PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PISA 2015

(INTERNATIONAL OPTION) FIELD TRIAL VERSION

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Core 6 March 2013

What is this questionnaire about?

The student who brought this questionnaire home was selected to participate in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), a research study which mainly focuses on the scientific literacy of students who are 15 years old, but which also includes an assessment of mathematics and reading. The study is organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and it surveys students from about 70 different countries.

In the PISA study, students are asked to answer questions concerning scientific, mathematical, reading, and problem solving literacy, and to provide information on their background, beliefs and opinions on issues that generally relate to science, schooling and their careers. As part of the study, we are also surveying students' parents on a number of similar topics including:

- Information about the student and the family
- Your child's school
- Your child's educational pathway
- Your views on science and the environment
- Background information

The information you provide will be extremely valuable in building up a picture of how scientific literacy develops in students and what influences its development.

When I am asked about science, what should I think about?

For the purpose of this questionnaire, science refers to the skills and knowledge acquired in subjects like physics, chemistry and biology.

Who should complete this questionnaire?

This questionnaire should be completed by a parent (or jointly by both parents) or other guardian of the student. To make the wording of the questions simple, 'the student who brought this questionnaire home' is often referred to as 'your child'.

We ask you to respond to all the questions you feel comfortable answering. There are no right or wrong answers and we assure you that your responses to this questionnaire will be kept confidential.

More information on the PISA study can be found on the Internet at http://www.pisa.oecd.org/

SECTION A: YOUR FAMILY

PA001 Who will complete this questionnaire?

(Please tick all that apply.)

Mother or other female guardian	
Father or other male guardian	
Other	

Please answer this question with reference to the student who brought this questionnaire home.

PA002 Thinking back to when your child was about 10 years old, how often would your child have done these things?

	Very often	Regularly	Sometimes	Never
Watched TV programmes about science				
Read books on scientific discoveries				
Watched, read or listened to science fiction				
Visited web sites about science topics				
Attended a science club				
Construction play, e.g. lego bricks				
Took apart technical devices				
Fixed broken objects or items, e.g. broken electronic toys				
Experimented with a science kit, electronics kit, or chemistry set, used a microscope or telescope				
Played computer games with a science content				

PA003 How often do you or someone else in your home do the following things with your child?

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a year	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day
Discuss how well my child is doing at school.					
Eat the main meal with my child around a table.					
Spend time just talking to my child.					
Help my child with his/her science homework.					
Ask how my child is performing in science class.					
Obtain science-related materials (e.g., applications, software, study guides etc.) for my child.					
Discuss with my child how science is used in everyday life.					
Discuss science related career options with my child.					

PA004 Thinking about the last scholastic year, to what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I am interested in my child's school activities.				
I am supportive of my child's efforts at school and his/her achievements.				
I support my child when he/she is facing difficulties at school.				
I encourage my child to be confident.				
I support school rules / school discipline.				
I try to protect my child from family problems that may interfere with his/her schooling.				
I encourage my child to learn new skills.				
I provide support to my child to complete his/her school tasks on a regular basis.				
I ask my child about the learning content to initiate a deeper understanding of it.				

SECTION B: YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

We are interested in the options you had as parents when choosing the school your child is currently attending.

PA005 Which of the following statements best describes the schooling available to students in your location?

(Please tick only one box.)

There are two or more other schools in this area that compete with the school my child is currently attending.

There is one other school in this area that competes with the school my child is currently attending.

There are no other schools in this area that compete with the school my child is currently attending.

PA006 How important are the following reasons for choosing a school for your child?

	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
The school is at a short distance to home.				
The school has a good reputation.				
The school offers particular courses or school subjects.				
The school adheres to a particular religious philosophy.				
Other family members attended the school.				
Expenses are low (e.g. tuition, books).				
The school has an active and pleasant school climate.				
The academic achievements of students in the school are high.				
There is a safe school environment.				

We are interested in what you think about your child's school.

PA007 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Most of my child's school teachers seem competent and dedicated.				
Standards of achievement are high in my child's school.				
I am happy with the content taught and the instructional methods used in my child's school.				
I am satisfied with the disciplinary atmosphere in my child's school.				
My child's progress is carefully monitored by the school.				
My child's school provides regular and useful information on my child's progress.				
My child's school does a good job in educating students.				
My child's school invites me to participate in school-wide activities on a regular basis.				
My child's school provides an inviting atmosphere for parents to get involved.				
My child's school responds to my questions, suggestions and concerns.				
My child's school provides effective communication between the school and families.				

