



# Standardized Testing in Elementary Schools

International Project Group 6

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# Key Questions

1. What subjects are tested using standardized tests?
2. What ages/grades are tested using standardized tests?
3. How often are the tests given?
4. What are teacher's opinions of the standardized tests?



# Who sets the standard?

- *America*

- The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) sets the standards

- *Germany*

- Bavarian ministry of teaching and cultural affairs

- *Spain*

- LOE, the organic law of Spanish education



# What are the tests?

America	Germany	Spain
End-of- Course (EOC)	Orientation test	End of Each Stage
End-of- Grade (EOG)	Comparison assignment	Diagnostic at the end of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cycle
	PIRLS survey	



# What subjects are tested?

America	Germany	Spain
EOG - Reading & Math Science (5 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	Primary German Mathematics	Environment Art Physics Spanish Lang. & Lit.
EOC - Science, Math, History, Reading	Reading & Writing	Foreign Language Mathematics Citizenship



# What ages/grades are tested?

America	Germany	Spain
EOG - 3 <sup>rd</sup> through 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade (Hamburgian)	Split into 3 Stages:
EOC - 8 <sup>th</sup> through 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	4 <sup>th</sup> grade (PIRLS)	First Stage - 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>
		Second Stage - 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>
		Third Stage - 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>



# America: Teacher Opinion

1. What is your overall opinion of end-of- grade testing?
  - Easy and Cost Effective
  - Does not give a complete picture of students ability
2. Do you think EOG's are fair? Why or why not?
  - No
  - Not all students have the same abilities
3. Do you think the curriculum tested is what should be tested? If not, what do you think should be tested?
  - Yes
  - Prior math and reading
  - Add Science and Social Studies



# America: Teacher Opinion

4. What do you do with your EOG results when you get them? How do you use them to improve your teaching?
  - Add Extra Practice
  - Guide Future Instruction
5. What do you do to prepare your students for taking the EOG's?
  - Teach test taking strategies
  - Practice Tests
  - Reduce Anxiety - Countdown to test
6. If you could change anything about EOG's, what would it be?
  - Method of Delivery
  - Type of Test
  - Less strict rules



# Germany: Teacher Opinion

- Overview of the performances
- Suggestions for exercises
- Effort-benefit ratio is unsuitable
- Partially unclear questions
- No adaption of teaching method to test results feasible
- Instead individual observation

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# Spain: Teacher Opinion

- Tests must be
  - Personalized
  - Continuous
  - Objective
  - Flexible
  - Stimulate, not paralyze learning

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# Differences

- America's primary focus is reading and math
- America and Spain Test through 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Germany tests only 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade



# Summary

- Testing is carried out in all 3 countries
- Mathematics & Reading are of the most importance in all 3 countries
- Testing is important
- Grades 3 through 6 are the most commonly tested
- Most tests are carried out at the end of each grade/school year



# Sources

- America

- North Carolina Department of Public Instruction  
(<http://www.ncpublicschools.org>)

- Germany -

- Bavarian ministry of teaching and cultural affairs

- Spain

- LOE (the organic law of Spanish education)