



# Mathematics Student Background Questionnaire

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**2009**  
**Grade 4**

## DIRECTIONS

In the next two sections, you will be asked questions about yourself and your education. We will read the first section together. To answer these questions, fill in the oval beside the answer that is true for you. For example, fill in the oval beside your answer to this question:

How many movies did you see last month on television and in movie theaters?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1 to 5
- Ⓒ 6 to 10
- Ⓓ More than 10

You should have filled in the oval beside the answer that best tells how many movies you saw last month on television and in movie theaters. On questions like this, be sure to make your answer mark clear and dark in the oval. If you make a mistake or want to change your answer, be sure to completely erase any unwanted marks.

You will be told when it is time to begin and end each section.

Do not go past the  sign at the end of each section until you are told to do so.

If you finish before time is called, go back and check your work on that section only. Use your time carefully. Do as much as you can in each section.



# SECTION 4

## Section 4

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. The section has 11 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet.

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

- (A) No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
- (B) Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
- (C) Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.
- (D) Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.
- (E) 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**.

- (A) White
- (B) Black or African American
- (C) Asian
- (D) American Indian or Alaska Native
- (E) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Section 4

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

3. Does your family get a newspaper at least four times a week? VB331333
- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) I don't know.
4. Does your family get any magazines regularly? VB331334
- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) I don't know.
5. About how many books are there in your home? VB331335
- (A) Few (0–10)
- (B) Enough to fill one shelf (11–25)
- (C) Enough to fill one bookcase (26–100)
- (D) Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)
6. Is there a computer at home that you use? VB331336
- (A) Yes
- (B) No
7. Is there an encyclopedia in your home? It could be a set of books, or it could be on the computer. VB331337
- (A) Yes
- (B) No
- (C) I don't know.
8. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework? TB001101
- (A) 5 or fewer
- (B) 6–10
- (C) 11–15
- (D) 16–20
- (E) More than 20
9. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family? VB331339
- (A) Never or hardly ever
- (B) Once every few weeks
- (C) About once a week
- (D) Two or three times a week
- (E) Every day



VB331447

10. 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

VB331451

11. 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



# SECTION 4

## Section 4

This section has 24 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question.

1. How often do you use a computer for math at school? VB525162
2. Do you use a computer for math homework at home? VC497143
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ Once every few weeks Ⓑ No
- Ⓒ About once a week
- Ⓓ Two or three times a week VC189591
- Ⓔ Every day or almost every day Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

**Questions 4–24.** For the following questions, think about all the times you do things for math. Include things you do at home, at school, or anywhere else.

4. Do you use a computer to practice or drill on math? VB525166
6. Do you use a computer to make charts or graphs for math? VB525168
- Ⓐ Yes Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No Ⓑ No
5. Do you use a computer to play math games? VB525172
7. Do you use the Internet to learn things about math? VB525170
- Ⓐ Yes Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No Ⓑ No

8. How often do you use e-mail, instant messages, blogs, or text messages to talk online with friends about math work?

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once or twice a month
- Ⓒ Once or twice a week
- Ⓓ Every day or almost every day

9. How often do you use e-mail, instant messages, blogs, or text messages to get help with math from someone other than your teacher, family, classmates, or friends?

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once or twice a month
- Ⓒ Once or twice a week
- Ⓓ Every day or almost every day

10. How often do you **use a calculator**?

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once in a while
- Ⓒ Almost every day

11. What kind of **calculator** do you normally use?

- Ⓐ I don't have a calculator.
- Ⓑ Regular calculator (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)
- Ⓒ Graphing calculator

12. Have you ever used a graphing calculator?

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No
- Ⓒ I don't know what a graphing calculator is.

13. When you take a math test or quiz, how often do you use a calculator?

- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ Sometimes
- Ⓒ Always



- VC290281
14. Do you study or do work for math at an after-school or tutoring program?
- Ⓐ Yes  
Ⓑ No
- VC497182
15. How often do you feel your math classwork is too hard?
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever  
Ⓑ Sometimes  
Ⓒ Often  
Ⓓ Always or almost always
- VC497186
16. How often do you feel your math classwork is too easy?
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever  
Ⓑ Sometimes  
Ⓒ Often  
Ⓓ Always or almost always
- VC497557
17. How often do you like what you do in class for math?
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever  
Ⓑ Sometimes  
Ⓒ Often  
Ⓓ Always or almost always
- VC497558
18. How often do you feel you can do a good job on your math tests?
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever  
Ⓑ Sometimes  
Ⓒ Often  
Ⓓ Always or almost always
- VC497560
19. How often do you feel you can do a good job on your math assignments?
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever  
Ⓑ Sometimes  
Ⓒ Often  
Ⓓ Always or almost always
- VC497562
20. How often do you feel you like math?
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever  
Ⓑ Sometimes  
Ⓒ Often  
Ⓓ Always or almost always



Section 4

VC497563

21. How often do you feel math is one of your favorite subjects?

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Sometimes
- Ⓒ Often
- Ⓓ Always or almost always

VB595184

24. How important was it to you to do well on this test?

- Ⓐ Not very important
- Ⓑ Somewhat important
- Ⓒ Important
- Ⓓ Very important

VB595182

22. How hard was this test compared to most other tests you have taken this year in school?

- Ⓐ Easier than other tests
- Ⓑ About as hard as other tests
- Ⓒ Harder than other tests
- Ⓓ Much harder than other tests

VC034559

23. How hard did you try on this test compared to how hard you tried on most other tests you have taken this year in school?

- Ⓐ Not as hard as on other tests
- Ⓑ About as hard as on other tests
- Ⓒ Harder than on other tests
- Ⓓ Much harder than on other tests

