (1.7)	37 (1.8)
International Avg.	11 (0.6)	37 (1.0)
Morocco	8 (1.2) ▼	33 (2.3) ▼
South Africa	7 (0.6) ▼	28 (1.3) ▼
Egypt	6 (0.8) ▼	33 (1.8) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	14 (1.6) ▲	58 (2.4) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E15C (How Did We Learn to Fly?): What year was the Wright Bros first flight  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	74 (2.9)	▲
Kuwait	67 (2.0)	▲
International Avg.	58 (1.0)	
Morocco	53 (2.6)	▼
Egypt	48 (2.0)	▼
South Africa	48 (1.6)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	83 (1.8)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E16C (How Did We Learn to Fly?): Put inventions in order  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	51 (2.9) ▲
International Avg.	34 (0.9)
Morocco	32 (1.9)
Kuwait	31 (2.0)
Egypt	28 (1.9) ▼
South Africa	25 (1.4) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	61 (2.3) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21E17M (How Did We Learn to Fly?): What is main idea of the article  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	55 (2.7) ▲
Kuwait	35 (2.4)
International Avg.	33 (0.9)
Morocco	27 (1.9) ▼
Egypt	25 (1.9) ▼
South Africa	25 (1.4) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	64 (2.1) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M01M (Library Mouse): Who is Sam  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Morocco	91 (1.1)	▲
Kuwait	88 (1.2)	▲
International Avg.	85 (0.6)	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	83 (2.0)	
South Africa	82 (1.3)	▼
Egypt	81 (1.4)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	96 (0.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M02M (Library Mouse): At night, "the library belongs to Sam"  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	35 (2.3)	▲
Morocco	32 (2.3)	▲
International Avg.	27 (0.9)	
Kuwait	26 (2.1)	
South Africa	22 (1.3)	▼
Egypt	21 (1.4)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	80 (1.7)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M03C (Library Mouse): At first, what does Sam do every night  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Morocco	85 (1.5) ▲
Kuwait	74 (1.9)
International Avg.	73 (0.8)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	72 (2.4)
Egypt	71 (1.7)
South Africa	65 (1.2) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	76 (2.1)

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M04C (Library Mouse): What is Sam's book about  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	61 (2.7)	▲
Kuwait	50 (2.0)	▲
International Avg.	45 (0.9)	
Morocco	44 (2.0)	
South Africa	37 (1.7)	▼
Egypt	32 (1.7)	▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	83 (1.8)	▲
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- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L21M05M (Library Mouse): Where does Sam put his book when he finishes it  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	87 (1.5)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	85 (1.7)	▲
Morocco	79 (2.0)	
International Avg.	78 (0.8)	
South Africa	71 (1.6)	▼
Egypt	69 (1.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	94 (1.0)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M06C (Library Mouse): Who finds Sam's book  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	82 (2.0) ▲
Kuwait	62 (2.7)
South Africa	59 (1.5)
International Avg.	58 (1.0)
Morocco	53 (2.2) ▼
Egypt	33 (2.1) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	93 (1.2) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M07M (Library Mouse): What do the children think of Sam's book  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	59 (2.3)	▲
South Africa	53 (1.7)	▲
Kuwait	50 (2.8)	▲
International Avg.	43 (0.9)	
Morocco	27 (1.6)	▼
Egypt	24 (1.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	80 (1.7)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M08C (Library Mouse): Who writes the note to Sam  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	81 (2.1) ▲
Kuwait	71 (2.3) ▲
International Avg.	67 (0.9)
South Africa	66 (1.6)
Morocco	65 (2.2)
Egypt	50 (1.9) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	92 (1.1) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M09M (Library Mouse): Why is Sam invited to the meeting  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	65 (2.8)	▲
Kuwait	65 (3.0)	▲
Morocco	61 (2.6)	
International Avg.	58 (1.1)	
Egypt	51 (1.8)	▼
South Africa	47 (1.6)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	81 (1.5)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M10C (Library Mouse): How does Sam feel when he reads the note  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Egypt	53 (2.1) ▲	68 (1.9)
Kuwait	51 (2.3)	74 (1.8) ▲
International Avg.	48 (1.0)	70 (0.9)
Morocco	48 (2.5)	68 (2.5)
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	45 (2.1)	68 (2.8)
South Africa	45 (1.5) ▼	74 (1.4) ▲
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	71 (1.9) ▲	90 (1.4) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M11M (Library Mouse): Which words from the note does Sam not understand  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct	
Morocco	47 (2.2)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	41 (2.0)	▲
Kuwait	38 (2.5)	
International Avg.	37 (0.9)	
Egypt	32 (1.7)	▼
South Africa	27 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	61 (2.3)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
( ) Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M12C (Library Mouse): What does Sam put across the top of the box  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	72 (2.4) ▲
International Avg.	50 (0.9)
Kuwait	47 (2.0)
Egypt	47 (2.1)
Morocco	45 (2.3) ▼
South Africa	41 (1.6) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	88 (1.3) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L21M13M (Library Mouse): What does Sam put inside the box  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	86 (1.9)	▲
Morocco	77 (1.9)	▲
Kuwait	72 (2.2)	
International Avg.	72 (0.9)	
South Africa	67 (1.7)	▼
Egypt	57 (2.2)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	94 (1.3)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M14C (Library Mouse): The girl is surprised when she looks in the box  
Constructed Response (3 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 2 Points	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	19 (1.7) ▲	46 (2.3) ▲	75 (2.3) ▲
Kuwait	16 (1.9) ▲	40 (2.1) ▲	64 (2.1) ▲
International Avg.	12 (0.6)	32 (0.8)	58 (0.9)
Morocco	10 (1.5)	30 (2.1)	54 (2.2) ▼
South Africa	7 (0.9) ▼	22 (1.4) ▼	51 (1.8) ▼
Egypt	6 (0.8) ▼	22 (1.5) ▼	47 (1.8) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>			
Denmark (3)	51 (2.1) ▲	79 (1.9) ▲	92 (1.3) ▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M15M (Library Mouse): Why does Sam put a pile of pencils next to the box  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	53 (2.5) ▲
Kuwait	46 (2.7)
South Africa	43 (2.0)
International Avg.	43 (1.0)
Egypt	36 (1.7) ▼
Morocco	35 (2.3) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	85 (1.6) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M16C (Library Mouse): What does Sam use his little teeth for  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	71 (1.9)	▲
Kuwait	57 (2.2)	▲
International Avg.	46 (0.9)	
Morocco	36 (2.0)	▼
South Africa	36 (1.9)	▼
Egypt	31 (2.0)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	74 (1.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M17C (Library Mouse): What plan does he have for the children  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	29 (2.3)	▲
Kuwait	23 (1.9)	▲
International Avg.	19 (0.8)	
South Africa	18 (1.4)	
Egypt	16 (1.5)	▼
Morocco	9 (1.4)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	74 (1.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21M18M (Library Mouse): What is the main lesson of the story  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	50 (2.4) ▲
International Avg.	33 (0.9)
Kuwait	33 (2.9)
South Africa	31 (1.3)
Morocco	28 (2.1) ▼
Egypt	24 (1.5) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	71 (2.1) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11O01M (Baghita's Perfect Orange): Why Baghita's neighbors loved her  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	89 (1.3)	▲
Morocco	86 (1.4)	▲
Kuwait	82 (1.7)	▲
International Avg.	78 (0.7)	
Egypt	76 (1.6)	
South Africa	59 (1.4)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	92 (1.2)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11O02C (Baghita's Perfect Orange): Why Baghita thought orange perfect  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	54 (2.2)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	54 (2.3)	▲
Morocco	45 (2.8)	
International Avg.	43 (1.0)	
Egypt	38 (2.0)	▼
South Africa	24 (1.4)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	38 (2.0)	▼

