Mathematics
Student Background Questionnaire

2003
Grade 8

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. The section has 15 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet.

VB331330

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in **one or more ovals.**

   Ⓐ No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.

   Ⓑ Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.

   Ⓒ Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.

   Ⓓ Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.

   Ⓔ Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background.

VB331331

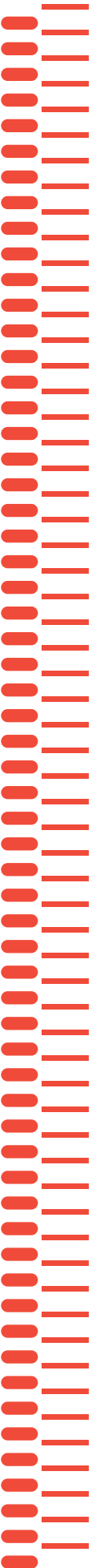2. Which of the following best describes you? Fill in **one or more ovals.**

   Ⓐ White

   Ⓑ Black or African American

   Ⓒ Asian

   Ⓓ American Indian or Alaska Native

   Ⓔ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

For the rest of the questions in this section, fill in only **one** oval for each question.

VB331333

3. Does your family get a newspaper at least four times a week?

Ⓐ Yes

Ⓑ No

Ⓒ I don't know.

VB331334

4. Does your family get any magazines regularly?

Ⓐ Yes

Ⓑ No

Ⓒ I don't know.

VB331335

5. About how many books are there in your home?

Ⓐ Few (0-10)

Ⓑ Enough to fill one shelf (11-25)

Ⓒ Enough to fill one bookcase (26-100)

Ⓓ Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)

VB331336

6. Is there a computer at home that you use?

Ⓐ Yes

Ⓑ No

VB331337

7. Is there an encyclopedia in your home? It could be a set of books, or it could be on the computer.

Ⓐ Yes

Ⓑ No

Ⓒ I don't know.

VB331338

8. Is there a world atlas in your home? It could be a book of maps of the world, or it could be on the computer.

Ⓐ Yes

Ⓑ No

Ⓒ I don't know.

TB001101

9. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework?

Ⓐ 5 or fewer

Ⓑ 6-10

Ⓒ 11-15

Ⓓ 16-20

Ⓔ More than 20

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VB331339

10. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family?

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once every few weeks
- Ⓒ About once a week
- Ⓓ Two or three times a week
- Ⓔ Every day

VB331340

11. On a school day, about how many hours do you usually watch TV or videotapes outside of school?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1 hour or less
- Ⓒ 2 or 3 hours
- Ⓓ 4 or 5 hours
- Ⓔ 6 hours or more

VB331447

12. How many days were you absent from school in the last month?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1 or 2 days
- Ⓒ 3 or 4 days
- Ⓓ 5 to 10 days
- Ⓔ More than 10 days

VB330870

13. How far in school did your mother go?

- Ⓐ She did not finish high school.
- Ⓑ She graduated from high school.
- Ⓒ She had some education after high school.
- Ⓓ She graduated from college.
- Ⓔ I don't know.

VB330871

14. How far in school did your father go?

- Ⓐ He did not finish high school.
- Ⓑ He graduated from high school.
- Ⓒ He had some education after high school.
- Ⓓ He graduated from college.
- Ⓔ I don't know.

VB331451

15. How often do people in your home talk to each other in a language other than English?

- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ Once in a while
- Ⓒ About half of the time
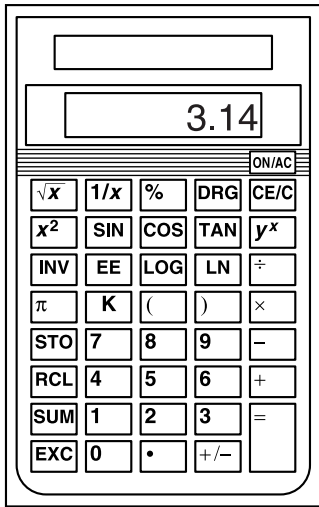- Ⓓ All or most of the time

STOP

This section has 10 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question.

