PREPARING OUR YOUTH FOR AN INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD

The OECD PISA global competence framework
Foreword

“Reinforcing global competence is vital for individuals to thrive in a rapidly changing world and for societies to progress without leaving anyone behind. Against a context in which we all have much to gain from growing openness and connectivity, and much to lose from rising inequalities and radicalism, citizens need not only the skills to be competitive and ready for a new world of work, but more importantly they also need to develop the capacity to analyse and understand global and intercultural issues. The development of social and emotional skills, as well as values like respect, self-confidence and a sense of belonging, are of the utmost importance to create opportunities for all and advance a shared respect for human dignity. The OECD is actively working on assessing global competence in PISA 2018. Together, we can foster global competence for more inclusive societies.”

Gabriela Ramos
OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20

“...In 2015, 193 countries committed to achieving the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a shared vision of humanity that provides the missing piece of the globalisation puzzle. The extent to which that vision becomes a reality will depend on today’s classrooms; and it is educators who hold the key to ensuring that the SDGs become a real social contract with citizens. Goal 4, which commits to quality education for all, is intentionally not limited to foundation knowledge and skills such as literacy, mathematics and science, but places strong emphasis on learning to live together sustainably. But such goals are only meaningful if they become visible. This has inspired the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), the global yardstick for educational success, to include global competence in its metrics for quality, equity and effectiveness in education. PISA will assess global competence for the first time ever in 2018. In that regard, this framework provides its conceptual underpinning.”

Andreas Schleicher
Director, OECD Directorate for Education and Skills, and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General

The framework is the product of a collaborative effort between the countries participating in PISA and the OECD Secretariat, under the guidance of Andreas Schleicher and Yuri Belfali. The framework was developed by Mario Piacentini with Martyn Barrett, Veronica Boix Mansilla, Darla Deardorff and Hye-Won Lee. Rose Bolognini and Natalie Foster edited the framework. Natasha Robinson provided excellent research assistance and Mattia Baiutti, helpful comments. This framework builds on earlier work by the experts who led the first phase of development of the assessment: Darla Deardorff, David Kerr, Peter Franklin, Sarah Howie, Wing On Lee, Jasmine B-Y Sim and Sari Sulkinen. The OECD would also like to thank Project Zero at Harvard University for their invaluable input and dissemination efforts.
Twenty-first century students live in an interconnected, diverse and rapidly changing world. Emerging economic, digital, cultural, demographic and environmental forces are shaping young people's lives around the planet, and increasing their intercultural encounters on a daily basis. This complex environment presents an opportunity and a challenge. Young people today must not only learn to participate in a more interconnected world but also appreciate and benefit from cultural differences. Developing a global and intercultural outlook is a process – a lifelong process – that education can shape (Barrett et al., 2014; Boix Mansilla and Jackson, 2011; Deardorff, 2009; UNESCO, 2013, 2014a, 2016).

What is global competence?
Global competence is a multidimensional capacity. Globally competent individuals can examine local, global and intercultural issues, understand and appreciate different perspectives and world views, interact successfully and respectfully with others, and take responsible action toward sustainability and collective well-being.

Can schools promote global competence?
Schools play a crucial role in helping young people to critically examine global developments that are significant to both the world at large and to their own lives. They can teach students how to critically, effectively and responsibly use digital information and social media platforms. Schools can encourage intercultural sensitivity and respect by allowing students to engage in experiences that foster an appreciation for diverse peoples, languages and cultures (Bennett, 1993; Sincrope, Norris and Wattanabe, 2007). Schools are also uniquely positioned to enhance young people’s ability to understand their place in the community and the world, and improve their ability to make judgements and take action (Hanvey, 1975).

Why do we need global competence?
To live harmoniously in multicultural communities
Education for global competence can promote cultural awareness and respectful interactions in increasingly diverse societies. Since the end of the Cold War, ethno-cultural conflicts have become the most common source of political violence in the world, and they show no sign of abating (Brubacker and Laitin, 1998; Kymlicka, 1995; Sen, 2007). The many episodes of indiscriminate violence in the name of a religious or ethnic affiliation challenge the belief that people with diverse cultures are able to live peacefully in close proximity, accept differences, find common solutions and resolve disagreements. With the high influx of immigrants in numerous countries, communities have to redefine their identity and local culture. Contemporary societies call for complex forms of belonging and citizenship where individuals must interact with distant regions, people and ideas while also deepening their understanding of their local environment and the diversity within their own communities. By appreciating the differences in the communities to which they belong - the nation, the region, the city, the neighbourhood, the school – young people can learn to live together as global citizens (Delors et al., 1996; UNESCO, 2014b). While education cannot bear the sole responsibility for ending racism and discrimination, it can teach young people the importance of challenging cultural biases and stereotypes.

To thrive in a changing labour market
Educating for global competence can boost employability. Effective communication and appropriate behaviour within diverse teams are keys to success in many jobs, and will remain so as technology continues to make it easier for people to connect across the globe. Employers increasingly seek to attract learners who easily adapt and are able to apply and transfer their skills and knowledge to new contexts. Work readiness in an interconnected world requires young people to understand the complex dynamics of globalisation, be open to people from different cultural backgrounds, build trust in diverse teams and demonstrate respect for others (British Council, 2013).

To use media platforms effectively and responsibly
In this context, cultivating students' global competence can help them to capitalise on digital spaces, better understand the world in which they live, and responsibly express their voice online.

Should we assess global competence?
Every school should encourage its students to try and make sense of the most pressing issues defining our times. The high demands placed on schools to help their students cope and succeed in an increasingly interconnected environment can only be met if education systems define new learning objectives based on a solid framework, and use different types of assessment to reflect on the effectiveness of their initiatives and teaching practices. In this context, PISA aims to provide a comprehensive overview of education systems’ efforts to create learning environments that invite young people to understand the world beyond their immediate environment, interact with others...
with respect for their rights and dignity, and take action towards building sustainable and thriving communities. A fundamental goal of this work is to support evidence-based decisions on how to improve curricula, teaching, assessments and schools’ responses to cultural diversity in order to prepare young people to become global citizens.

How do we assess global competence?

The global competence assessment in PISA 2018 is composed of two parts: a cognitive assessment and a background questionnaire. The cognitive assessment is designed to elicit students’ capacities to critically examine global issues; recognise outside influences on perspectives and world views; understand how to communicate with others in intercultural contexts; and identify and compare different courses of action to address global and intercultural issues.

In the background questionnaire, students will be asked to report how familiar they are with global issues; how developed their linguistic and communication skills are; to what extent they hold certain attitudes, such as respect for people from different cultural backgrounds; and what opportunities they have at school to develop global competence. Answers to the school and teacher questionnaires will provide a comparative picture of how education systems are integrating global, international and intercultural perspectives throughout the curriculum and in classroom activities.

Taken together, the cognitive assessment and the background questionnaire address the following educational policy questions:

• To what degree are students able to critically examine contemporary issues of local, global and intercultural significance?
• To what degree are students able to understand and appreciate multiple cultural perspectives (including their own) and manage differences and conflicts?
• To what degree are students prepared to interact respectfully across cultural differences?
• To what degree do students care about the world and take action to make a positive difference in other peoples’ lives and to safeguard the environment?
• What inequalities exist in access to education for global competence between and within countries?
• What approaches to multicultural, intercultural and global education are most commonly used in school systems around the world?
• How are teachers being prepared to develop students’ global competence?

The concept of global competence and its implications for education

The dimensions of global competence

Education for global competence builds on the ideas of different models of global education, such as intercultural education, global citizenship education and education for democratic citizenship (UNESCO, 2014a; Council of Europe, 2016a). Despite differences in their focus and scope (cultural differences or democratic culture, rather than human rights or environmental sustainability), these models share a common goal to promote students’ understanding of the world and empower them to express their views and participate in society.

PISA contributes to the existing models by proposing a new perspective on the definition and assessment of global competence. These conceptual foundations and assessment guidelines will help policy makers and school leaders create learning resources and curricula that approach global competence as a multifaceted cognitive, socio-emotional and civic learning goal (Boix Mansilla, 2016). They will also facilitate governments’ ability to monitor progress and ensure systematic and long-term support.

“Competence” is not merely a specific skill but is a combination of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values successfully applied to face-to-face, virtual or mediated encounters with people who are perceived to be from a different cultural background, and to individuals’ experiences of global issues (i.e. situations that require an individual to reflect upon and engage with global problems that have deep implications for current and future generations). Acquiring global competence is a life-long process – there is no single point at which an individual becomes completely globally competent. PISA will assess at what stage 15-year-old students are situated in this process, and whether their schools effectively address the development of global competence.

The PISA 2018 assessment uses the following definition of global competence:

Global competence is the capacity to examine local, global and intercultural issues, to understand and appreciate the perspectives and world views of others, to engage in open, appropriate and effective interactions with people from different cultures, and to act for collective well-being and sustainable development.

This definition outlines four target dimensions of global competence that people need to apply successfully in their everyday life:

1. the capacity to examine issues and situations of local, global and intercultural significance...

1 Mediated ‘here refers to encounters that occur through images in the media (for example, on television, on the Internet, in a movie or book, in a newspaper, etc.).
These four dimensions are strongly interdependent and overlapping, justifying the use of the singular term “global competence”. For example, students from two different cultural backgrounds who work together for a school project demonstrate global competence as they: get to know each other better (examine their cultural differences); try to understand how each perceives his or her role in the project and the other’s perspective (understand perspectives); negotiate misunderstandings and clearly communicate expectations and feelings (interact openly, appropriately and effectively); and take stock of what they learn from each other to improve social relationships in their classroom and school (act for collective well-being).