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L11O03M (Baghita's Perfect Orange): Where Baghita went  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	87 (1.4)	▲
Morocco	87 (1.3)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	85 (2.2)	
International Avg.	83 (0.7)	
South Africa	81 (1.3)	
Egypt	75 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	97 (0.8)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11O04M (Baghita's Perfect Orange): What type of man was Abdi  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	81 (1.9) ▲
Kuwait	67 (2.0)
International Avg.	66 (0.9)
South Africa	65 (1.7)
Morocco	63 (2.3)
Egypt	56 (2.1) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	92 (1.2) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11O05C (Baghita's Perfect Orange): What Abdi thinks is a special gift  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	77 (2.3)	▲
Morocco	66 (2.2)	▲
Kuwait	63 (2.6)	
International Avg.	59 (1.0)	
Egypt	57 (2.0)	
South Africa	32 (1.5)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	87 (1.5)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11O06C (Baghita's Perfect Orange): Words show Baghita took no notice  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	71 (2.9)	▲
Kuwait	61 (2.0)	▲
Morocco	60 (2.2)	▲
International Avg.	54 (1.0)	
Egypt	40 (2.1)	▼
South Africa	39 (1.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	59 (2.1)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11O07M (Baghita's Perfect Orange): Why Baghita smiled  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct	
Morocco	70 (1.9)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	69 (2.4)	▲
Kuwait	68 (2.2)	▲
International Avg.	63 (1.0)	
South Africa	59 (1.8)	▼
Egypt	52 (2.2)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	85 (1.6)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11O08M (Baghita's Perfect Orange): What Chief thought of gift  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	77 (2.5) ▲
Egypt	65 (2.0)
International Avg.	64 (1.0)
Kuwait	64 (2.5)
Morocco	59 (2.1) ▼
South Africa	55 (1.6) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	89 (1.2) ▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11O09C (Baghita's Perfect Orange): What Baghita wanted  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	75 (2.5)	▲
Kuwait	59 (2.1)	▲
Morocco	57 (2.4)	
International Avg.	55 (1.0)	
Egypt	43 (2.2)	▼
South Africa	41 (1.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	94 (1.1)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11O10C (Baghita's Perfect Orange): What Chief gave Baghita  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	92 (1.6) ▲
Morocco	84 (1.4)
Kuwait	83 (1.6)
International Avg.	82 (0.7)
Egypt	76 (2.0) ▼
South Africa	74 (1.7) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	98 (0.7) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L11011C (Baghita's Perfect Orange): Words show Baghita was pleased  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Morocco	71 (2.2)	▲
Kuwait	67 (2.2)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	65 (2.6)	▲
International Avg.	60 (1.0)	
Egypt	52 (2.2)	▼
South Africa	44 (1.9)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	76 (1.9)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11O12M (Baghita's Perfect Orange): Words that tell Abdi was surprised  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	73 (2.4)	▲
Kuwait	73 (2.2)	▲
Morocco	70 (2.2)	
International Avg.	67 (1.0)	
Egypt	59 (1.9)	▼
South Africa	58 (1.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	89 (1.3)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11O13M (Baghita's Perfect Orange): Why Abdi was surprised  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	60 (2.9) ▲
Kuwait	47 (2.9)
Morocco	47 (2.4)
International Avg.	45 (1.1)
Egypt	41 (1.9)
South Africa	28 (1.4) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	68 (1.9) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11014C (Baghita's Perfect Orange): What Abdi took to the Chief  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	81 (2.2) ▲
Kuwait	61 (2.2)
International Avg.	58 (0.9)
Morocco	55 (2.5)
South Africa	48 (1.7) ▼
Egypt	43 (1.8) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	90 (1.5) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11015C (Baghita's Perfect Orange): How did Abdi feel about the gift  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	19 (1.9) ▲	53 (3.0) ▲
South Africa	9 (0.8)	22 (1.3) ▼
International Avg.	9 (0.5)	27 (0.9)
Egypt	6 (1.1) ▼	15 (1.7) ▼
Kuwait	6 (1.1) ▼	25 (2.3)
Morocco	3 (0.7) ▼	17 (1.7) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	23 (1.8) ▲	74 (2.1) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11O16M (Baghita's Perfect Orange): Lesson of the story  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	47 (2.7)	▲
Kuwait	40 (2.3)	▲
International Avg.	35 (1.0)	
Morocco	30 (2.3)	▼
Egypt	30 (2.1)	▼
South Africa	29 (1.9)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	70 (1.6)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11U01C (The Summer My Father Was 10): Who Marie plants with  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	75 (2.5)	▲
Morocco	72 (2.1)	▲
International Avg.	67 (0.9)	
Kuwait	64 (2.5)	
Egypt	63 (1.8)	▼
South Africa	63 (1.5)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	89 (1.7)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11U02M (The Summer My Father Was 10): What Mr. Bellavista does  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	88 (1.4)	▲
Kuwait	82 (1.7)	▲
International Avg.	77 (0.7)	
South Africa	74 (1.3)	▼
Morocco	73 (1.9)	▼
Egypt	68 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	97 (0.7)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L11U03M (The Summer My Father Was 10): Why Peter doesn't know Mr B  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	69 (3.0)	▲
Kuwait	65 (2.1)	▲
International Avg.	58 (1.0)	
Morocco	57 (2.1)	
South Africa	50 (1.5)	▼
Egypt	48 (1.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	81 (1.7)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11U04C (The Summer My Father Was 10): How ball got into garden  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	75 (2.4)	▲
Kuwait	65 (2.5)	▲
International Avg.	57 (1.0)	
Morocco	55 (2.5)	
South Africa	45 (1.7)	▼
Egypt	42 (1.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	82 (1.6)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11U05M (The Summer My Father Was 10): Why Peter threw a tomato  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	79 (1.5)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	78 (2.2)	▲
Morocco	65 (3.2)	
International Avg.	65 (1.0)	
South Africa	52 (1.5)	▼
Egypt	50 (1.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	93 (1.1)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11U06M (The Summer My Father Was 10): Why the boys didn't hear Mr. B  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	80 (2.5)	▲
Kuwait	70 (2.0)	▲
International Avg.	59 (1.0)	
Morocco	56 (2.3)	
South Africa	47 (1.5)	▼
Egypt	43 (2.2)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	87 (1.3)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11U07M (The Summer My Father Was 10): Words that show Peter won't talk  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	46 (2.3)	▲
Kuwait	40 (2.2)	▲
International Avg.	36 (0.9)	
Morocco	34 (2.2)	
South Africa	32 (1.2)	▼
Egypt	25 (1.4)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	71 (1.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11U08M (The Summer My Father Was 10): What made Peter finally talk  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	62 (2.0)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	61 (2.9)	▲