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parents in the school's decision-making process.		
My child's school offers parent education (e.g. courses on family literacy) or family support programmes (e.g. to assist with health, nutrition).		
My child's school informs families about how to help students with homework and other school-related activities.		
My child's school cooperates with community services to strengthen school programmes and student development.		

PA008 During the last scholastic year, have you participated in any of the following school-related activities?

	Yes	No	Not supported by school
Discussed my child's behaviour with a teacher on my own initiative.			
Discussed my child's behaviour on the initiative of one of his/her teachers.			
Discussed my child's progress with a teacher on my own initiative.			
Discussed my child's progress on the initiative of one of their teachers.			
Participated in local school government, e.g. parent council or school management committee.			
Volunteered in physical or extra- curricular activities (e.g. building maintenance, carpentry, gardening or yard work, school play, sports, field trip).			
Volunteered to support school activities (volunteered in the school library, media centre, or canteen, assisted a teacher, appeared as a guest speaker).			
Attended a scheduled meeting or conferences for parents.			
Talked about how to support learning at home and homework with my child's teachers.			
Exchanged ideas on parenting, family support, or the child's development with my child's teachers.			

PA009 During the last scholastic year, has your participation in activities at your child's school been hindered by any of the following issues?

	Yes	No
The meeting times were inconvenient.		
I was not able to get off from work.		
I had no one to take care of my child/ children.		
The way to school is unsafe.		
I had problems with transportation.		
I felt unwelcome at my child's school.		
I feel generally awkward in a school.		
My language skills were not sufficient.		
I think participation is not relevant for my child's development.		
I do not know how I could participate in school activities.		
My child does not want me to participate.		

PA010 How important are the following reasons for getting involved with your child's school?

	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
My child benefits from my involvement in school in terms of academic achievement.				
My participation helps my child to integrate in school.				
By cooperating with my child's teachers, I get to know my child's teachers better.				
Being involved in my child's school allows me to learn more about my child's school.				
Being involved in my child's school helps me to meet other parents.				
By cooperating with my child's teachers, I get to know my child better.				
By being involved with my child's school I get to know my child's friends.				

PA011 We are interested in parents' interaction with the child's school friends and school staff.

	0	1-2	3-5	6 or more
How many parents of your child's friends at this school do you know?				
How many friends of your child at school do you know by name?				
How many of the school staff would you feel comfortable talking to if you had a question about your child?				

PA012 From your perspective, to what extent are the following topics of parent-teacher communication important?

	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
Questions related to children's academic achievement.				
Questions related to the choice of school.				
Questions related to children's transfer or change of school.				
Concerns related to children's behaviour problems.				
Concerns related to children's learning difficulties.				
Information about ways to help children with their homework.				
Information related to individual encouragement of children.				
Specific concerns related to parents from other countries.				
Concerns related to children's addiction problems, e.g. alcohol, smoking, video games.				

PA013 To what extent are the following ways of communicating with your child's school important to you?

	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important	Not supported by school
Communication using notes and letters					
Scheduled meeting at a parent-teacher conference / consultation					
Phone calls					
Communication via internet or text messages (e-mail, website, sms, etc.)					
Unscheduled informal meetings					

SECTION C: EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

PA014	At what <u>age</u> did your child start attending primary school?
	Years:

PA015	In what <u>year</u> did your child start prima	ary school?
	Year:	20

Compared to mandatory school starting age, when did your child start primary school? (Please note that in Malta children at the age of 5 years start their compulsory schooling in Year 1) (Please tick only one box.) In the year required Earlier than required Later than required

PA017 Was attendance to an early childhood education and care arrangement prior to Year 1 in primary school mandatory for your child?

	No	Yes, mandatory attendance for up to one year	Yes, mandatory attendance for more than one year
Supervision and care (e.g. nursery, childcare centre)			
Pre-primary education (e.g. Kindergarten centre)			

PA018 Did your child regularly attend an arrangement with one of the following main purposes prior to Year 1 in primary school?

(Please tick only one box in each row.)