**Defining culture**

“Culture” is difficult to define because cultural groups are always internally heterogeneous and contain individuals who adhere to a range of diverse beliefs and practices. Furthermore, the core cultural beliefs and practices that are most typically associated with any given group are also constantly changing and evolving over time. However, distinctions may be drawn between the material, social and subjective aspects of culture, that is, between the material artefacts that are commonly used by the members of a cultural group (e.g. the tools, foods, clothing, etc.), the social institutions of the group (e.g. the language, the communicative conventions, folklore, religion, etc.), and the beliefs, values, discourses and practices that group members commonly use as a frame of reference for thinking about and relating to the world. Culture is a composite formed from all three of these aspects, consisting of a network of material, social and subjective resources. The full set of cultural resources is distributed across the entire group, but each individual member of the group only uses a subset of the full set of cultural resources that is potentially available to them (Barrett et al., 2014; Council of Europe, 2016a).

Defining culture in this way means that any kind of social group can have its own distinctive culture: national groups, ethnic groups, faith groups, linguistic groups, occupational groups, generational groups, family groups, etc. The definition also implies that all individuals belong to multiple groups, and therefore have multiple cultural affiliations and identities (e.g. national, religious, linguistic, generational, familial, etc.). Although all people belong to multiple cultures, each person participates in a different constellation of cultures, and the way in which they relate to any one culture depends, at least in part, on the perspectives that are shaped by other cultures to which they also belong. In other words, cultural affiliations intersect, and each individual has a unique cultural positioning.

People’s cultural affiliations are dynamic and fluid: what they think defines them culturally fluctuates as an individual moves from one situation to another. These fluctuations depend on the extent to which a social context focuses on a particular identity, and on the individual’s needs, motivations, interests and expectations within that situation (Council of Europe, 2016a).

**Dimension 1: Examine issues of local, global and cultural significance.**

This dimension refers to globally competent people’s practices of effectively combining knowledge about the world and critical reasoning whenever they form their own opinion about a global issue. People who acquire a mature level of development in this dimension use higher-order thinking skills, such as selecting and weighing appropriate evidence to reason about global developments. Globally competent students can draw on and combine the disciplinary knowledge and modes of thinking acquired in schools to ask questions, analyse data and arguments, explain phenomena, and develop a position concerning a local, global or cultural issue (Boix Mansilla and Jackson, 2011). Development in this dimension also requires media literacy, defined as the ability to access, analyse and critically evaluate media messages, as well as to create new media content (Buckingham, 2007; Kellner and Share, 2000). Globally competent people are effective users and creators of both traditional and digital media.

**Examining issues of global significance: an example**

In her history course, a student learns about industrialisation and economic growth in developing countries, and how these have been influenced by foreign investments. She learns that many girls of her age work in poor conditions in factories for up to ten hours a day, instead of going to school. Her teacher encourages each student to bring one item of clothing to class and look at the label to see where it was manufactured. The student is surprised to notice that most of her clothes were made in Bangladesh. The student wonders under what conditions their clothes were made. She looks at the websites of various high-street brand shops to see if the websites can tell her about their manufacturing standards and policies. She discovers that some clothing brands work with factories in Bangladesh that make poor conditions, and others who also discovers that some clothing brands have a long history of poor conditions in their factories. She reads different journalistic articles about the issue and watches a short documentary on YouTube. Based on what she discovers, she starts to buy fair-trade clothing and becomes an advocate for ethically responsible manufacturing.

**Dimension 2: Understand and appreciate the perspectives and world views of others.**

This dimension highlights that globally competent people are willing and capable of considering global problems and other people’s perspectives and behaviours from multiple viewpoints. As individuals acquire knowledge about other cultures’ histories, values, communication styles, beliefs and practices, they acquire the means to recognise that their perspectives and behaviours are shaped by multiple influences, that they are not always fully aware of these influences, and that others have views of the world that are profoundly different from their own (Harvey, 1975).

Engaging with different perspectives and world views requires individuals to examine the origins and implications of others’ and their own assumptions. This in turn implies a profound respect for and interest in who the other is, their concept of reality and their emotions. Individuals with this competence also account for and appreciate the connections (e.g. basic human rights and needs, common experiences) that enable them to bridge differences and create common ground. They retain their cultural identity but are simultaneously aware of the cultural values and beliefs of people around them. Recognising another’s position or belief is not necessarily to accept that position or belief. However, the ability to see through “another cultural filter” provides opportunities to deepen and question one’s own perspectives, and thus make more mature decisions when dealing with others (Fennes and Hapgood, 1997).
### Understanding perspectives and worldviews: an example

A student notices that certain members of his class have stopped eating lunch. When he enquires, they tell him that they are participating in a religious fast. The student is curious and asks more about what that involves: for how long will they fast? When can they eat? What can they eat? What is the religious significance of the fast? The student learns that for his classmates fasting is something that they do every year, along with their families and religious community. He also learns that fasting is significant to his classmates as it is a way of demonstrating control over their bodies. The student reflects on this significance. Although he does not fast he recognises that the themes of community, sacrifice and material transcendence are common to many different religions, including that of his own religious heritage. He recognises that different groups can attribute the same meaning to different practices. He furthermore asks his classmates whether he can fast with them for a day, as a way of experiencing what fasting means for them. His classmates warmly agree and invite him to join their families for dinner in the evening to break the fast together. Although the student does not attribute the same significance to fasting, through this experience he better understands the perspectives of his classmates and his respect for religious diversity increases.

### Dimension 3: Engage in open, appropriate and effective interactions across cultures.

This dimension describes what globally competent individuals are able to do when they interact with people from different cultures. They understand the cultural norms, interactive styles and degrees of formality of intercultural contexts, and they can flexibly adapt their behaviour and communication to suit. This dimension addresses appreciation for respectful dialogue, desire to understand the other and efforts to include marginalised groups. It emphasises individuals’ capacity to interact with others across differences in ways that are open, appropriate and effective. Open interactions mean relationships in which all participants demonstrate sensitivity towards, curiosity about and willingness to engage with others and their perspectives. Appropriate refers to interactions that respect the expected cultural norms of both parties. In effective communication, all participants are able to make themselves understood and understand the other (Barrett et al., 2014).

**Interacting openly, effectively and appropriately across cultural differences: an example**

Jo and Ai are collaborating on a school project with a student from another country, Mike. The students set up a video chat on a web platform to brainstorm ideas, but at the convened time for the meeting, they cannot find Mike online. When a few hours later, the students manage to connect on the web platform, Jo complains that not showing up at the first meeting is not a good way to start, and gets angry when she receives no explanation at all from Mike, who remains silent at the other end of the line. At this point, Ai demonstrates global competence as she successfully de-escalates the conflict. She knows that silence is used in some cultures as a strategy to deal with perceived aggressions, and is not necessarily an admission of guilt or indifference. She also knows that people refrain from speaking out directly for fear of a disagreement that may hurt the other person’s feeling and threaten their relationship. Ai thus suspends her judgement about Mike’s behaviour and asks Mike politely why they could not find him online. Mike explains that this is probably due to a misunderstanding about the meeting time, as Jo and Ai’s country moved to daylight saving time the night before while his country did not. Thanks to Ai’s intervention, the students could laugh about their little incident and successfully start to work on their project.

### Dimension 4: Take action for collective well-being and sustainable development.

This dimension focuses on young people’s role as active and responsible members of society, and refers to individuals’ readiness to respond to a given local, global or intercultural issue or situation. This dimension recognises that young people have multiple realms of influence ranging from personal and local to digital and global. Competent people create opportunities to take informed, reflective action and have their voices heard. Taking action may imply standing up for a schoolmate whose human dignity is in jeopardy, initiating a global media campaign at school, or disseminating a personal view point on the refugee crisis via social media. Globally competent people are engaged to improve living conditions in their own communities and also to build a more just, peaceful, inclusive and environmentally sustainable world.

Figure 1 shows how global competence is defined as the combination of the four dimensions (examining issues, understanding perspectives, interacting across cultural differences and taking action), and how each dimension builds on specific knowledge, skills, attitudes and values.

**Taking action for well-being and sustainable development: an example**

A group of students decides to initiate an environmental awareness campaign on the ways in which their school contributes to local and global waste and pollution. With support from their teachers, they arrange a series of talks on how to reduce waste and energy consumption. They also design and strategically distribute information posters that help guide students to make better choices when buying products and when disposing of waste. Furthermore, they collaborate with both student representatives and school administrators to introduce recycling bins and energy conservation strategies on the school premises.
The building blocks of global competence – knowledge, skills, attitudes and values

The four dimensions of global competence are supported by four inseparable factors: knowledge, skills, attitudes and values. For example, examining a global issue (dimension 1) requires knowledge of a particular issue, the skills to transform this awareness into a deeper understanding, and the attitudes and values to reflect on the issue from multiple cultural perspectives, keeping in mind the interest of all parties involved.

Effective education for global competence gives students the opportunity to mobilise and use knowledge, skills and values, together while exchanging ideas on a global issue in and outside of school or interacting with people from different cultural backgrounds (for example, engaging in a debate, questioning viewpoints, asking for explanations or identifying directions for deeper exploration and action).

A school community that wishes to nurture global competence should focus on clear and manageable learning goals. This means engaging all educators to reflect on teaching topics that are globally significant, the types of skills that foster a deeper understanding of the world and facilitate respectful interactions in multicultural contexts, and the attitudes and values that drive autonomous learning and inspire responsible action.

This section provides a general description of the content knowledge, attitudes, skills and values that individuals need in order to be globally competent. Policy makers, school leaders and teachers can refer to this section as they define strategies for teaching and assessing global competence. To illustrate some examples, knowledge in this domain by reflecting on their own cultural identity and that of their peers, by analysing common stereotypes towards people of different races and nationalities, such as “black”, “white”, “woman”, “poor”). Students can acquire knowledge in this domain by reflecting on their own cultural identity, help them understand the differences and similarities among and within cultures, and encourage them to value the importance of protecting cultural differences and diversity. As they engage in learning about other cultures and individual differences, students start to recognise multiple, complex identities and avoid categorising people through single markers of identity (e.g. black, white, woman, poor). Students can acquire knowledge in this domain by reflecting on their own cultural identity and that of their peers, by analysing common stereotypes towards people in their community, or by studying illustrative cases of conflict or successful integration between cultural groups.