International Avg.	47 (1.0)	
Morocco	39 (2.4)	▼
South Africa	37 (1.6)	▼
Egypt	36 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	77 (1.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11U09M (The Summer My Father Was 10): Why Peter asked to start a garden  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	70 (1.7)	▲
Morocco	70 (2.1)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	68 (2.0)	▲
International Avg.	62 (0.8)	
Egypt	53 (2.0)	▼
South Africa	47 (1.5)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	87 (1.3)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11U10C (The Summer My Father Was 10): Words that tell Peter feels better  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	48 (2.7)	▲
Morocco	39 (2.5)	▲
International Avg.	33 (1.0)	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	30 (2.2)	
Egypt	29 (1.8)	▼
South Africa	16 (1.1)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	37 (2.2)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L11U11C (The Summer My Father Was 10): What 2 things Peter learned  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	61 (2.7) ▲	84 (2.7) ▲
Kuwait	49 (2.3) ▲	72 (1.7) ▲
International Avg.	43 (1.0)	68 (0.9)
Morocco	41 (2.3)	66 (1.9)
Egypt	36 (1.8) ▼	61 (1.6) ▼
South Africa	25 (1.4) ▼	58 (1.4) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	71 (2.2) ▲	93 (1.4) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11U12C (The Summer My Father Was 10): Order events from story  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	57 (2.2)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	53 (2.6)	▲
Morocco	49 (2.6)	
International Avg.	49 (1.0)	
Egypt	44 (1.9)	▼
South Africa	40 (1.5)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	84 (1.6)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11U13M (The Summer My Father Was 10): The lesson Peter learns  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	77 (2.3)	▲
Kuwait	71 (2.0)	▲
International Avg.	63 (1.0)	
Morocco	62 (2.8)	
Egypt	54 (1.8)	▼
South Africa	53 (1.6)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	91 (1.5)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11U14C (The Summer My Father Was 10): Example of Mr. B's kindness  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	32 (2.2) ▲
International Avg.	24 (0.9)
Egypt	24 (2.0)
Kuwait	22 (2.1)
South Africa	21 (1.2)
Morocco	20 (2.1) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	45 (2.3) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21L01M (The Pearl): Where does the boy find the pearl  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	70 (2.9) ▲
Kuwait	63 (2.1)
Morocco	61 (2.1)
International Avg.	60 (1.0)
South Africa	55 (1.3) ▼
Egypt	49 (1.9) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	87 (1.3) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21L02M (The Pearl): Why are the children all eager to touch the pearl  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct	
Egypt	54 (2.3)	▲
Kuwait	49 (2.8)	▲
International Avg.	45 (1.1)	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	43 (2.8)	
Morocco	41 (2.2)	
South Africa	36 (1.6)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	83 (1.7)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21L03C (The Pearl): Why does the girl say the pearl belongs to Josh  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Morocco	78 (1.9)	▲
Kuwait	73 (1.6)	▲
Egypt	69 (1.9)	▲
International Avg.	61 (0.8)	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	42 (2.1)	▼
South Africa	41 (1.5)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	70 (1.8)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21L04C (The Pearl): Why does Josh say Reuben can have the pearl  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	74 (2.0)	▲
Egypt	68 (1.9)	▲
Morocco	68 (2.4)	▲
International Avg.	61 (0.9)	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	51 (2.3)	▼
South Africa	45 (1.4)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	76 (1.6)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L21L05C (The Pearl): What does Reuben do differently  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	55 (2.9) ▲	70 (2.6) ▲
Kuwait	44 (1.8) ▲	72 (2.0) ▲
International Avg.	37 (0.9)	64 (1.0)
Egypt	36 (1.8)	64 (1.8)
Morocco	28 (2.1) ▼	64 (2.4)
South Africa	23 (1.4) ▼	48 (1.6) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	64 (2.1) ▲	83 (1.7) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21L06C (The Pearl): Where does Reuben go when he leaves  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	80 (1.9)	▲
Kuwait	71 (2.3)	▲
International Avg.	66 (0.9)	
Egypt	63 (2.4)	
Morocco	62 (2.3)	
South Africa	53 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	87 (1.6)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21L07M (The Pearl): Why does Reuben look for fishermen  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	73 (1.9)	▲
Morocco	62 (2.3)	▲
Kuwait	60 (1.9)	
International Avg.	58 (0.9)	
Egypt	48 (1.9)	▼
South Africa	45 (1.6)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	88 (1.5)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21L08M (The Pearl): How do the pearl fishers find the finest pearls  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	60 (2.1) ▲
Kuwait	52 (2.5)
International Avg.	50 (0.9)
Morocco	46 (2.5)
South Africa	45 (1.4) ▼
Egypt	44 (1.8) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	81 (1.8) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21L09C (The Pearl): How does Reuben become a wealthy man  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Egypt	57 (2.0)	▲
Morocco	52 (2.0)	▲
Kuwait	50 (1.9)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	48 (2.1)	
International Avg.	47 (0.9)	
South Africa	27 (1.7)	▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	45 (2.1)
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- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
( ) Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21L10M (The Pearl): Why does Reuben think Josh is generous  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	64 (1.9)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	61 (2.8)	▲
Morocco	61 (2.2)	▲
International Avg.	56 (1.0)	
Egypt	48 (2.2)	▼
South Africa	45 (1.4)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	85 (1.6)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21L11C (The Pearl): How do you know that Josh is pleased  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Egypt	36 (2.0) ▲
Kuwait	34 (2.4) ▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	34 (2.5)
Morocco	31 (2.1)
<b>International Avg.</b>	<b>30 (0.9)</b>
South Africa	15 (1.1) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	38 (2.2) ▲
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▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21L12M (The Pearl): Why does Reuben want to move back  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	72 (2.5)	▲
Kuwait	68 (2.0)	▲
Morocco	66 (2.3)	▲
International Avg.	62 (1.0)	
Egypt	57 (2.1)	▼
South Africa	48 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	88 (1.4)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L21L13C (The Pearl): Reuben offers to give Josh two things  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	60 (2.3) ▲	64 (2.7) ▲
Kuwait	52 (2.4) ▲	63 (2.4) ▲
Morocco	51 (2.4) ▲	58 (2.1)
International Avg.	46 (0.9)	56 (1.0)
South Africa	38 (1.4) ▼	52 (1.4) ▼
Egypt	30 (1.9) ▼	43 (1.9) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	83 (1.7) ▲	88 (1.5) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