	Yes	No	
Supervision and care (e.g. nursery, childcare centre)			If yes, please answer questions 19-22
Pre-primary education (e.g. Kindergarten centre)			If yes, please answer questions 27 - 30

In case your child did not visit any early childhood education and care arrangement prior to Year 1 in primary school please proceed to question 31

Age 6

At what ages did your child attend a supervision and care arrangement prior to Year 1 in primary school? (Please tick all that apply.) Up to age 1 Age 1 Age 2 Age 3 Age 4 Age 5

PA020 Who took care of or educated your child in a supervision and care arrangement?

(Please tick all that apply.)	
An underage sibling of the child	
An adult relative of the child (e. g. grandparents)	
An adult untrained in child care, not a relative (e. g. baby-sitter, friend, neighbour)	
A trained adult (e. g. childcarer, nurse)	

PA021 Where was your child cared for or educated in a supervision and care arrangement?

(Please tick all that apply.)	
The child's own home	
Another person's private home	
An institutional setting (e.g. childcare centre)	
Another place	

PA022 What was the most important reason why your child attended a supervision and care arrangement?

(Please tick only one box.)	
Attendance was mandatory.	
We/I could not care for the child (e.g. work, illness).	
We/I wanted additional learning stimulation for the child (e.g. social, academic).	
Most other children attended a supervision and care arrangement.	

PA027 At what ages did your child attend a pre-primary education arrangement prior to Year 1 in primary school?

(Please tick all that apply.)	
Up to age 1	
Age 1	
Age 2	
Age 3	
Age 4	
Age 5	
Age 6	

Please consider now the last pre-primary education arrangement which your child attended prior to Year 1 in primary school.

PA028 What type of provider offered this pre-primary education arrangement?

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(Please tick only one box.)	
Public management and mainly public funding (e.g. Kindergarten centre within a state primary school).	
Private management and mainly public funding (e.g. Kindergarten centre within a Church school).	
Private management and mainly private funding (e.g. private Kindergarten centre).	

PA029 How many hours per week did your child attend a preprimary education arrangement at the age of three years?

(Please tick only one box.)	
0 hours per week	
Up to 10 hours per week	
11-20 hours per week	
21-30 hours per week	
31-40 hours per week	
41-50 hours per week	
51 hours per week or more	

PA030 What was the most important reason why your child attended a pre-primary education arrangement?

(Please tick only one box.)	
Attendance was mandatory.	
We/I could not care for the child (e.g. work, illness).	
We/I wanted additional learning stimulation for the child (e.g. social, academic).	
Most other children attended a pre-primary education arrangement.	

PA031 What was the most important reason why your child <u>did</u> <u>not</u> attend early childhood education and care?

(Please tick only one box.)	
Most children in our area did not attend early childhood education and care.	
Early childhood education and care was not available at all (i.e. did not exist).	
Early childhood education and care was not available for our child (i.e. no place available).	
Early childhood education and care was not necessary.	
We did not consider early childhood education and care for the child.	
Early childhood education and care was too expensive.	
Early childhood education and care was not open in the hours we would have needed.	
Early childhood education and care might not have been safe for the child's health.	
Early childhood education and care might not have been good for the child's development.	
We couldn't agree with the educational programme or teaching and learning approach of the available arrangements.	
Other	



The following questions refer to science-related careers. A science-related career is one that requires studying science at tertiary level (e.g. university). So, careers like engineer (involving physics), weather forecaster (involving Earth science), optician (involving biology and physics), and medical doctors (involving the medical sciences) are all examples of science-related careers.

PA032 Please answer the questions below.

	Yes	No
Does anybody in your family (including you) work in a science-related career?		
Does your child show an interest in working in a science-related career?		
Do you expect your child will go into a science-related career?		
Has your child shown interest in studying science after completing secondary school?		
Do you expect your child will study science after completing secondary school?		

Science is an important part of the PISA study. We are interested in parents' opinions on science and on environmental issues. The following question asks about your views towards science.

PA033 How much do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Advances in science and technology usually improve people's living conditions.				
Science is important to help us to understand the natural world.				
Some concepts in science help me to see how I relate to other people.				
Advances in science and technology usually help to improve the economy.				
There are many opportunities for me to use science in my everyday life.				
Science is valuable to society.				
Science is very relevant to me.				
I find that science helps me to understand the things around me.				
Advances in science and technology usually bring social benefits.				