The domain of socio-economic development and interdependence refers to the study of development patterns in different regions of the world, with a focus on the links and interdependences between societies and economies. Students can analyse, at different levels of complexity and in developmentally appropriate ways, the many forms of globalisation, such as international migration, transnational production, global brands and technologies. By doing so, students can start to make sense of how local, national and global processes jointly shape the development patterns of countries, and the inequalities in opportunities available to individuals.

Students need a solid foundation in environmental issues in order to promote and support sustainability. Learning activities in the domain of environmental sustainability help students understand the complex systems and policies surrounding the demand for and use of natural resources.

The fourth knowledge domain of global competence focuses on formal and informal learning activities that support respectful interactions between people and the respect of fundamental human rights. Students can learn how global institutions such as the United Nations were established, can reflect on the contested nature of global governance in a world with highly unbalanced power relationships, review causes of and solutions for current and historical conflicts between countries, ethnic or social groups, and examine spaces and opportunities for young people to play an active role in society, take responsibility and exercise their rights. Acquiring deep knowledge in this domain is instrumental for young people to develop values such as peace, non-discrimination, equality, justice, non-violence, tolerance and respect.

Skills to understand the world and to take action

Global competence also builds on specific cognitive, communication and socio-emotional competences. The “4Cs” Skills are drawn from each of these domains, carry out a complex and well-organised pattern of thinking (in the case of a cognitive skill) or
Integrating global and intercultural issues in the curriculum

Research on global education tends to focus on social studies and foreign language classes, often in the upper grade levels (Gaudelli, 2006; Karamon and Tochon, 2007; Merryfield, 2008; Myers, 2008; Rapport, 2010; Suarez, 2003). However, the local, global and intercultural issues that students should learn about, in order to take responsibility for and act upon them, cut across education levels and academic disciplines (Gaudelli, 2003; O’Connor and Zeichner, 2011). For global education to move from abstraction to action, many advocates recommend integrating global issues and topics into existing subjects (Klein, 2013; UNESCO, 2014). In practice, several countries are pursuing a dual approach, where content knowledge related to global competence is both integrated into the existing curriculum and also taught in specific subjects or courses (e.g. human rights education). Students can come to understand local, global and intercultural issues across ages, beginning in early childhood when such issues are presented in developmentally appropriate ways (Boix Mansilla and Jackson, 2011; UNESCO, 2015).

The way that a teacher frames a topic in the curriculum can significantly shape its contribution to global competence. When framing a topic to explore with students, teachers may consider the ways in which this topic addresses local and global dynamics, and how it can enable students to understand broad global patterns and the impact on their local environment. For instance, a mathematics teacher might invite students to decide whether linear or exponential functions best fit the data on world population growth, or a music teacher may explore how today’s hip hop is expressed differently around the world. In order to avoid the risk that global education becomes a catch-all curriculum where everything fits, teachers must have clear ideas about the global and intercultural issues that they want students to reflect upon. Teachers need to collaboratively research topics and carefully plan the curriculum, giving students multiple opportunities to learn about a core set of issues that increase in complexity throughout their education (Gaudelli, 2006). Professional learning communities can be highly effective to engage all teachers and to facilitate collaboration and peer learning. For example, Lee et al. (2017) show that highly motivated teachers in Thailand following a training course on global competence promoted by the Ministry of Education, and then created professional learning communities in their school to engage other teachers, help them integrate global and intercultural topics in their courses and promote school-wide projects (Lee et al., 2017).

Teaching about minority cultures in different subject areas requires accurate content about and comprehensive portrayals of ethnically and racially diverse groups and experiences. Curricula should promote the integration of knowledge of other people, places and perspectives into the everyday workings of the classroom throughout the year (UNESCO, 2014a), rather than using a “tourist approach”, giving students a superficial glimpse of life in different countries every now and then. Textbooks and other instructional materials can also distort cultural and ethnic differences (Gay, 2015). Teachers and their students should thus critically analyse their textbook and teaching resources, and compensate for inadequacies when necessary.

Connecting global and intercultural topics to the reality, contexts and needs of the learning group is an effective methodological approach to make them relevant to adolescents (North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, 2012). People learn better and become more engaged when the content relates to them, and when they can see the parallels between many global issues and their immediate environment. For example, students can become aware of the risks related to climate change by studying the effects that natural phenomena (e.g. hurricanes, floods) have on their own community. Capitalising on local expertise and the experience of young people in culturally responsive ways is particularly relevant when teaching less privileged or immigrant youth (Suárez-Orozco, Suárez-Orozco and Todorova, 2008).

behaviour (in the case of a behavioural skill) in order to achieve a particular goal. Global competence requires numerous skills, including reasoning with information, communication skills in intercultural contexts, perspective taking, conflict resolution skills and adaptability. Globally competent students are able to reason with information from different sources, i.e. textbooks, peers, influential adults, traditional and digital media. They can autonomously identify their information needs, and select sources purposefully on the basis of their relevance and reliability. They use a logical, systematic and sequential approach to examine information in a text or any other form of media, examining connections and discrepancies. They can evaluate the worth, validity and reliability of any material on the basis of its internal consistency, and its consistency with evidence and with one’s own knowledge and experience. Competent students question and reflect on the source author’s motives, purposes and points of view, the techniques used to attract attention, the use of image, sound and language to convey meaning, and the range of different interpretations which are likely for different individuals.

Competent students are able to communicate effectively and respectfully with people who are perceived to have different cultural backgrounds. Effective communication requires being able to express oneself clearly, confidently, and without anger, even when expressing a fundamental disagreement. Respectful communication requires understanding the expectations and perspectives of diverse audiences, and applying that understanding to meet the audience’s needs. Respectful communicators also check and clarify the meanings of words and phrases when they engage in an intercultural dialogue. Speaking more than one language is a clear asset for effective intercultural communication. Smooth communication in intercultural contexts is also facilitated by active listening – this means looking for not only what is being said but also how it is being said, through the use of voice and accompanying body language. Competent students are capable speakers who can use their body language and voice effectively when they discuss and debate global issues, express and justify a personal opinion and persuade others to pursue a particular course of action. Perspective taking refers to the cognitive and social skills individuals need in order to understand how other people think and feel. It is the capacity to identify and take on often conflicting points of view, “stepping into someone else’s shoes”. Perspective taking does not only involve imagining another person’s point of view but also entails understanding how various perspectives are related to one another. Understanding others’ perspectives facilitates more mature and tolerant interpretations of differences among groups.

Competent student approaches conflict in a constructive manner, recognising that conflict is a process to be managed rather than seeking to negate it. Taking an active part in conflict management and resolution requires listening and seeking common solutions. Possible ways to address conflict include: analysing key issues, needs and interests (e.g. power, recognition of merit, division of work, equity); identifying the origins of the conflict and the perspectives of those involved in the conflict, recognising that the parties might differ in status or power; identifying areas of agreement and disagreement; reframing the conflict; managing and regulating emotions, interpreting changes in one’s own and others’ underlying emotions and motivation and dealing with stress, anxiety and insecurity, both in oneself and in others; and prioritising needs and goals, deciding on possible compromises and the circumstances under which to reach them (Rychen and Salganik, 2003). However, approaches to managing and resolving conflict may vary by societal expectations, so not all adhere to the steps outlined here.

Adaptability refers to the ability to adapt one’s thinking and behaviours to the prevailing cultural environment, or to novel situations and contexts that might present new demands or challenges. Individuals who acquire this skill are able to handle the feelings of “culture shock”, such as frustration, stress and alienation in ambiguous situations caused by new environments. Adaptive learners can more easily develop long-term interpersonal relationships with people from other cultures, and remain resilient in changing circumstances.
Pedagogies for promoting global competence

Various student-centred pedagogies can help students to develop critical thinking with regards to global issues, respectful communication, conflict management skills, perspective taking and adaptability.

Group-based co-operative project work can improve reasoning and collaborative skills. It involves topic- or theme-based tasks suitable for various levels and ages, in which goals and content are negotiated by all participants, and learners can create their own learning materials that they present and evaluate together. In order to co-operate effectively, learners need to feel safe and comfortable, and the task and its goals must be clearly set for them. Learners participating in co-operative tasks soon realise that in order to be efficient, they need to be respectful, attentive, honest and empathic (Barrett et al., 2014). Project work can effectively connect students within and across borders. For example, Global Cities has created a digital exchange program (Global Scholar) through which students in 26 countries are given the opportunity to work in e-classrooms across the world (Global Cities, 2017). Harvard Project Zero also established a digital exchange program in 57 countries.

Students can voice their differences, biases and culturally determined beliefs through organised discussions in the classroom. In order to stimulate discussion, a teacher typically uses a thought-provoking video clip, image or text (Costa and Kallick, 2013). Students can then present supporting evidence, comment and express their differing points of view. Class discussion is, by nature, an interactive endeavour, and reflective dialogue engenders proactive listening and responding to ideas expressed by one’s peers. By exchanging views in the classroom, students learn that there is not always a single right answer to a problem to be memorised and presented; they learn to understand the reasons why others hold different views and are able to reflect on the origins of their own beliefs (Ritchhart et al., 2011).

Structured debates constitute a specific format of class discussion that is increasingly used in secondary and higher education as a way to raise students’ awareness about global and intercultural issues, and to let them practice their communication and argumentation skills (see the web platform “idebate.org” and Schuster and Meany (2005) for resources on debates in school education). In this format, students are given instructions to join a team either supporting or opposing a polemic point of view – for instance, “the Internet should be censored” or “hosting the Olympics is a good investment”. It is often helpful for students to articulate views that may be different from their own.