## PIRLS Literacy 2016 Percent Correct Statistics for Achievement Items

L21L14M (The Pearl): What does Josh say they should do  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	77 (2.4)	▲
Kuwait	62 (2.0)	▲
International Avg.	58 (0.9)	
Morocco	56 (2.1)	
South Africa	50 (1.9)	▼
Egypt	46 (1.9)	▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	89 (1.2)	▲
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- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21L15C (The Pearl): Two things Josh does show he is good  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Egypt	34 (1.6) ▲	66 (2.1) ▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	26 (2.6)	49 (2.9) ▼
Morocco	26 (2.2)	57 (2.4)
International Avg.	24 (0.8)	54 (1.0)
Kuwait	23 (1.7)	57 (2.1)
South Africa	11 (0.9) ▼	43 (1.6) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	42 (2.2) ▲	73 (1.7) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21H01C (Hungry Plant): What is the fly looking for  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	85 (2.2)	▲
Morocco	81 (1.7)	▲
Kuwait	79 (2.1)	
International Avg.	77 (0.8)	
South Africa	71 (1.3)	▼
Egypt	67 (1.9)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	91 (1.2)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21H02M (Hungry Plant): Where does the sweet smell come from  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	82 (2.0)	▲
Morocco	74 (2.0)	▲
International Avg.	70 (0.8)	
Kuwait	70 (1.8)	
South Africa	62 (1.6)	▼
Egypt	62 (1.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	88 (1.4)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21H03M (Hungry Plant): Why does it say "closer" three times  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	48 (2.6)	▲
Kuwait	40 (2.5)	▲
International Avg.	35 (0.9)	
Morocco	35 (2.0)	
South Africa	29 (1.6)	▼
Egypt	24 (1.3)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	75 (1.8)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21H04M (Hungry Plant): What does the plan do when the fly crawls on leaf  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	83 (2.0)	▲
Kuwait	74 (1.7)	▲
International Avg.	68 (0.9)	
Morocco	68 (2.4)	
Egypt	60 (2.0)	▼
South Africa	58 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	95 (1.0)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21H05M (Hungry Plant): What will the plant do to the fly  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	77 (2.3)	▲
Morocco	74 (1.9)	▲
Kuwait	70 (2.2)	
International Avg.	69 (0.9)	
Egypt	65 (1.9)	▼
South Africa	59 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	95 (0.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L21H06C (Hungry Plant): How many types of insect-eating plants are there  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	78 (1.9)	▲
Morocco	73 (2.0)	▲
Egypt	67 (1.6)	
International Avg.	65 (1.0)	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	63 (3.3)	
South Africa	46 (1.5)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	92 (1.3)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21H07M (Hungry Plant): Why do insect-eating plants need to eat bugs  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	65 (2.5)	▲
Kuwait	60 (2.0)	▲
International Avg.	55 (1.0)	
Morocco	53 (2.4)	
Egypt	50 (2.0)	▼
South Africa	46 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	75 (1.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21H08M (Hungry Plant): Why do insect-eating plants need to use tricks  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	58 (2.7) ▲
Kuwait	44 (2.6)
International Avg.	43 (1.1)
Morocco	42 (2.7)
Egypt	38 (2.0) ▼
South Africa	34 (1.6) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	77 (1.6) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21H09M (Hungry Plant): What do the leaves of the Venus Flytrap have  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	69 (2.7)	▲
Kuwait	68 (2.3)	▲
Morocco	64 (2.6)	▲
International Avg.	59 (1.0)	
Egypt	51 (2.1)	▼
South Africa	42 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	87 (1.5)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21H10M (Hungry Plant): Why does it say the trap is like the nail of thumb  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct
Kuwait	64 (2.6) ▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	50 (2.7)
Morocco	50 (2.4)
International Avg.	50 (1.0)
Egypt	47 (2.1)
South Africa	37 (1.5) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	77 (1.8) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21H11C (Hungry Plant): What does the insect see that makes it go to plant  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Morocco	60 (2.1)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	59 (2.7)	▲
Egypt	58 (1.8)	▲
Kuwait	53 (2.3)	
International Avg.	52 (1.0)	
South Africa	31 (1.5)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	75 (1.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21H12C (Hungry Plant): What does the insect expect to find  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	72 (2.3) ▲
International Avg.	46 (1.0)
Egypt	45 (1.9)
Morocco	39 (2.5) ▼
Kuwait	38 (2.6) ▼
South Africa	35 (1.4) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	75 (1.5) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21H13M (Hungry Plant): What does the fly touch to make the leaf snap shut  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	68 (2.1)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	65 (2.2)	▲
International Avg.	56 (0.9)	
Egypt	54 (2.0)	
Morocco	49 (2.4)	▼
South Africa	44 (1.6)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	85 (1.4)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L21H14C (Hungry Plant): How long does the Venus Flytrap take to eat  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Kuwait	68 (2.1) ▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	63 (3.4) ▲
