PISA – Programme for International Student Assessment

Expert Group and ACER team for

OECD

URL

http://www.pisa.oecd.org/

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Summary

PISA has been developed by OECD, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, to compare performance in mathematics in the 24 member countries (economically developed nations including the US). National scores have political importance that is growing steadily.

PISA measures students' *mathematical literacy* – their effective use of mathematics in practical everyday life contexts; it thus complements TIMSS, which takes a more inward-looking view of mathematics.

PISA mathematics tasks are mostly short response items (including multiple choice) and also include some more open items. Teachers will find the released tasks valuable in the classroom, helping students see how math can give them power over the real world, in improved understanding and in better-informed decisions.

The tasks provide a stimulus for classroom discussion of mathematics. They can help motivate students who currently do not regard school mathematics as relevant to their lives or concerns. Below is an exemplar task for PISA 2003 Mathematics:

TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Question 1: TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Teun, Riek, Bep and Dirk have formed a practice group in a table tennis club. Each player wishes to play against each other player once. They have reserved two practice tables for these matches.

Complete the following match schedule; by writing the names of the players playing in each match.

	Practice Table 1	Practice Table 2
Round 1	Teun - Riek	Bep - Dirk
Round 2	…………… - ……………	…………… - ……………
Round 3	…………… - ……………	…………… - ……………

TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT SCORING 1

Full Credit

Code 1: Four remaining matches correctly described and distributed over rounds 2 and 3.
- E.g.

	Practice Table 1	**Practice Table 2**
Round 1	Teun - Riek	Bep - Dirk
Round 2	Teun - Bep	Riek – Dirk
Round 3	Teun - Dirk	Riek - Bep

No Credit

Code 0:   Other responses.

Code 9:   Missing.