Service learning is another tool that can help students to develop multiple global skills through real-world experience. This requires learners to participate in organised activities that are based on what has been learnt in the classroom and that benefit their communities. After the activities, learners are required to reflect critically on their service experience to gain further understanding of course content, and enhance their sense of role in society with regard to civic, social, economic and political issues (Bringle and Clayton, 2012). Service learning is strongly tied to the curriculum and differs both from other types of educational experiences in the community and from volunteering. Through service learning, students not only “serve to learn,” which is applied learning, but also “learn to serve” (Bringle et al., 2016).

The Story Circle approach has been used in numerous classrooms around the world to lead students in key intercultural skills, including respect, cultural self-awareness and empathy (Deardorff, forthcoming). The students, in groups of 5-6, take turns sharing a 3-minute story from their own experience based on specific prompts such as “Tell us about your first experience when you encountered someone who was different from you.” After all students in the group have shared their personal stories, students then take turns briefly sharing the most memorable point from each story in a “flash back” activity. Other types of intercultural engagement involve simulations, interviews, role plays and online games (for examples of specific activities to use in the classroom, see Anna Lindh Foundation, 2017; Berardo and Deardorff, 2012; Council of Europe, 2015; Fantini, 1997; Seelje, 1996; Storti, 2017; Stringer and Cassidy, 2009).

Attitudes of openness, respect for people from different cultural backgrounds and global mindedness

Global competence embodies and is propelled by key dispositions or attitudes. Attitudes refer to the mind-set that an individual adopts towards a person, a group, an institution, an issue, a behaviour, or a symbol. This mind-set integrates beliefs, evaluations, feelings and tendencies to behave in a particular way. Globally competent behaviour requires an attitude of openness towards people from other cultural backgrounds, an attitude of respect for cultural differences, and an attitude of global mindedness (i.e. that one is a citizen of the world with commitments and obligations toward the planet and others, irrespective of their particular cultural or national background). Such attitudes can be fostered explicitly, through participatory and learner-centred teaching, as well as implicitly through a curriculum characterised by fair practices and a welcoming school climate for all students.

Opportunity toward people from other cultural backgrounds involves sensitivity toward, curiosity about and willingness to engage with other people and other perspectives on the world (Byram, 2008; Council of Europe, 2016a). It requires an active willingness to seek out and embrace opportunities to engage with people from other cultural backgrounds, to discover and learn about their cultural perspectives and how they interpret familiar and unfamiliar phenomena, and to learn about their linguistic and behavioural conventions. Another important characteristic of open learners is their willingness to suspend their own cultural values, beliefs and behaviours when interacting with others, and not to assume that their own values, beliefs and behaviours are the only possible correct ones. The attitude of openness towards cultural otherness needs to be distinguished from only being interested in collecting “exotic” experiences merely for one’s own personal enjoyment or benefit. Rather, interpersonal openness is demonstrated through a willingness to engage, cooperate and interact with those who are perceived to have cultural affiliations that differ from one’s own, on an equal footing.

Respect consists of positive regard and esteem for someone or something based on the judgement that they have intrinsic worth. In this framework, respect assumes the dignity of all human beings and their inalienable right to choose their own affiliations, beliefs, opinions or practices. Being respectful of cultural differences does not require minimising or ignoring significant and profound differences that might exist between oneself and others, nor does it require agreeing with, adopting or converting to others’ beliefs. Respect for others also has certain limits that are set by the principle of human dignity. For example, respect should not be accorded to the contents of beliefs and opinions or to lifestyles and practices which undermine or violate the dignity of others (Council of Europe, 2016a).

The concept of respect should be distinguished from the concept of tolerance. Tolerance may, in some contexts, simply mean enduring difference. Respect is a less ambiguous and more positive concept. It is based on recognition of the dignity, rights and freedoms of the other in a relationship of equality.

Global mindedness is defined as “a worldview that embraces the complex and interdependent nature of the world community and feels a sense of responsibility for its members” (Hett cited in Hansen, 2010). A globally-minded person has concerns for other people in other parts of the world, as well as feelings of moral responsibility to try to improve others’ conditions irrespective of distance and cultural differences (Boix Mansilla and Gardner, 2007). Globally-minded people care about future generations, and so act to preserve the environmental integrity of the planet. Globally-minded individuals exercise agency and voice with a critical awareness of the fact that other people might have a different vision of what humanity needs, and are open to reflecting on and changing their vision as they learn about these different perspectives. Rather than believing that all differences can be eliminated, globally-minded people strive to create space for different ways of living with dignity.
Valuing human dignity and diversity

Values go beyond attitudes: they transcend specific objects or situations. They are more general beliefs about the desirable goals that individuals strive for in life, reflecting modes of conduct or states of being that an individual finds preferable to all other alternatives. In this way, values serve as standards and criteria that people use both consciously and unconsciously in their judgements. They have a normative prescriptive quality about what ought to be done or thought in different situations. Values therefore motivate certain behaviours and attitudes. For example, people for whom independence is an important value are triggered if their independence is threatened, feel despair when they are helpless to protect it, and are happy when they can enjoy it (Schwartz, 2012).

Valuing human dignity and valuing cultural diversity contribute to global competence because they constitute critical filters through which individuals process information about other cultures and decide how to engage with others and the world. Individuals who cultivate these values become more aware of themselves and their surroundings, and are strongly motivated to fight against exclusion, ignorance, violence, oppression and war. Education has a deep influence on the values of individuals. During their time at school, young citizens form habits of mind, beliefs and principles that will stay with them throughout their lives. This is why it is so crucial to reflect on the type of education that best “cultivates humanity” (Nussbaum, 1997). An education that encourages valuing dignity, human rights and diversity emphasises shared commonalities that unite people around the world, rather than the issues that divide them; provides learning experiences so that students see the world from many different perspectives, enabling them to examine their own thoughts and beliefs, and their society’s norms and traditions; encourages people to understand the significance of another person’s suffering; and emphasises the importance of reasoning, careful argument, logical analysis, self-questioning, the pursuit of truth and objectivity.

While most people would agree that education should help students develop into human beings who care for and respect others (Delors et al., 1996), deciding which values education systems around the world should promote is subject to debate. It is not easy to identify a core set of rights that are universally valid and interpreted in the same way everywhere and in every circumstance, as moral and social institutions vary across cultures and historical contexts (Donnelly, 2007).

Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights describes the constitutive elements of a minimum core of rights that can guide education around the world: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood”. The article defines two basic foundations of human dignity: the first is that every human being possesses an intrinsic worth, merely by being human; the second is that this intrinsic worth should be recognised and respected by others, and certain forms of treatment by others are inconsistent with respect for this intrinsic worth. Individuals have a distinct moral obligation to treat each other in ways that are constrained by certain inviolable limits. Embracing this value often means helping others to protect what is most important to them in life.

The concept of respecting the fundamental right of human dignity is often associated with protection from discrimination. Andrew Clapham (2006) has suggested that valuing the equality of core rights and dignity has four aspects: (1) the prohibition of all types of inhuman treatment, humiliation or degradation by one person over another; (2) the assurance of the possibility for individual choice and the conditions for each individual’s self-fulfillment, autonomy or self-realisation; (3) the recognition that the protection of group identity and culture may be essential for the protection of personal dignity; and (4) the creation of the necessary conditions for each individual to have their human rights and material needs satisfied (Clapham, 2006). Martha Nussbaum has argued that a minimally just society has to endeavour to nurture and support a core set of basic “capabilities”, defined as opportunities for choice and action (e.g. being secure against violent assault, being able to imagine, to think and to reason, being able to love, to grieve, to experience longing, gratitude and justified anger, etc.). People from many different traditions, with many different conceptions of “good”, can agree on these core capabilities as the necessary basis for pursuing a good life (Nussbaum, 1997).

A controversial issue relates to the Western roots of the concept of human dignity and to the Western dominance in the discussion and definitions of human rights. However, deep reflections on human dignity can be found in several different countries and cultures. For example, the indigenous African concept of Ubuntu has a strong connection with the conceptualisation of human dignity in Western philosophy. Ubuntu generally translates as humanness, and its spirit emphasises respect for human dignity, marking a shift from confrontation toconciliation (Mogkoro, 1995).

Perspectives on global competence from different cultures

The literature, theories and frameworks on intercultural competence, global competence and global citizenship emerge predominantly from a Western, Euro-American context. However, related concepts exist in many countries and cultures around the world. One interesting perspective on global competence comes from South Africa and involves the concept of Ubuntu. There is much literature written about Ubuntu (Nwosu, 2005; Khoeza, 2011), found in a Zulu proverb “Ubuntu Nguumuntu Ngabantu” – meaning that a person is a person because of others. This concept of Ubuntu can be used to illustrate a collective identity, as well as connectedness, compassion, empathy and humility. There are other similar concepts to Ubuntu found in different cultures around the world including in indigenous cultures in the Andes and in Malaysia. Collective identity, relationships and context (as impacted by historical, social, economic and political realities) all become major emphases in other cultural discourses on global competence. In summarising some central themes across different cultures with regard to global competence, Deerod (2013) noted the following key elements: respect, listening, adaptation, relationship-building, seeing from multiple perspectives, self-awareness and cultural humility.

Even if the cultural context varies, the common core value of respecting human dignity is sufficiently robust to challenge the legitimacy of a wide array of systems that abuse their power against individuals and groups 1. Abuses of power against vulnerable individuals are not a prerogative of war-torn regions or fragile states. They can happen everywhere: neighbourhoods, offices or schools. Schools, in particular, are places where human dignity takes on a concrete meaning, because every student deserves equal justice, equal opportunity and equal dignity. Discrimination at school can be overtly displayed through xenophobic comments, bullying, name-calling, segregation and physical altercations. Discrimination can also be less apparent but still present in stereotypes, fear of others and unconscious reactions to intercultural conflicts. Respecting and valuing cultural diversity, Globally competent learners should not only have a positive attitude towards cultural diversity (the attitude of “openness” and “respect” defined above), but should also consider cultural diversity as an asset for societies and a desirable goal for the future. However, valuing cultural diversity has certain limits that are determined by the inviolability of human dignity (UNESCO, 2001). The possible tension between valuing cultural diversity and valuing human rights can be solved by establishing a normative hierarchy between the two: valuing core human rights is more important than valuing cultural diversity, in cases where the two values are in conflict with each other.