International Avg.	56 (1.0)
Morocco	56 (1.8)
Egypt	54 (2.0)
South Africa	39 (1.5) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	78 (1.8) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21H15M (Hungry Plant): Explain what happens to the leaf  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	47 (2.9)	▲
Kuwait	46 (2.2)	▲
International Avg.	40 (1.0)	
Egypt	38 (1.9)	
South Africa	37 (1.5)	▼
Morocco	34 (2.2)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	67 (2.1)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21H16M (Hungry Plant): Why is the article called "Hungry Plant"  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	53 (3.1)	▲
Morocco	51 (2.4)	▲
Kuwait	48 (2.7)	
International Avg.	47 (1.1)	
Egypt	43 (2.0)	
South Africa	39 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	80 (2.0)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11P01M (Training A Deaf Polar Bear): What awoke Alaska  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	64 (2.1)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	56 (2.7)	▲
Egypt	54 (1.9)	
International Avg.	50 (0.9)	
Morocco	45 (2.1)	▼
South Africa	33 (1.4)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	76 (1.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11P02M (Training A Deaf Polar Bear): What does kerplunk tell you  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Morocco	70 (2.2)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	66 (2.5)	▲
International Avg.	55 (1.0)	
Kuwait	48 (2.6)	▼
Egypt	45 (2.3)	▼
South Africa	44 (1.6)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	83 (1.6)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11P03C (Training A Deaf Polar Bear): How Alaska is different  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	49 (3.0) ▲	81 (2.1) ▲
Kuwait	24 (2.6)	59 (2.4)
International Avg.	23 (0.9)	57 (0.9)
Morocco	20 (1.9)	61 (2.3)
South Africa	11 (1.2) ▼	43 (1.4) ▼
Egypt	9 (1.1) ▼	40 (1.8) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	46 (2.3) ▲	90 (1.5) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11P04C (Training A Deaf Polar Bear): Where Alaska lived before zoo  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	83 (1.5)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	82 (2.0)	▲
Morocco	76 (1.8)	▲
International Avg.	72 (0.8)	
Egypt	62 (1.9)	▼
South Africa	60 (1.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	95 (1.1)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11P05M (Training A Deaf Polar Bear): How being deaf helped  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	80 (2.7)	▲
Kuwait	67 (1.9)	▲
Morocco	64 (2.4)	
International Avg.	62 (1.0)	
Egypt	52 (2.3)	▼
South Africa	48 (1.9)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	84 (1.5)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L11P06C (Training A Deaf Polar Bear): Where wild polar bears live  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	85 (2.0)	▲
Kuwait	83 (1.9)	▲
Morocco	79 (2.1)	
International Avg.	75 (0.9)	
Egypt	72 (1.7)	
South Africa	57 (1.9)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	92 (1.2)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11P07C (Training A Deaf Polar Bear): Why Alaska has never seen snow  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	51 (2.4)	▲
Kuwait	44 (3.3)	▲
Morocco	40 (2.2)	
International Avg.	37 (1.0)	
Egypt	28 (1.8)	▼
South Africa	24 (1.2)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	58 (2.2)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11P08M (Training A Deaf Polar Bear): What Alaska did when she saw snow  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	72 (3.1) ▲
Kuwait	55 (2.3)
International Avg.	51 (1.1)
South Africa	45 (1.9) ▼
Egypt	41 (2.1) ▼
Morocco	41 (2.2) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	90 (1.5) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11P09M (Training A Deaf Polar Bear): What is Alaska's favorite thing  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	77 (2.6)	▲
Kuwait	69 (2.0)	▲
International Avg.	61 (1.0)	
Morocco	61 (2.5)	
Egypt	52 (2.0)	▼
South Africa	47 (1.4)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	90 (1.5)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11P10M (Training A Deaf Polar Bear): Why trainers needed to train Alaska  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	83 (2.0) ▲
Kuwait	62 (2.6)
International Avg.	61 (1.0)
Morocco	57 (2.7)
Egypt	51 (2.1) ▼
South Africa	49 (1.5) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	89 (1.6) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11P11C (Training A Deaf Polar Bear): 2 things to teach Alaska  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	54 (3.3) ▲	66 (2.9) ▲
Kuwait	38 (2.7)	58 (2.5) ▲
International Avg.	35 (1.0)	51 (1.0)
Morocco	33 (2.0)	50 (2.5)
Egypt	27 (2.0) ▼	41 (1.9) ▼
South Africa	21 (1.2) ▼	38 (1.5) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	73 (2.0) ▲	84 (1.8) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11P12C (Training A Deaf Polar Bear): What clicker tells animals  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	50 (2.3)	▲
Morocco	47 (2.3)	▲
International Avg.	36 (0.9)	
Egypt	29 (1.6)	▼
Kuwait	27 (1.8)	▼
South Africa	27 (1.4)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	60 (1.8)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11P13C (Training A Deaf Polar Bear): What was used instead of clicker  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	70 (2.7) ▲
Kuwait	42 (2.4)
International Avg.	40 (1.0)
Morocco	39 (2.2)
Egypt	27 (2.0) ▼