UH000080

1. When you do mathematics in school, how often do you do each of the following? Fill in only **one** oval on each line.

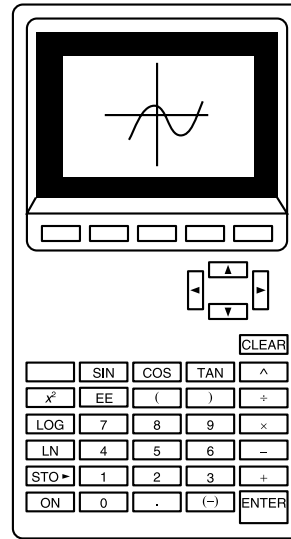|	Never or Hardly Ever	Once or Twice a Month	Once or Twice a Week	Almost Every Day	
a. Do mathematics problems from textbooks	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	TM810101
b. Solve mathematics problems with a partner or in small groups	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	HE002478
c. Work with measuring instruments or geometric solids	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	TM810104
d. Write a few sentences about how you solved a mathematics problem	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	TM810109
e. Talk with other students during class about how you solved mathematics problems	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	QK070695
f. Use a computer	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	TM810106
g. Use a calculator	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	TM810105

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HE002484

2. A calculator like the one shown above is a scientific calculator. It has keys with labels Y^x, LN, π, COS. Do you use a scientific calculator for your mathematics schoolwork?

    Ⓐ Yes

    Ⓑ No

HE002485

3. A calculator like the one shown above is a graphing calculator. It can draw a graph in the viewing window. Do you use a graphing calculator for your mathematics schoolwork?

    Ⓐ Yes

    Ⓑ No

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■ solve (x² − 5 · x + 6 = 0,x)
                        x = 3  or  x = 2
solve (x∧2 − 5x + 6 = 0,x)
 MAIN            DEGAUTO            FUNC
```

ID110100

4. A calculator that can do what is shown above is called a symbol manipulator or a computer algebra system. It can work with algebraic expressions directly, and it also has all the functions of graphing calculators. Do you use a symbol manipulator for your mathematics schoolwork?

Ⓐ Yes

Ⓑ No

LC000518

5. For mathematics class, how often do you use a calculator for each of the following activities?
Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or Hardly Ever	Once or Twice a Month	Once or Twice a Week	Almost Every Day	
a. Classwork	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	LC000519
b. Homework	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	LC000520

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QK070698

6. How often does your teacher let you use a calculator for tests or quizzes?

Ⓐ Never

Ⓑ Sometimes

Ⓒ Always

QK070701

7. What mathematics class are you taking this year?

Ⓐ Eighth-grade mathematics

Ⓑ Prealgebra

Ⓒ First-year algebra

Ⓓ Geometry

Ⓔ Second-year algebra

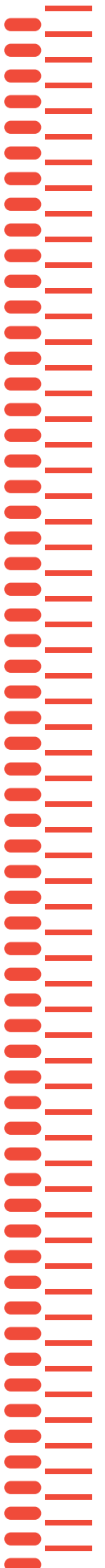Ⓕ Integrated or sequential mathematics

Ⓖ Other mathematics class

QK070700

8. What mathematics class do you expect to take in ninth grade?

Ⓐ Basic, general, business, or consumer mathematics

Ⓑ Applied mathematics (technical preparation)

Ⓒ Prealgebra

Ⓓ First-year algebra

Ⓔ Geometry

Ⓕ Second-year algebra

Ⓖ Integrated or sequential mathematics

Ⓗ Other mathematics class

Ⓘ I don't know.

QK070705

9. About how much time do you usually spend each **day** on mathematics homework?

Ⓐ None

Ⓑ 15 minutes

Ⓒ 30 minutes

Ⓓ 45 minutes

Ⓔ One hour

Ⓕ More than one hour

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HE000659

10. How much do you agree with each of the following statements? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

		Strongly Disgree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree	
a.	I like mathematics.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	TM810701
b.	I am good at mathematics.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	LD001476
c.	I understand most of what goes on in mathematics class.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	HE000369
d.	There is only one correct way to solve a mathematics problem.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	LD001473
e.	Learning mathematics is mostly memorizing facts.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	HE000631
f.	Mathematics is useful for solving everyday problems.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	TM810705
g.	All students can do well in mathematics if they try.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	QK070699

STOP