

Teachers notes

Age 11 and above (Secondary - for pupils Yr 7 to Yr 13)

These notes are intended to give further information about how to answer the CensusAtSchool Phase 8 questions, first published September 2007. Please note that if you want to check the online questions, use the teachers name "test1234" then this row of data will be deleted from the database.

The questions were designed to be simple and unambiguous, but it is possible some students may have some queries about them. This is the first questionnaire which has a core of 11 questions which will be used internationally! This means there is even more opportunity to compare different groups with the data. The common questions are marked with an asterisk.

Question 1: We are only asking for the first part of the school postcode so that we can sort the data by region. This information will not be transferred to the full database to preserve anonymity. (If your school is located outside the UK you will not be asked this question.)

Question 2*

Question 3b)* Date of birth should be given in the format dd mm yyyy for example 4th April 1998 would be 04 04 1998

Question 4a)*: A range of measurements are asked for. These should be given to the nearest half cm.

HEIGHT To be measured to the nearest half centimetre, without shoes on. The range accepted is 90 to 211 cm.

FOOT LENGTH To be measured to the nearest half centimetre, with shoes off, using the longest possible heel to toe length. A piece of A4 half centimetre squared paper is an easy way to measure foot length. Range is 12 to 35 cm

OPEN ARM SPAN Measure to the nearest half centimetre with the child standing upright. This measurement should be approximately the same as the child's height (see the Vitruvian man resource). The range accepted is 85cm to 211cm.

Question 4b): Pupils may use the on-screen stop clock to help them time this. There are various online interactive stop watches which could be used to help pupils time this. See for example:
http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/Stopwatch/?version=1.6.0_01&browser=MSIE&vendor=Sun_Microsystems_Inc.

It may be interesting to compare whether the element of competition has an affect on how long you can hold your breath for.

Question 5* On the International version this question says "Are you right-handed, left-handed or ambidextrous (An ambidextrous person is able to use the right and left hands equally well). We felt the need to cut down on the number of words

and concentrate on which hand they write with to avoid confusion, by all means use the word ambidextrous if you feel it is appropriate.)

Question 6a)*: Pick from a list of numbers - 0 to 9

Question 7a)*: This should be the main method of travel to school. If a student usually uses more than one method (e.g. walk to and from bus stops and take a bus in between) then record the method used to travel the greatest distance. If the method varies from day to day then record the method most frequently used.

Rail includes tram, train and underground.

Question 7b)*: This should be answered to the nearest minute.

Question 8a)*: This is one of several interactive questions in this years questionnaire. Pupils should use the online reaction timer to discover their reaction time. They should use the same hand they stated in answer to question 5. Where they said 'either', they should use whichever feels more natural.

Question 8b)*: Uncover all the blocks by successfully matching the image pairs on the online interactive concentration exercise.

Question 9)*: Pupils should rate using the slider, how important they consider the issues to be. You may like to use the brief definitions below to clarify the issues.

Global warming (climate change): The increase in the average temperature on the earth, commonly thought to be magnified because of carbon emissions amongst other things.

Reducing pollution: Reducing carbon and other such emissions by using cars and flying less for example.

Recycling rubbish: Using facilities provided to recycle glass, paper/card and other rubbish.

Conserving water: Reducing the amount of water we use - for example by taking a shower rather than a bath or not using hose pipes or sprinklers.

Conserving energy: Using energy efficient goods, turning lights off, not leaving equipment on stand-by.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle: Eating healthily, exercising regularly, choosing the stairs over than the lift etc

Owning a computer: ownership by a household - not necessarily by individuals

Access to the internet: This again doesn't have to be personal internet access; it could be via a school or community centre. The question is more concerned with how important it is that we are able to access the internet.

Question 10*: The full list of sports is as follows:

Athletics	Netball
Baseball/softball	Rowing
Basketball	Rugby Union
Bowling	Rugby league
Cricket	Running/Jogging
Cycling	Skateboarding/rollerblading
Dancing	Swimming
Football	Table tennis
Golf	Tennis
Gymnastics	Walking/Hiking
Hockey (field)	Other activities/Sports
Hockey (ice)	None
Martial arts	

Question 13b): Some example reasons are:

- To get famous
- For fun
- Because I'd be embarrassed
- To see if I'm any good
- It's an easy way to make it big

Question 14: 'Young people of school age' in this question refers to children up to the age of 16. Pupils from year 1 through to year 11.

Question 15: Pupils may select just one animal from the list - as the one they would MOST like to save.

Question 16: The final interactive question in phase 8 asks pupils to place a selection of animals on the appropriate part of a world map where they are usually found in the wild. This question is to be done without research!

Once students complete the questionnaire their responses are shown on the review page so they can return to any page of the questionnaire and correct any responses that they entered incorrectly. Once they are happy they should hit the 'Submit' button and the data will be sent to the database, time and date stamped.

REMEMBER TO EMAIL US AT info@censusatschool.ie TO ASK FOR YOUR SCHOOLS DATA BACK. State your teacher username and school roll number and your data file will be sent back to you as an attachment, usually within 24 hours.