South Africa	21 (1.4) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	77 (1.8) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L11P14C (Training A Deaf Polar Bear): Order steps of game  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	51 (2.3) ▲
Egypt	41 (2.3)
International Avg.	39 (1.0)
Kuwait	37 (2.6)
Morocco	36 (2.0)
South Africa	28 (1.4) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	64 (2.2) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A01M (Ants): How many legs ants have  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	90 (1.8) ▲
Kuwait	89 (1.4) ▲
International Avg.	84 (0.7)
Morocco	84 (1.8)
South Africa	80 (1.1) ▼
Egypt	78 (1.6) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	98 (0.8) ▲
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- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 ( ) Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A02C (Ants): Fact about ants' strength  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	67 (2.5) ▲
Morocco	67 (2.5) ▲
Kuwait	64 (2.1) ▲
International Avg.	58 (1.0)
Egypt	57 (1.7)
South Africa	36 (1.7) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	80 (1.6) ▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A03M (Ants): What rooms in nest are called  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct
Kuwait	76 (1.9) ▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	68 (2.8)
Morocco	68 (2.4)
International Avg.	67 (1.0)
Egypt	61 (1.9) ▼
South Africa	61 (1.4) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	91 (1.2) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A04C (Ants): What connects rooms in nest  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	62 (2.0)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	60 (3.2)	▲
Morocco	56 (1.9)	▲
International Avg.	52 (1.0)	
Egypt	42 (1.9)	▼
South Africa	39 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	77 (2.1)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A05M (Ants): Purpose of diagram in text  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct
Kuwait	54 (2.2) ▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	46 (3.3)
Morocco	42 (1.9)
International Avg.	42 (1.0)
Egypt	33 (1.9) ▼
South Africa	33 (1.8) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	84 (1.9) ▲
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▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A06C (Ants): Where carpenter ants build nest  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Morocco	83 (1.5)	▲
Kuwait	83 (1.7)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	81 (2.3)	▲
International Avg.	76 (0.8)	
Egypt	73 (1.8)	▼
South Africa	61 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	95 (1.0)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A07C (Ants): What army ants do in day/ night  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	77 (2.3) ▲	89 (1.6) ▲
Kuwait	68 (1.9) ▲	82 (1.7)
International Avg.	62 (1.0)	79 (0.8)
Egypt	59 (2.2)	73 (1.8) ▼
Morocco	58 (2.4) ▼	80 (1.8)
South Africa	51 (2.0) ▼	72 (1.7) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	90 (1.2) ▲	96 (0.9) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L11A08M (Ants): How ants know other ants  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct
Kuwait	72 (1.6) ▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	62 (2.8)
International Avg.	58 (0.9)
Morocco	57 (2.0)
Egypt	57 (2.0)
South Africa	41 (1.6) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	88 (1.5) ▲
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▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A09C (Ants): Biggest ant in colony  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	71 (2.6) ▲
Kuwait	68 (2.2) ▲
International Avg.	58 (1.0)
Morocco	53 (2.5) ▼
Egypt	51 (2.1) ▼
South Africa	48 (1.9) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	95 (0.9) ▲
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▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A10C (Ants): How ants protect themselves  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	56 (2.1)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	48 (2.9)	▲
Morocco	46 (2.3)	
International Avg.	43 (1.0)	
Egypt	39 (2.0)	
South Africa	24 (1.4)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	51 (2.4)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A11C (Ants): Order worker ant's actions  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	39 (2.5)	▲
Kuwait	35 (2.4)	▲
International Avg.	31 (1.0)	
Egypt	28 (1.7)	▼
Morocco	26 (2.5)	▼
South Africa	26 (1.6)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	53 (2.5)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A12CA (Ants): Ant jobs (queen)  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	73 (2.6) ▲
Kuwait	61 (1.9) ▲
International Avg.	55 (1.0)
Egypt	55 (2.2)
Morocco	48 (2.3) ▼
South Africa	38 (1.7) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	88 (1.7) ▲
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- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A12CB (Ants): Ant jobs (soldier)  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	66 (2.5) ▲
Kuwait	63 (1.9) ▲
International Avg.	48 (0.9)
Egypt	42 (2.1) ▼
Morocco	41 (2.2) ▼
South Africa	26 (1.7) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	81 (1.7) ▲
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- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A12CC (Ants): Ant jobs (worker)  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct
Kuwait	61 (2.0) ▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	58 (3.5) ▲
International Avg.	41 (1.0)
Egypt	36 (1.9) ▼
Morocco	34 (2.1) ▼
South Africa	18 (1.5) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	76 (1.8) ▲
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- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