1 Here system is used in a broad sense to include not just states and markets, but also husbands, parents, officials, landowners, social authorities etc. In other words, all those who have power and can use it to control or interfere in people’s lives.
Promoting the value of cultural diversity in education practice involves encouraging students to take actions to safeguard both tangible and intangible cultural heritage around the world, as well as actions to promote the rights of all people to embrace their own perspectives, views, beliefs and opinions (UNESCO, 2009). It also means conveying the message to all students that their cultural heritage is important and enriches society. Evaluating how much students care about and cherish the values of human dignity and cultural diversity is complex and calls for a broad repertoire of assessment strategies ranging from interviews or conversations to observation. The assessment strategy

Allocating teaching time to a specific subject dealing with human rights issues and non-discrimination is an important first step in cultivating values for global competence. But even more can be achieved by mainstreaming the principle of respect for human dignity and for cultural diversity across all subjects. For example teachers can use multi-ethnic and multicultural examples to illuminate general principles and concepts, or emphasise the contributions of people from different ethnic groups to our collective knowledge and quality of life. Teachers thus need to develop repertoires of culturally diverse examples, the skills to use them fluidly and routinely in classroom instruction, and the confidence to do so.

Values and attitudes are partly communicated through the formal curriculum but also through the ways in which educators and students interact, how discipline is encouraged and the types of opinions and behaviour that are validated in the classroom. For example, a history lesson on the American Civil War may emphasise valuing racial equality; however if the teacher disciplines minority students more severely; he or she communicates a contradictory value system. It is likely that students will assimilate the culture of the classroom more readily than they will learn the curriculum. Therefore, recognising the school and classroom environments’ influence on developing students’ values can help educators to become more aware of the effects that their teaching has on students. For example, a teacher might reconsider the seating plan of the classroom if he is hoping to promote racial and gender integration among his students.

Teachers can be instrumental in replacing stereotypes of minority and disadvantaged students with more positive ones. However, teachers often find it difficult to engage in open discussions about diversity and discrimination. Part of the problem is a lack of experience with people who are different, and the assumption that conversations about discrimination and ethics will always be contentious. Consequently, teachers may concentrate only on “safe” topics about cultural diversity, such as cross-group similarities, ethnic customs, cuisines, costumes and celebrations, while neglecting more troubling issues such as inequities, injustices and oppression (Gay, 2015).

These difficulties can be overcome by giving educators access to continual professional development throughout their career. Specific training programmes and modules can help teachers to acquire a critical awareness of the role that different subject and teaching approaches can play in the struggle against racism and discrimination; the skills to acknowledge and take into account the diversity of learners’ needs, especially those of minority groups; and a command of basic methods and techniques of observation, listening and intercultural communication (UNESCO, 2007).

Assessing global competence in all of its complexity requires a multi-method, multi-perspective approach. The PISA 2018 assessment of global competence contributes a development in this direction, although clear challenges and limitations remain. The most salient challenge for the PISA assessment is that — through a single international instrument — it needs to account for the large variety of geographic and cultural contexts represented in participating countries. Students who perform well on a question assessing their reasoning about a global issue are likely to have some prior knowledge of the issue, and the type of knowledge students already have of global issues is influenced by their experiences within their unique social context. On the one hand, cultural variability in the tested population requires that the test material cannot be too biased towards a particular perspective, for example the perspective of a student in a rich country who thinks about a problem in a poor country. Similarly, the test units should focus on issues that are relevant for 15-year-old students in all countries. On the other hand, leaning too much towards “cultural neutrality” in the design of scenarios and questions reduces the authenticity and relevance of the tasks. The test design is further limited by the time constraints of the assessment and the narrow availability of internationally-valid instruments that measure the behavioural elements of global competence.

Accounting for these limitations and challenges, the PISA 2018 global competence assessment has two components: 1) a cognitive test exclusively focused on the construct of “global understanding”, defined as the combination of background knowledge and cognitive skills required to solve problems related to global and intercultural issues; 2) a set of questionnaire items collecting self-reported information on students’ awareness of global issues and cultures, skills (both cognitive and social) and attitudes, as well as information from schools and teachers on activities to promote global competence.
The reporting of the results will reflect the differences between these two assessment components. Students’ answers to the questions in the cognitive test can be objectively scored as right (or partially right) or wrong, and can thus be presented on a scale. Given that the capacity to understand global or intercultural issues and situations can be developed at school, the PISA proficiency scale is expected to yield results that can be interpreted in educational policy terms. For some of the questions measuring attitudinal or socio-emotional traits (e.g. “openness”), however, defining right or wrong answers is more controversial because the development of these traits and their contribution towards global competence might be non-linear (beyond a certain threshold, more “openness” may not necessarily be better). Measurement issues are also more acute in self-reported items, so ranking students or countries on the basis of students’ responses to the questionnaire risks errors of misrepresentation and misinterpretation. For example, people from some cultural backgrounds tend to exaggerate their responses to typical questionnaire items based on a Likert-type scale (e.g. questions asking students whether they strongly disagree, disagree, agree or strongly agree with a statement), whereas others tend to take a middle ground (Harzing, 2006). The responses to the questionnaire items will thus not be used to position countries and students on a scale. Instead, they will be used only to illustrate general patterns and differences within countries in the development of the skills and attitudes that contribute to global competence among 15-year-old students, as well as to analyse the relationship between those skills and attitudes and students’ results on the cognitive test.

Global understanding is assessed in the PISA cognitive test by asking students to complete several test units. Each unit is composed of one scenario (or case study) and various scenario-based tasks (see Figure 3). In a typical test unit, students read about a case and respond to questions (otherwise referred to as test items) that evaluate their capacity to understand its complexity and the multiple perspectives of the diverse actors involved. Each scenario will expose students to a range of different situations, and test their capacity to apply their background knowledge and cognitive skills in order to analyse the situation and suggest solutions.

The cognitive skills demanded by global understanding are relevant measures of all four dimensions of students’ global competence. Test items asking students to critically analyse statements and information will provide relevant information about students’ capacity to “examine global and intercultural issues” (dimension 1). “Understanding perspectives” (dimension 2) can be assessed through test items examining students’ capacity to: recognise different perspectives while being aware of one’s own cultural lens and biases, as well as those of other people; consider the contexts (cultural, religious, regional) that influence these perspectives; and find possible connections or “common ground” across perspectives. Elsewhere, “engage in appropriate and effective interactions” (dimension 3) can be assessed through items testing students’ capacity to understand communicative contexts and the norms of respectful dialogue. Finally “take action for sustainability and well-being” (dimension 4) can be assessed vis-a-vis students’ capacity to consider possible actions to combat global problems, and to weigh the direct and indirect consequences of such actions.

The student questionnaire will provide complementary information on the attitudes, knowledge and skills that people need to navigate everyday life in globally and culturally competent ways, but whose measurement goes beyond the parameters of the PISA cognitive test. Self-reported skills and attitudes will be measured through Likert-type scales that have been selected on the basis of a review of empirical studies.

Figure 3. Elements of a typical PISA 2018 global competence test unit

Test Unit: The combination of a scenario and its corresponding test items. Each test unit is independent and self-contained. The PISA cognitive test is made up of several different test units.

The cognitive test on global understanding

A short review of cognitive assessments in this area

Research in this area has predominantly been based on student self-reports, and only a few examples of cognitive assessments exist. In the Global Understanding Survey (Barrows et al., 1981), the authors define global understanding as a sum of four components: (a) knowledge; (b) attitudes and perceptions; (c) general background correlations; and (d) language proficiency. The knowledge domain in the Global Understanding Survey consisted of 101 multiple-choice questions that addressed international institutions, major historical events and trends, and legal and policy frameworks associated with 13 global themes. Test items in the Global Understanding Survey addressed real-world issues. Students who reported regular news consumption scored higher on the test. However, the authors found only weak relationships between students’ educational experiences—coursework, language study or study abroad—and their levels of international knowledge. The final report also recognised that the assessment provided only limited insights into the nature and development of global understanding.
The IEA Studies on Civic Education (the Civic Education and Citizenship Study) and the International Civic and Citizenship Education Study are other relevant examples that could guide item development in PISA. The key research questions for ICCS concern a set of core competencies in civic and citizenship education and their disposition to engage with such issues. ICCS measures the cognitive processes of knowledge, reasoning and analysis across four content domains including: (a) civic society and systems, (b) civic principles, (c) civic participation, and (d) civic identities (Schulz et al., 2010; Torney-Purta et al., 2015). The item format combines multiple-choice and open-ended questions.

Some of the items in ICCS measure students’ ability to analyse and reason. Reasoning asks students to apply knowledge and understanding of familiar concrete situations in order to reach conclusions about complex, multifaceted, unfamiliar and abstract situations (Schulz et al., 2008).

Outside of the context of global and civic education, an increasing number of assessments have attempted to measure students’ capacity to evaluate information and think critically about problems. In many of these tests, students read a short text and decide whether a series of statements related to the text are likely to be true or false. Some of these tests also include constructed response questions, where students need to develop logical arguments in order to reach conclusions about complex, multifaceted, unfamiliar and abstract situations.

The Global Integrated Scenario-Based Assessment of Reading, or GISA for short, is one such test. It aims to assess students’ ability to engage with such issues. GISA uses a scenario-based approach with a carefully structured sequence of tasks. By employing scenarios that provide authentic contexts and purposes for reading, the assessment better reflects the cognitive processes that students engage in when confronted with real learning activities.

