



**Mathematics**  
**Student Background Questionnaire**

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**2009**  
**Grade 8**

## DIRECTIONS

In the next two sections, you will be asked questions about yourself and your education. The choices for some questions will be written across the page as shown. Fill in the oval for the best answer.

### Example 1

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day
1. How often do you watch movies on TV?	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D

You should have filled in the oval below the answer that best tells how often you watch movies on TV.

The choices for some questions will be written down the page as shown. Now read Example 2 and indicate your answer.

### Example 2

2. Which event would you prefer to attend?
<input type="radio"/> A basketball game
<input type="radio"/> B car show
<input type="radio"/> C concert
<input type="radio"/> D play

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.

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 13 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

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

13. 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

VB330870

11. 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

12. 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.



# SECTION 4

## Section 4

This section has 18 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question.

1. What math class are you taking this year? VB543277
- Ⓐ Geometry
  - Ⓑ Algebra II
  - Ⓒ Algebra I (one-year course)
  - Ⓓ First year of a two-year Algebra I course
  - Ⓔ Second year of a two-year Algebra I course
  - Ⓕ Introduction to algebra or pre-algebra
  - Ⓖ Basic or general eighth-grade math
  - Ⓗ Integrated or sequential math
  - Ⓘ Other math class
2. What math class do you expect to take next year? VB543278
- Ⓐ Geometry
  - Ⓑ Algebra II
  - Ⓒ Algebra I (one-year course)
  - Ⓓ First year of a two-year Algebra I course
  - Ⓔ Second year of a two-year Algebra I course
  - Ⓕ Introduction to algebra or pre-algebra
  - Ⓖ Basic or general math
  - Ⓗ Integrated or sequential math
  - Ⓘ Business or consumer math
  - Ⓝ Other math class
  - Ⓚ I don't know.
3. Do you study or do work for math at an after-school or tutoring program? VC290281
- Ⓐ Yes
  - Ⓑ No

Section 4

VC497572

4. How often do you feel the following way in your math class? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- |   | Never<br>or hardly<br>ever | Sometimes | Often | Always<br>or almost<br>always |          |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|-------|-------------------------------|----------|
| a. I have a clear understanding of what my math teacher is asking me to do. | Ⓐ                          | Ⓑ         | Ⓒ     | Ⓓ                             | VC497573 |
| b. The math work is too easy.   | Ⓐ                          | Ⓑ         | Ⓒ     | Ⓓ                             | VC497574 |
| c. The math work is challenging.  | Ⓐ                          | Ⓑ         | Ⓒ     | Ⓓ                             | VC497575 |
| d. The math work is engaging and interesting.                               | Ⓐ                          | Ⓑ         | Ⓒ     | Ⓓ                             | VC497576 |
| e. I am learning.   | Ⓐ                          | Ⓑ         | Ⓒ     | Ⓓ                             | VC497577 |

VC189706

5. Please indicate how much you DISAGREE or AGREE with the following statements. Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- |  | Strongly<br>disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly<br>agree |          |
|--|----------------------|----------|-------|-------------------|----------|
| a. Because math is fun, I wouldn't want to give it up. | Ⓐ                    | Ⓑ        | Ⓒ     | Ⓓ                 | VC189707 |
| b. I like math.  | Ⓐ                    | Ⓑ        | Ⓒ     | Ⓓ                 | VC189710 |
| c. Math is one of my favorite subjects.                | Ⓐ                    | Ⓑ        | Ⓒ     | Ⓓ                 | VC189711 |

VB517159

6. How often do you use these different types of calculators in your math class?

- |  | Never<br>use | Sometimes,<br>but not often | Usually<br>use |          |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------|
| a. Basic four-function (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) | Ⓐ            | Ⓑ                           | Ⓒ              | VB517160 |
| b. Scientific (not graphing)   | Ⓐ            | Ⓑ                           | Ⓒ              | VB517161 |
| c. Graphing  | Ⓐ            | Ⓑ                           | Ⓒ              | VB517282 |



VB517158

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

- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ Sometimes
- Ⓒ Always

VB543269

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

	Never or hardly ever	Once every few weeks	About once a week	Two or three times a week	Every day or almost every day	
a. To check your work on math homework assignments	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543270
b. To calculate the answers to math homework problems	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543271
c. To work in class on math lessons led by your teacher	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543272

VB543267

9. What kind of **calculator** do you usually use when you are **not in math class**?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ Basic four-function (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)
- Ⓒ Scientific (not graphing)
- Ⓓ Graphing

VB525162

10. How often do you use a computer for math at school?

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



Section 4

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11. Do you use a computer for math homework at home?

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

VB543148

12. On a typical day, how much time do you spend doing work for math class on a computer? Include work you do in class and for homework.

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ Half an hour or less
- Ⓒ About 1 hour
- Ⓓ About 2 hours
- Ⓔ More than 2 hours



VB543155

13. When you are doing math for school or homework, how often do you use these **different types of computer programs**? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Once every few weeks	About once a week	Two or three times a week	Every day or almost every day	
a. A spreadsheet program for math class assignments	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543157
b. A program to practice or drill on math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543158
c. A program that presents new math lessons with problems to solve	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543160
d. The Internet to learn things for math class	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543159
e. A calculator program on the computer to solve or check problems for math class	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543161
f. A graphing program on the computer to make charts or graphs for math class	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543262
g. A statistical program to calculate patterns such as correlations or cross tabulations	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB517157
h. A word processing program to write papers for math class	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543156
i. A program to work with geometric shapes for math class	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VC466133

Section 4

VC189591

14. Do you use the Internet at home?

- A Yes
- B No

VC189613

15. How often do you use e-mail, instant messages, blogs, or text messages to do any of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Once every few weeks	About once a week	Two or three times a week	Every day or almost every day
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a. Talk online with friends about math work

- |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | <input type="radio"/> E |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|

VC299268

b. Get help with math from someone other than your teacher, family, classmates, or friends

- |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | <input type="radio"/> D | <input type="radio"/> E |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|

VC189626

VB595182

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

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

VC034559

17. 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?

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



VB595184

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

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