**L11A12CZ (Ants): Identifying ant jobs (DERIVED)**  
**Constructed Response (3 Points)**

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 2 Points	Percent at Least 1 Point
Kuwait	53 (2.0) ▲	62 (2.0) ▲	69 (1.9) ▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	53 (3.3) ▲	68 (2.7) ▲	76 (2.6) ▲
International Avg.	36 (1.0)	48 (1.0)	60 (1.0)
Egypt	30 (1.8) ▼	45 (2.1)	58 (2.2)
Morocco	27 (2.1) ▼	41 (2.2) ▼	55 (2.2) ▼
South Africa	15 (1.3) ▼	25 (1.6) ▼	42 (1.8) ▼

**Benchmarking Participant**

Denmark (3)	72 (2.0) ▲	84 (1.5) ▲	89 (1.6) ▲
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▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

A dash (-) indicates comparable data not available

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L11A13MB (Ants): Feelers (smell)  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	75 (2.9)	▲
Kuwait	73 (1.9)	▲
International Avg.	67 (0.9)	
South Africa	65 (1.2)	
Morocco	62 (2.2)	▼
Egypt	61 (2.0)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	90 (1.3)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A13MC (Ants): Feelers (touch)  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	65 (3.4) ▲
Kuwait	65 (1.9) ▲
International Avg.	56 (1.1)
Morocco	54 (2.5)
South Africa	49 (1.7) ▼
Egypt	46 (2.1) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	82 (1.8) ▲
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- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 ( ) Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A13MD (Ants): Feelers (sense sounds)  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	72 (2.6)	▲
Kuwait	65 (2.0)	▲
International Avg.	59 (1.0)	
Egypt	55 (2.2)	▼
Morocco	53 (2.4)	▼
South Africa	52 (1.5)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	82 (1.5)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A13ME (Ants): Feelers (see)  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	65 (3.0) ▲
Kuwait	63 (2.2) ▲
International Avg.	53 (1.0)
Egypt	53 (1.9)
Morocco	46 (2.4) ▼
South Africa	39 (1.7) ▼

## Benchmarking Participant

Denmark (3)	86 (1.6) ▲
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- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A13CZ (Ants): Feelers (DERIVED)  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	46 (3.1) ▲	66 (3.4) ▲
Kuwait	37 (2.2) ▲	62 (2.3) ▲
International Avg.	28 (1.0)	52 (1.1)
Morocco	23 (2.1) ▼	46 (2.4) ▼
Egypt	20 (1.7) ▼	46 (2.0) ▼
South Africa	18 (1.5) ▼	40 (1.5) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	65 (2.0) ▲	88 (1.4) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L11A14M (Ants): Evaluating section headings  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	71 (2.6)	▲
Kuwait	56 (2.2)	▲
International Avg.	50 (0.9)	
Morocco	42 (2.0)	▼
Egypt	41 (1.8)	▼
South Africa	37 (1.6)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	64 (2.7)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