We are interested in what you think about the need for scientific skills in the job market today.

PA034 How much do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
It is important to have good scientific knowledge and skills in order to get any good job in today's world.				
Employers generally appreciate strong scientific knowledge and skills among their employees.				
Most jobs today require some scientific knowledge and skills.				
It is an advantage in the job market to have good scientific knowledge and skills.				

PA035 Do you see the environmental issues below as a serious concern for yourself and/or others?

	This is a serious concern for me personally as well as others	This is a serious concern for other people in my country but not for me personally	This is a serious concern only for people in other countries	This is not a serious concern for anyone
Air pollution				
Energy shortages				
Extinction of plants and animals				
Clearing of forests for other land use				
Water shortages				
Nuclear waste				
Extreme weather conditions				
Human contact with animal diseases				

PA036 Do you think problems associated with the environmental issues below will improve or get worse over the next 20 years?

	Improve	Stay about the same	Get worse
Air pollution			
Energy shortages			
Extinction of plants and animals			
Clearing of forests for other land use			
Water shortages			
Nuclear waste			
Extreme weather conditions			
Human contact with animal diseases			

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SECTION E: YOUR BACKGROUND

PA037 Does the child's father have any of the following qualifications?

	Yes	No
Doctoral degree		
Master		
Undergraduate university degree or undergraduate certificate / diploma		
Vocational Education and Training (VET) Degree or a Higher National Diploma or a comparable qualification		
MATSEC Certificate or a Vocational Education and Training (VET) National Diploma or a comparable qualification		
5 SEC examinations at Grade 1 to 7		
Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification at Level 3 or a comparable qualification		

PA038 Does the child's mother have any of the following qualifications?

	Yes	No
Doctoral degree		
Master		
Undergraduate university degree or undergraduate certificate / diploma		
Vocational Education and Training (VET) Degree or a Higher National Diploma or a comparable qualification		
MATSEC Certificate or a Vocational Education and Training (VET) National Diploma or a comparable qualification		
5 SEC examinations at Grade 1 to 7		
Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification at Level 3 or a comparable qualification		

PA039 In what country were the following people in the child's family born?

(Please tick only one answer per column.)

	Mother	Father	Maternal Grand- mother	Maternal Grand- father	Paternal Grand- mother	Paternal Grand- father
Malta						
A country within the European Union						
A European country that is not a member of the European Union						
A North African (Maghreb) country						
A Sub- Saharan African country						
Another country						

PA040 In what country are the father and mother of the child legal citizens? If they are dual citizens, you may tick more than one country.

(Please tick as many as apply.)

	Mother	Father
Malta		
A country within the European Union		
A European country that is not a member of the European Union		
A North African (Maghreb) country		
A Sub-Saharan African country		
Another country		

Please answer the following question thinking just of expenses related to the student who brought this questionnaire home.

PA041 In the last twelve months, about how much would you have paid to educational providers for <u>services</u>?

In determining this, please include any tuition fees you pay to your child's school, any other fees paid to individual teachers in the school or to other teachers for any tutoring your child receives, as well as any fees for private lessons.

Do **not** include the costs of <u>goods</u> like sports equipment, school uniforms, computers or textbooks if they are not included in a general fee (that is, if you have to buy these things separately).

(Please tick only one box.)	
Nothing	
More than €0 but less than €100	
€100 or more but less than €700	
€700 or more but less than €1,300	
€1,300 or more but less than €1,900	
€1,900 or more but less than €2,500	
€2.500 or more	

PA042 What is your annual household income?

Please add together the total income, before tax, from all members of your household.

Please remember we ask you to answer questions only if you feel comfortable doing so, and that all responses are kept strictly confidential.

(Please tick only one box.)	
Less than €8,100	
€8,100 or more but less than €10,500	
€10,500 or more but less than €13,400	
€13,400 or more but less than €16,800	
€16,800 or more but less than €20,100	
€20,100 or more but less than €24,000	
€24,000 or more but less than €28,800	
€28,800 or more but less than €3,900	
€3,900 or more but less than €42,700	
€42,700 or more	

Thank you very much for your co-operation in completing this questionnaire.