The GISA assessments also include collaborative communication activities. Students “interact” with simulated peers to identify errors, correct misconceptions and provide feedback. The members of the simulated interactions can state facts, present incorrect information, give their opinions and go off topic, just as people do in real life. Performance moderators such as background knowledge, self-regulatory strategies and motivation are also measured in GISA and are used to interpret the reading score.

Relatively few assessments of perspective-taking skills exist. One relevant example is the perspective-taking measure developed within the Catalyzing Comprehension through Discussion and Debate (CCDD) initiative.6 The assessment is designed to assess students’ ability to acknowledge, articulate, position and interpret the perspectives of multiple stakeholders in a social conflict, and provide solutions that consider and integrate their respective different positions. The assessment puts students in the shoes of an “advisor”, who needs to address social conflicts that can occur in different contexts. In a sample assessment unit, test takers read a story about a student named “Casey” who is a victim of bullying, and are asked what they would recommend Casey should do, why, and to identify potential negative consequences of their recommendation. Students need to provide answers to these questions in the form of short, open responses.

Defining the construct of global understanding

Access to global information and opportunities for intercultural encounters have greatly increased over the last decade, meaning that the majority of PISA students are exposed to a wide range of perspectives on global issues and intercultural experiences even if they do not actively search for them. However, access to information about the world and other cultures does not always go together with understanding. The oversimplification of complex knowledge is a significant contributing factor to deficiencies in learning (Spirio et al., 1988), and is particularly frequent in the domain of global and cultural issues. Although misconceptions often arise from a lack of information, they are compounded by the fact that initial and deeply-held beliefs about how the world works are difficult to subsequently change. Given that humans learn by creating classification systems, a lack of new knowledge or experiences can lead to oversimplified categorizations and generalisations which, in turn, can result in prejudice and stereotyping. However, misconceptions also arise even when students are exposed to appropriate information but absorb this information in a passive way, without reflecting on its deeper meaning or using the information to adjust their prior beliefs.

Students need to use knowledge and skills simultaneously in order to develop global understanding (Figure 4). If a student does not know much about a certain issue, they will find it difficult to identify flaws in texts, consider multiple perspectives (Williams-Gualandi, 2015), communicate in rich ways and consider the consequences of actions related to the issue in question. However, knowledge alone of intercultural and global issues without understanding adds little value. One can know, and continue to judge and dismiss superficially (Williams-Gualandi, 2015). Understanding is the ability to use knowledge to find meaning and connection between different pieces of information and perspectives.

The cognitive processes that support global understanding

For analytical and assessment purposes, this framework distinguishes four, interrelated cognitive processes that globally competent students need to use in order to fully understand global or intercultural issues and situations:

1. The capacity to evaluate information, formulate arguments and explain complex situations and problems by using and connecting evidence, identifying biases and gaps in information and managing conflicting arguments.

2. The capacity to identify and analyse multiple perspectives and world views, positioning and connecting their own and others’ perspectives on the world.

3. The capacity to understand differences in communication conventions, and the development of socially-appropriate communication conventions and adapting communication to the demands of diverse cultural contexts.

4. The capacity to evaluate actions and consequences by identifying and comparing different courses of action and linking these actions against one another on the basis of short- and long-term consequences.

Globally competent students should thus be able to perform a wide variety of tasks utilising the four interrelated cognitive processes. Each of these cognitive processes requires students to be able to: reason with evidence about an issue or situation of local, global and intercultural significance; search effectively for useful sources of information; evaluate information on the basis of its relevance and reliability; synthesise information in order to describe the main ideas in an argumentative text or the salient passages of a conversation; and combine their background knowledge, new information and critical reasoning to build multi-causal explanations of global or intercultural issues.

Furthermore, a solid understanding of a global or intercultural problem also requires recognising that one’s beliefs and judgements are always contingent upon one’s own cultural affiliations and perspectives. Students should therefore be able to recognise the perspectives of other people or groups and the factors that might influence them, including their access to information and resources. Students need to be able to explain how perspectives and contexts shape human interactions and interpretations of events, issues or phenomena.
Globally competent students should also identify ways to manage conflicts that emerge from communication problems, by analysing communicative contexts and conventions and recognising markers of respect.

Finally, students demonstrate their level of global understanding when they can evaluate different courses of action, propose solutions and consider the immediate and indirect implications of actions. The last constitutive cognitive process of global understanding therefore involves the ability to draw sound conclusions from the information one possesses and acquires.

Different types of tasks can test students’ level of proficiency in applying each of these interrelated cognitive processes to a global or intercultural issue. For example, students can be asked to select the most reliable among a selection of different sources of information about an issue; they can evaluate whether a statement is valid and based on evidence; they can be asked to summarise and explain an issue or situation, or choose among possible summaries; they can be asked to identify passages of a media message transmitting negative stereotypes or making hasty generalisations; they can identify the different stakeholders in a case and list the possible contextual and cultural drivers of their respective positions; they can identify which passages in a conversation demonstrate a clear ignorance of intercultural communication approaches; or they can be asked to list or select the possible consequences of a proposed solution to a problem.

Figure 4. The relationship between the cognitive test of global understanding and the dimensions of global competence

Table 1. Typologies of cognitive processes by level in the PISA 2018 test of global competence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cognitive process Sub-category</th>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selecting sources (range)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighting sources (reliability and relevance)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employing sources (reasoning with evidence)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describing and explaining complex situations or problems</td>
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</table>

Table 1 describes students’ abilities at basic, intermediate and advanced levels of development in the four typologies of cognitive processes that constitute global understanding, the cognitive facet of global competence.

While all four cognitive processes are important indicators of a globally competent individual’s skills, the test items in the PISA 2018 global competence assessment are not expected to cover all four cognitive processes in a balanced way. In particular, creating test items that validly measure students’ understanding of communication norms and differences (process 3) is especially complex and might require a longer period of development and validation. This cognitive process is thus expected to be less represented than the other three in the 2018 PISA test.
**Content of the test units**

A typical test unit is based on a scenario that focuses on one global or intercultural issue and presents different perspectives on the issue. Scenarios are used as teaching tools, and their use in the test units can yield useful evidence for education policy and teachers as they encourage students to think logically and systematically.

A scenario-based design in an international assessment assumes that it is possible to identify a set of ‘big issues’ that all young people should learn about, regardless of where they live or their socio-cultural background. However, an exact delimitation of relevant content for the scenarios is difficult because global and intercultural issues are in constant evolution. Nonetheless, Table 2 outlines four content domains, and their related subdomains, which can be considered relevant for all students. Every scenario in the PISA cognitive test can therefore be categorised according to one of these content (sub)domains.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Identify and analyse multiple perspectives and world views</strong></td>
<td><strong>Recognising perspectives and world views</strong></td>
<td>The student has a simplistic view of perspectives: one person—one perspective. She cannot yet explain the source of the perspectives. The student views context as either irrelevant or as determined (“context as deus”). The student understands that perspectives are rooted in cultural, religious, linguistic or historical backgrounds, and that she also holds a particular view of the world. The student cannot yet articulate how multiple perspectives relate to one another. Differences in perspectives or world views start to be seen as rooted in cultural, religious, socio-economic, regional and other backgrounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Understand differences in communication</strong></td>
<td><strong>Understanding communicative contexts and respectful dialogues</strong></td>
<td>The student does not yet understand how to effectively and appropriately communicate based on audiences and context. Specifically, the student does not notice cultural, religious, or social norms, interactive styles, expectations or levels of respect. The student does not identify cultural contexts or situations that may cause breakdowns in communication. The student cannot yet correlate her language and communication choices with a given social world and interpret multiple perspectives or world views.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Test developers should aim at a balanced coverage of the four content domains across the different units that constitute each 1-hour cognitive test, favouring scenarios that cut across multiple content domains. The test units should privilege stimulus material that is familiar to the vast majority of students. This is because only a minority of students can be expected to be familiar with all its aspects. Students who have had some exposure to the topic/issue before outside of school can be expected to perform better on the test unit.

Complexity of the test units

The effective use of the assessed cognitive processes (described in Table 1) is intimately tied to the students’ content knowledge of the issue or situation they are asked to work on. While the cognitive skills of analysing and evaluating information are intrinsically general in nature, global and intercultural issues present their own specific challenges that require knowledge of the world and of cultural differences. For example, only those students who have some degree of knowledge of the consequences of climate change can fully understand conflicting positions in a debate on the reduction of carbon emission in cities. Similarly, if a student does not know anything about an issue, they will find it difficult to consider the issue from multiple perspectives.

Background content knowledge is considered, in this framework, as an important facilitator of the cognitive processes that students use when asked to reflect about a particular case study presented in a text unit.

When students read a text or follow a conversation presented in the scenario of each test unit, their understanding is constrained by both the content and complexity of the material in the scenario, and the development of the cognitive processes necessary for global understanding. The cognitive demand of individual test units is therefore defined by the level of content knowledge and cognitive skills that students need to activate in order to solve the tasks. In more demanding test units the student must generally contribute information from his or her own knowledge about the content domain that is not explicitly stated in the scenario.

International asymmetries in a student’s opportunity to learn the subject matter are probably more important in an assessment of global competence than in assessments of more traditional subjects, such as science or mathematics. This is because only a minority of schools already consciously include global education in their curriculum, and the content of global education varies significantly across countries. Moreover, the learning process of global competence takes place within a context that extends far beyond the classroom — whereby a multicultural classroom encompasses not only differences in national backgrounds but also in gender, religion, socio-economic differences and so on — students can be assessed on their intercultural communication and understanding skills (cognitive processes 2 and 3, and content domain 1). Scenarios that incorporate histories of conflicts or positive cultural exchanges in multicultural neighbourhoods (local context) can serve as useful background for test items assessing students’ understanding of the challenges of social integration within their local community; scenarios in which students are required to analyse global news or work remotely on a project with other students in a different country can tap into a wide variety of content domains and cognitive processes.

