

Table 409.—Reading literacy test scores of 9-year-olds: Selected countries, 1992

Country	Grade tested	Mean age	Overall mean score	Narrative ¹ 1st quartile	Narrative ¹ mean score	Narrative ¹ 3rd quartile	Expository ² mean score	Documents ³ mean score
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Finland	3	9.7	569 (3.4)	508	568 (3.0)	602	569 (3.1)	569 (4.0)
United States	4	10.0	547 (2.8)	476	553 (3.1)	619	538 (2.6)	550 (2.7)
Sweden	3	9.8	539 (2.8)	467	536 (2.6)	592	542 (2.7)	539 (3.2)
France	4	10.1	531 (4.0)	467	532 (4.1)	580	533 (4.1)	527 (3.9)
Italy	4	9.9	529 (4.3)	468	533 (4.0)	576	538 (4.0)	517 (4.9)
New Zealand	5	10.0	528 (3.3)	452	534 (3.5)	594	531 (3.1)	521 (3.3)
Norway	3	9.8	524 (2.6)	455	525 (2.8)	576	528 (2.3)	519 (2.8)
Iceland ⁴	3	9.8	518 (0.0)	448	518 (0.0)	571	517 (0.0)	519 (0.0)
Hong Kong	4	10.0	517 (3.9)	431	494 (4.1)	548	503 (3.4)	554 (4.2)
Singapore	3	9.3	515 (1.0)	450	521 (1.1)	567	519 (1.0)	504 (1.0)
Switzerland	3	9.7	511 (2.7)	438	506 (2.6)	566	507 (2.7)	522 (2.8)
Ireland	4	9.3	509 (3.6)	445	518 (3.7)	571	514 (3.2)	495 (3.8)
Belgium ⁵	4	9.8	507 (3.2)	439	510 (3.3)	558	505 (2.8)	506 (3.5)
Greece	4	9.3	504 (3.7)	447	514 (3.8)	567	511 (3.6)	488 (3.8)
Spain	4	10.0	504 (2.5)	429	497 (2.4)	543	505 (2.3)	509 (2.7)
Germany (former West)	3	9.4	503 (3.0)	421	491 (2.8)	543	497 (2.9)	520 (3.2)
Canada ⁶	3	8.9	500 (3.0)	437	502 (3.5)	566	499 (2.7)	500 (2.8)
Germany (former East)	3	9.5	499 (4.3)	414	482 (4.2)	531	493 (3.6)	522 (5.0)
Hungary	3	9.3	499 (3.1)	437	496 (2.9)	541	493 (3.1)	509 (3.5)
Slovenia	3	9.7	498 (2.6)	435	502 (2.7)	570	489 (2.5)	503 (2.5)
Netherlands	3	9.2	485 (3.6)	425	494 (3.3)	539	480 (3.4)	481 (3.9)
Cyprus	4	9.8	481 (2.3)	421	492 (2.4)	548	475 (2.3)	476 (2.1)
Portugal	4	10.4	478 (3.6)	419	483 (3.3)	531	480 (3.0)	471 (4.5)
Denmark	3	9.8	475 (3.5)	386	463 (3.4)	539	467 (3.5)	496 (3.6)
Trinidad/Tobago	4	9.6	451 (3.4)	383	455 (3.6)	502	458 (3.4)	440 (3.3)
Indonesia	4	10.8	394 (3.0)	351	402 (2.8)	436	411 (3.2)	369 (3.0)
Venezuela	4	10.1	383 (3.4)	322	378 (3.2)	426	396 (3.3)	374 (3.7)

¹ Narrative prose is continuous text in which the writer's aim is to tell a story.

² Expository prose is continuous text designed to describe, explain, or otherwise convey factual information or opinion to the reader.

³ Documents are structured information presented in the form of charts, tables, maps, graphs, lists, or sets of instructions.

⁴ Iceland tested all students, therefore standard errors are not applicable.

⁵ Only French-speaking students were tested.

⁶ British Columbia only.

NOTE: Standard errors appear in parentheses.

SOURCE: International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, *How in the World Do Students Read?*, 1992. (This table was prepared April 1993.)