## PIRLS Literacy 2016 Percent Correct Statistics for Achievement Items

L21C01C (African Rhinos): Where do you find oxpeckers  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	68 (2.7)	▲
Kuwait	67 (2.1)	▲
Morocco	61 (2.0)	
International Avg.	57 (1.0)	
Egypt	50 (2.1)	▼
South Africa	40 (1.6)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	85 (1.7)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21C02M (African Rhinos): What does the picture help you understand  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	50 (2.9) ▲
Morocco	48 (2.3)
Kuwait	47 (2.2)
International Avg.	45 (1.0)
Egypt	40 (2.4) ▼
South Africa	40 (1.7) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	92 (1.3) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L21C03M (African Rhinos): Why does the writer tell you about the elephant  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct	
Morocco	60 (2.4)	▲
Kuwait	58 (2.4)	▲
International Avg.	44 (1.0)	
Egypt	38 (2.0)	▼
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	32 (2.4)	▼
South Africa	32 (1.2)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	71 (1.9)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21C04C (African Rhinos): How much does an oxpecker weigh  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	86 (2.0)	▲
Kuwait	71 (2.2)	▲
Morocco	67 (2.4)	
International Avg.	64 (1.0)	
Egypt	57 (2.1)	▼
South Africa	41 (1.9)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	92 (1.0)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21C05C (African Rhinos): What is the height of a rhino  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	84 (2.6)	▲
Kuwait	74 (2.1)	▲
Morocco	64 (1.9)	
International Avg.	64 (0.9)	
Egypt	58 (2.1)	▼
South Africa	38 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	92 (1.1)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21C06M (African Rhinos): Why do hunters want to kill rhinos  
Multiple Choice (Key is C)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	71 (2.7)	▲
Morocco	61 (2.1)	▲
International Avg.	57 (1.0)	
South Africa	57 (1.7)	
Kuwait	51 (2.4)	▼
Egypt	44 (2.0)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	95 (1.1)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21C07C (African Rhinos): What do rhinos eat  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	93 (1.5)	▲
Morocco	86 (1.6)	▲
Kuwait	85 (1.6)	▲
International Avg.	81 (0.7)	
Egypt	71 (1.9)	▼
South Africa	70 (1.6)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	96 (1.0)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21C08M (African Rhinos): Why are trees and bushes a good place to hide  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	62 (2.4)	▲
Kuwait	51 (2.3)	▲
International Avg.	47 (0.9)	
South Africa	43 (1.3)	▼
Egypt	39 (1.7)	▼
Morocco	38 (2.0)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	78 (2.0)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21C09C (African Rhinos): Explain why ticks are problem for rhinos  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	52 (2.2) ▲	82 (2.3) ▲
Kuwait	38 (2.3) ▲	77 (1.9) ▲
International Avg.	33 (0.9)	72 (0.9)
Egypt	29 (2.0) ▼	70 (1.9)
Morocco	28 (1.8) ▼	74 (1.8)
South Africa	19 (1.2) ▼	58 (1.6) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	39 (1.9) ▲	90 (1.4) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21C10M (African Rhinos): What do ticks need to live  
Multiple Choice (Key is D)

Country	Percent Correct
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	86 (1.6) ▲
Morocco	69 (2.3)
Kuwait	68 (2.2)
International Avg.	67 (0.9)
South Africa	62 (1.7) ▼
Egypt	51 (2.2) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>	
Denmark (3)	95 (0.9) ▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



L21C11C (African Rhinos): What do rhinos do when trying to rid of ticks  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Kuwait	63 (2.6)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	59 (2.5)	▲
Morocco	57 (2.0)	▲
International Avg.	51 (1.0)	
Egypt	39 (2.0)	▼
South Africa	38 (1.9)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	87 (1.4)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21C12C (African Rhinos): What are these parts of a oxpecker like  
Constructed Response (2 Points)

Country	Percent Full Credit	Percent at Least 1 Point
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	70 (2.1) ▲	84 (2.1) ▲
Kuwait	66 (2.3) ▲	75 (2.2) ▲
Morocco	59 (2.1)	64 (2.0)
International Avg.	58 (0.9)	67 (0.9)
Egypt	52 (2.0) ▼	60 (2.1) ▼
South Africa	41 (1.8) ▼	53 (1.9) ▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	74 (1.8) ▲	89 (1.3) ▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21C13M (African Rhinos): Why do oxpeckers like to eat ticks  
Multiple Choice (Key is A)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	65 (3.1)	▲
Morocco	59 (2.1)	▲
Kuwait	57 (2.5)	
International Avg.	54 (1.0)	
South Africa	48 (1.8)	▼
Egypt	44 (1.8)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	79 (1.5)	▲

▲ Percent significantly higher than international average

▼ Percent significantly lower than international average

() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21C14C (African Rhinos): How many ticks does an oxpecker eat in a day  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	79 (2.0)	▲
Kuwait	69 (2.3)	▲
Morocco	68 (2.0)	▲
International Avg.	64 (0.9)	
Egypt	53 (1.9)	▼
South Africa	50 (1.7)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	93 (1.2)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21C15M (African Rhinos): Why does the oxpecker know there is danger  
Multiple Choice (Key is B)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	58 (2.9)	▲
Kuwait	54 (2.2)	▲
Morocco	49 (2.3)	
International Avg.	47 (1.0)	
Egypt	39 (2.3)	▼
South Africa	34 (1.5)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	80 (1.7)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
() Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21C16C (African Rhinos): What does the oxpecker do to warn the rhino  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	62 (3.0)	▲
Kuwait	52 (2.7)	▲
Morocco	47 (2.1)	
International Avg.	45 (1.0)	
Egypt	40 (1.8)	▼
South Africa	24 (1.3)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	83 (1.5)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
 () Standard errors appear in parentheses. Because of rounding some results may appear inconsistent.

SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016

L21C17C (African Rhinos): What would life be like  
Constructed Response (1 Point)

Country	Percent Correct	
Egypt	42 (2.4)	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	41 (2.9)	▲
Kuwait	35 (2.7)	▲
International Avg.	28 (1.0)	
South Africa	13 (1.3)	▼
Morocco	8 (1.2)	▼
<b>Benchmarking Participant</b>		
Denmark (3)	37 (2.0)	▲

- ▲ Percent significantly higher than international average  
 ▼ Percent significantly lower than international average  
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SOURCE: IEA's Progress in International Reading Literacy Study – PIRLS 2016



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ISBN: 978-1-889938-49-3



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