Table 2. Content domains and subdomains of the scenarios

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Domain 1: Culture and intercultural relations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subdomain 1.1: Identity formation in multicultural societies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subdomain 1.2: Cultural expressions and cultural exchanges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subdomain 1.3: Intercultural communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subdomain 1.4: Perspective taking, stereotypes, discrimination and intolerance</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Domain 2: Socio-economic development and interdependence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subdomain 2.1: Economic interactions and interdependence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subdomain 2.2: Human capital, development and inequality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Domain 3: Environmental sustainability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subdomain 3.1: Natural resources and environmental risks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subdomain 3.2: Policies, practices and behaviours for environmental sustainability</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Domain 4: Institutions, conflicts and human rights</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subdomain 4.1: Prevention of conflicts and hate crimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subdomain 4.2: Universal human rights and local traditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subdomain 4.3: Political participation and global engagement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Dimensions and levels of complexity of the scenarios

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels of complexity</th>
<th>Domain-specific knowledge</th>
<th>General knowledge (text and language)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Around 40%</td>
<td>Around 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Around 40%</td>
<td>Around 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Around 20%</td>
<td>Around 10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The topic analysed in the test unit is familiar to the vast majority of students. Very limited prior knowledge of the topic/issue is required from students to understand the unit.

The scenario is framed in very simple language, without technical words or expressions that are unique to a certain socio-cultural or demographic group.

The language in the scenario is familiar to the majority of 15-year-olds (e.g. the choice of words is typical of communication addressed to non-specialist audiences). Differences in communication styles among groups are minimised whenever fictional conversations are used as scenarios. Single texts are internally coherent and multiple texts are clearly connected.

The scenario is framed in more complex language (atypical of formal writing or professional conversations, and can include a limited amount of content-specific or technical vocabulary). Communication styles among groups, although most students are expected to be able to follow the conversation and understand its overall meaning (no jargon or consolidated phrasing is used).

Table 3 sets out the categorisations of complexity of the test units, according to the level of content and general reading skills required by the scenario and test items. Although general language decoding and comprehension skills are not integral components of global competence, the language used in the test scenarios and items will inescapably influence the difficulty of test units. Highly complex language thus needs to be avoided to reduce the risk that the test results become heavily influenced by differences in text decoding and language comprehension skills. As for domain-specific content knowledge, the requirement of prior exposure to relevant information and intercultural situations is an important driver of a test unit’s difficulty, and thus of students’ performance on the cognitive test.

Table 2. Content domains and subdomains of the scenarios

Content Domain 1: Culture and intercultural relations

Subdomain 1.1: Identity formation in multicultural societies
Subdomain 1.2: Cultural expressions and cultural exchanges
Subdomain 1.3: Intercultural communication
Subdomain 1.4: Perspective taking, stereotypes, discrimination and intolerance

Content Domain 2: Socio-economic development and interdependence

Subdomain 2.1: Economic interactions and interdependence
Subdomain 2.2: Human capital, development and inequality

Content Domain 3: Environmental sustainability

Subdomain 3.1: Natural resources and environmental risks
Subdomain 3.2: Policies, practices and behaviours for environmental sustainability

Content Domain 4: Institutions, conflicts and human rights

Subdomain 4.1: Prevention of conflicts and hate crimes
Subdomain 4.2: Universal human rights and local traditions
Subdomain 4.3: Political participation and global engagement

Test developers should aim at a balanced coverage of the four content domains across the different units that constitute each 1-hour cognitive test, favouring scenarios that cut across multiple content domains. The test units should privilege stimulus material that is familiar and relevant to 15-year-olds, in order to facilitate students’ engagement with the task. The risk associated with sensitive topics (e.g. a case study on hate violence against minorities may be sensitive for a student from a minority group) should be carefully assessed and minimised during the design of the scenarios and related test items. The combination of appropriate media, such as texts, comic strips and photography, can increase the quality and relevance of the scenarios for students, reducing the reading load and increasing students’ engagement with the tasks. It is also important to avoid scenarios which present a stereotypical representation of certain identities or cultural groups, and could thus further contribute to single stories and prejudice.

As well as varying by content, the scenarios in each test unit can vary by context. For example they can refer to the personal context of the student (situations relating to the self, family and peer groups), to their local context (wider social networks, neighbourhood, city or country) or to a global context (life across the world, as experienced through exposure to the media and participation in social networks). For example, in the personal context of student interaction within the classroom — whereby a multicultural classroom encompasses not only differences in national backgrounds but also in...
test item directly assesses factual knowledge (for example, an item would not ask students to specify the increase in global temperature reported in the last International Panel on Climate Change report). Secondly, only a minority of test units require students to have a high level of background knowledge of global and intercultural issues (Table 2). While background content knowledge assists students’ understanding of the scenario, performance on the test should mainly reflect students’ capacities to use their reasoning and perspective-taking skills to connect their general knowledge of global issues to new and unanticipated problems and situations. The test design mitigates international asymmetries in students’ opportunity to learn background content knowledge because it asks students to work on several short test units in different content domains. Test takers from a given socio-cultural context will thus likely have more background knowledge on some areas, but not on others.

**Format of the scenarios**

The scenarios used in the test should reflect the variety of contexts and roles in which students can learn about global issues or explore the complexity of intercultural interactions. The authenticity and relevance of the tasks are critically important to stimulate a sufficient level of engagement with the test. The scenarios can be designed using the following four formats that assign a particular role to the student, providing a clear purpose to engage in the task:

1. students as researchers
2. students as reporters
3. students as mediators or team-memners
4. students as debaters.

In the first format – students as researchers – the test takers are asked to imagine that they are enrolled in a course at their school and that they need to submit a collaborative research paper with other fellow students at the end of the school term. In this scenario, the student has to examine information from web searches or from inputs from other students on the team. This format tests multiple types of cognitive processes: students’ capacities to select information can be assessed by providing them with multiple results from web queries and asking them to select the one that is most appropriate to the research; students’ perspective-taking abilities can be assessed by asking them to examine the causes of a misunderstanding or conflict between two members on the research team.

The second format presents performance tasks that students should solve by acting as reporters: the scenario asks students to put themselves in the shoes of a journalist who wants to write an article about a piece of news he or she has heard. The text in this type of scenario typically takes the form of an extract from a newspaper or from social media where the main elements of a case are presented. A first question or set of questions typically verifies whether the students understand the main facts and credibility of information reported in the source, and can reason beyond the text questioning possible motivations and subjective interpretations of the information by the author. The scenario then develops as students are asked for their own information and sources, for example by asking students to identify which stakeholders they would like to interview, and/or selecting relevant questions to ask different actors in order to better understand their actions and perspectives. This type of scenario can assess all the cognitive processes involved in the framework, and works particularly well for assessing students’ capacity to select, use information and assess the validity of information. The investigative nature of the tasks should be sufficiently stimulating and realistic for most students.

The ‘students as mediators/team-members’ scenarios ask students what they would suggest to moderate or solve a conflict in their schools or neighbourhood. The text typically takes the form of a conversation, where two or more actors have a conflict over an issue. The questions ask students to identify who is involved in the situation, how the different stakeholders are likely to feel, think and react, and why they think and react in this way, based on the relationships between characters and their social and cultural characteristics. The test-taker can also be asked to generate or identify possible solutions that consider the interests of all or most parties. This type of scenario can effectively test students’ ability to acknowledge, articulate, position and interpret multiple stakeholders’ perspectives in a given social conflict, and provide solutions that consider and integrate these different positions.

Finally the ‘students as debaters’ scenarios require test takers to develop arguments and compare different perspectives on an issue in a debate format. The scenario typically provides some background information on the issue that students can use for their responses. The questions in the scenario ask the students to develop (or select) arguments for their side, and address and rebut the arguments their opponent’s side has made. If properly transposed to an assessment format, the debate format can stimulate students’ engagement and give them the opportunity to demonstrate their grasp of thinking and communication skills.

This description of scenario formats is not exhaustive, and other types of scenarios can be explored during the test development process.

**Response format**

The form in which the evidence is collected – the response format – varies according to the cognitive process that is assessed and the chosen format of the scenario. Various response formats can require different skills. For example, closed and multiple-choice response items depend more on decoding skills, because readers have to eliminate incorrect responses, when compared to open-constructed response items (Cain & Oakhill, 2006).

As in any large-scale assessment, the range of feasible item formats is limited to some combination of open and closed response questions. However, contextualised open-response items are particularly relevant for this assessment as they ask the learner to assemble relevant, abstract, conceptual and case-specific knowledge components for a problem-solving task (Spiro et al., 1995). Open-response items were already used and validated in the ICCS’s International Cognitive Test (Schult et al., 2008), NAEP Civics (National Assessment Governing Board, 2010), and in the United Kingdom’s GCSE examinations in Citizenship Studies (Department for Education (UK), 2014). The open-response items are scored using rubrics – scoring guidelines that include detailed qualitative descriptions of performance standards (Andrade, 2005; Popham, 1997; Popp, Ryan and Thompson, 2009; Stellmack et al., 2009; Thaler, Kazemi and Huscier, 2009). Most units in the test should include at least one question with an open-response format.

**Moderators of performance: reading comprehension, attitudes and values**

Certain individual factors that are not explicitly assessed in the PISA cognitive test may nonetheless moderate students’ performance. In the 2018 iteration of the test, the scenarios were designed in such a way that they would encourage students to reflect and put more emphasis on students’ capacities to analyse, synthesise, integrate and interpret multiple texts (OECD, 2016). However, this framework identifies a set of perspective-taking and reasoning abilities that clearly go beyond reading proficiency, and focuses on the application of these abilities to specific content areas (global and intercultural issues). The specificities of global issues and intercultural relations contribute to defining and determining the cognitive processes and skills employed in the tasks.

