

PISA 2025 – A guide for learners, parents and carers

This quick guide is for learners involved in the PISA 2025 Assessment. It is also designed to be useful for parents and carers.

01. What is PISA all about?

- **PISA** (Programme for International Student Assessment) is a worldwide study where 15-year-olds get to show how they can use their skills in **science, reading, and maths** to tackle real-life challenges.
- In 2025, science is the main focus but there are questions for reading and maths too.
- Around **3,500** learners in Scotland will take part between **September and October 2025**. Approximately **700,000 learners around the world** are taking part, making PISA one of the world's largest research studies.



02. What to expect on the day

- You will answer questions on a computer and they will be interactive.
- The questions are different to what you may expect – they will test if you can apply **your learning to real-life challenges**.
- As you start to answer the questions, the **assessment will adapt to suit you**. This means you get the questions that are best suited for you.
- As well as an assessment, you will be asked to complete a separate **survey**. This will be online too. It is important you complete the survey as well as the assessment questions
- The assessment will last **2 hours**. The survey will take **45 minutes**. You'll get a break in-between.
- The survey gives you a chance to have an **important say** about education and the lives of young people like you in Scotland



03. Quick tips for learners

- **Do your best** – that's more than enough.
- **Read the questions carefully** - use your skills and common sense, no studying needed.
- **Stay positive** – you're showing the world what Scotland's young people can do!
- The **assessment is anonymous** and you won't get an individual score or mark. This means there is no pressure on you. But it is important to **do your best** so we get an accurate picture of Scottish education
- This will give us very valuable information and data about how Scottish education **compares to other countries** and what we can learn from them.
- Give all the **questions your best shot – have a go**, even at ones that you are not sure about.



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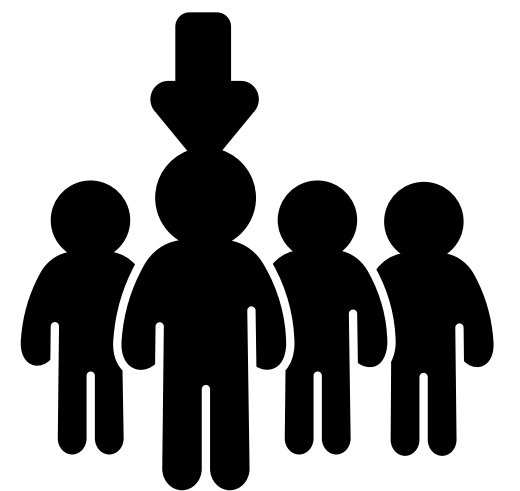
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04. Why is PISA important?

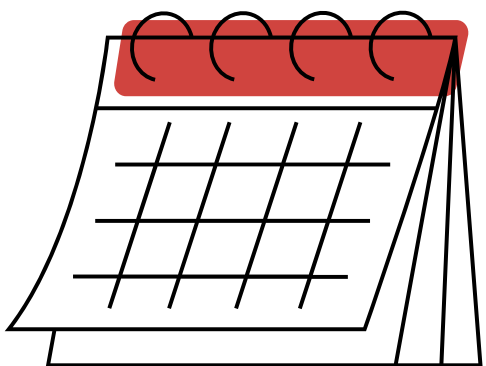
- ✓ Your assessment and survey answers will help us make **education in Scotland better**.
- ✓ It'll show us where can improve education and what we can learn from other countries.
- ✓ The survey questions are **really useful and tell us what young people think about things** – like the amount of support they get from their school, how they use digital devices and mobile phones, how they feel when they attend school, and more.

05. Why have I been chosen for PISA?

- Your school has been **selected by random**. In total, **119 secondary schools** out of more than **340 schools** have been selected.
- You are in the correct age range for the assessment – you will be between 15 years and 3 months and 16 years and 2 months when the assessment takes place.
- Your **name has been chosen at random** from the list of eligible pupils in your school.
- A maximum of **40 pupils from each school** have been chosen to take part.



06. When will PISA take place?



- Pupils in Scotland will take part in PISA between at some point between **01 September and 10 October**.
- Your school will let you know the **date the assessment will take place in your school**.

07. Handy resources



- BBC Bitesize – [PISA 2025 Explained: Quick facts, FAQs, and why it matters.](#)
- More detailed information about PISA is on our teacher support page – [PISA 2025 Support: Webinars, podcasts, example questions.](#)

*Thank you for supporting PISA 2025. We hope you have a **really positive experience**.
Your involvement will help us improve Scottish education.
For more information please contact science@educationscotland.gov.scot*