It will be possible to measure and partially account for the correlation between reading skills and global understanding as students tested in global competence in 2018 will also be tested in reading. Thus, individual students’ and countries’ results on the assessment could be compared before and after accounting for their performance in reading.

Doscher (2012) explores the validity and reliability of two rubrics for the Global Learning Initiative at Florida International University (FIU). The rubrics referred to two case studies measuring university students’ global awareness and perspectives. The rubrics yielded scores that reliably measured students’ global learning outcomes. Students who attended global learning courses scored significantly higher on the performance tasks than students who did not attend such courses.
Attitudes can facilitate global and intercultural understanding at the affective level, and can thus act as moderators of performance in the cognitive test. Some examples of attitudes that support the practice and development of cognitive skills with respect to global competence are: curiosity about other cultures; inquisitiveness with regard to a wide range of global issues; conscious efforts to remain well-informed about current events at the local and global level; a positive and respectful regard of cultural differences; and a desire to do something about global problems that threaten the needs and freedoms of current and future generations (global mindedness). These attitudes will not be measured directly in the cognitive test. However, in the contextual section of the PISA questionnaire, students will report the extent to which they agree with a series of statements related to such attitudes (see section on self-reported information in the student questionnaire). The triangulation of results of the cognitive test and the self-reported information from the questionnaire will provide relevant evidence on how attitudes support global and intercultural understanding.

Arguably, the most complex issue for the operationalisation of this assessment framework relates to a clear definition of the way in which values affect global and intercultural understanding. While values are an integral part of global competence, the PISA cognitive test does not assess values. The proposed test asks students to reflect on the validity and consequences of statements, and to elaborate their conclusions about a specific issue or situation. This issue requires a careful choice of the test questions that can be included in the international cognitive assessment. Students could be asked to evaluate statements that are clearly right or wrong on the basis of objective criteria, because they adhere to or contradict agreed scientific or historical evidence. However, all the questions in the cognitive test cannot not aim at assessing students on their ethics and opinions, but rather on their capacity to recognize and explain the complexity of a case and the multiplicity of possible positions. For example, in a hypothetical scenario describing the case of a father who steals in order to feed his starving children, the students would not be asked to conclude whether or not the action deserves a given punishment; the questions would rather ask the students to demonstrate an understanding that the law may in some cases and under certain perspectives collide with basic human needs, and to identify/explain the possible risks and uncertainties of establishing ad-hoc exceptions to the law.

Self-reported information in the student questionnaire

In addition to the results of the cognitive assessment, the reporting on global competence in PISA 2018 will include country- or sub-population level information on students’ school principals’, teachers’ and parents’ responses to questionnaire items.

For socio-emotional skills and attitudes, finding the right method of assessment is arguably more a stumbling block than deciding what to assess. It is practically not possible to define scales for self-reported attitudes and skills that are always 100% valid. The strategy adopted in PISA 2018 has privileged the use and adaptation of scales that have already been validated in other empirical assessments. The most common problem with assessing self-reported skills and attitudes is that of social desirability. Attitudes, in particular, are related to self-image and social acceptance. In order to preserve a positive self-image, students may be tempted to answer questionnaire items in a way that they believe is socially acceptable. Self-reported scales that measure attitudes towards race, religion, sex, etc. are particularly affected by social desirability bias. Respondents who harbour a negative attitude towards a particular group may not wish to admit, even to themselves, that they have these feelings. In a study of attitudes towards refugees, Schützler et al. (2005) found that social desirability bias accounted for 8% of the variance in attitudes.

A large number of Likert-type scales appear in the literature on civic and democratic attitudes and a number of them are related to global competence as defined in PISA. The Global-Mindedness Scale, for example, was developed in order to “measure attitudes of students related to their sense of connection to, interest in, and responsibility for, the global community and the behaviours associated with this perspective” (Hett, 1993). The items in the scale addressed both beliefs and behaviours: for example, students were asked to report the extent to which they agreed with the statement “I tend to judge the values of others based on my own value system”.

Following this literature, the student questionnaire in PISA 2018 includes multi-statement items using Likert-type methods. These items are based, as much as possible, on pre-existing components, taking into account the issues of testing time and question sensitivity and adapted as best as can to the reality of 15-year-old students. Annex C includes the questions and items on global competence that will be included in the PISA 2018 student questionnaire. These questions are a subset of a larger set of material that was field trialed across all countries participating in PISA. In the transition from the field trial to the main study, some questions were deleted and some scales were shortened in order to save testing time, all the while still ensuring the proper coverage of this framework and preserving the psychometric validity of the scales. The longer questionnaire tested in the PISA field trial, as well as the field trial analysis of the psychometric quality of the material, are available upon request.

The analysis of the responses to these items is expected to support the future development of questions on attitudes and emotional skills that might be included in future rounds of PISA. Future work beyond 2018 might also consider integrating other methods for measuring attitudes and “soft skills” that are less prone to social desirability bias.

Self-reported knowledge and skills

Self-reported knowledge of global and intercultural issues

A first set of questions in the student questionnaire covers knowledge of global and intercultural issues. One question in the PISA 2018 questionnaire asks students to report how easily they could perform a series of tasks relating to global issues, such as explaining how carbon-dioxide emissions affect global climate change. Another question asks students to report how familiar they are with different global issues, such as climate change and global warming, global health and migration.

Self-reported ability to communicate in multicultural contexts

A second set of questions refers to the linguistic, communication and behavioural skills that are required to communicate with other people, to manage breakdowns in communication, and to mediate between speakers of different languages or cultures. Students’ progression should not only be evaluated through their performance, according to their proficiency in a foreign language and through their self-reported ability to handle communication with people from other cultural backgrounds and in unfamiliar contexts.

Self-reported data on foreign language proficiency can be used to examine the relationships between acquiring a second language and measured levels of global understanding or positive dispositions toward other countries and cultures. Such an investigation could have several relevant policy implications for both language and curricular programmes aimed at increasing the level of students’ understanding of global issues.

The student questionnaire for PISA 2018 reports how many languages students and their parents speak well enough to be able to converse with others. The questionnaire also includes one question asking the students the extent to which they would explain things very carefully, check understanding or adapt their language when talking in their native language with people whose native language is different.

Self-reported adaptability

Research on intercultural communication has developed and validated several items and scales on adaptability and flexibility. For example, the Intercultural Effectiveness Scale of Portalla and Chen (2010) includes self-reported measures of behavioural flexibility, such as the level of agreement with the statement “I often act like a very different person when interacting
with people from different cultures”. The PISA 2018 question includes one multi-statement question on adaptability, asking students how they deal with challenging interactions with people from other cultural backgrounds. The six items in the question were adapted from validated scales in Martin and Rubin (1995) and Dennis and Vander Wal (2010).

Self-reported perspective taking

As in the case of adaptability, there are several scales on perspective taking and on empathy that have been specifically designed for adolescents and have been reviewed for the PISA questionnaire. These include the Index of Empathy for Children and Adolescents (IECA, Bryant, 1982), the empathy subscale from the Children’s Behaviour Questionnaire (Rothbart et al., 1994), the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (IRI, Davis, 1980), the Basic Empathy Scale (Jolliffe and Farrington, 2006), and the Adolescent Measure of Empathy and Sympathy (AMES, Vossen et al., 2015). In the PISA student questionnaire, one question comprised of five items assesses perspective taking. The five items have been adapted from Davis (1983) and are expected to form a uni-dimensional construct.

Self-reported attitudes

Self-reported openness toward people from other cultural backgrounds

The PISA questionnaire includes one question assessing students’ “interest in learning about other cultures”. The question assesses a student’s desire or willingness to learn about other countries, religions and cultures. The four items included in the question have been adapted from different sources, such as Chen et al. (2016) and Mahon and Cushner (2014).

Self-reported respect for people from other cultural backgrounds

One question in the PISA questionnaire asks the students to report to what extent they feel they respect and value other people as equal human beings, no matter their cultural background. The five items were adapted from the Council of Europe (2016b), Munroe and Pearson (2006), Lázár (2012), and Fritz et al. (2002).

Self-reported global mindedness

The PISA questionnaire includes one question on global mindedness. The six items in the question are expected to assess the following facets of global mindedness: “sense of world citizenship” (item no. 1), “responsibility for others in the world” (items 2, 4 and 6), “sense of inter-connectedness” (item 3) and “global self-efficacy” (item 5).

Questionnaire items on strategies, pedagogies and attitudes to teach global competence

The PISA 2018 questionnaire will provide information on innovations in curricula and teaching methods aimed at preparing students for global citizenship. Two questions focus on the curriculum. One question asks principals and teachers whether the curriculum includes global topics such as climate change and global warming, global health or migration. Another question asks principals and teachers whether the formal curriculum refers to global competence skills and dispositions, such as communicating with people from different cultural backgrounds or countries, or openness to intercultural experiences.

A second set of questions focuses on educators’ beliefs and practices. One question asks principals to report on their teachers’ general beliefs about how the school should handle ethnic diversity. A second enquires about specific practices for multicultural learning at the school level, such as teaching about the beliefs, customs or arts of diverse cultural groups that live in the country, or encouraging students to communicate with people from other cultures via the internet and social media.

Two questions in the PISA teacher questionnaire enquire about the teachers’ level of preparation to respond to different student communities, potentially through different teaching strategies. One question provides information on whether a teacher has studied intercultural issues or received training in pedagogical methods to teach effectively in multicultural environments. Another question in the teacher questionnaire will provide information on teachers’ self-efficacy in coping with the challenges of a multicultural classroom and adapting their teaching to the cultural diversity of students.

The student questionnaire also provides information on teachers’ behaviours from the perspective of the students. One question, in particular, asks students to report whether they think that their teachers treat students from all cultural groups with equal respect.
How schools respond to growing economic interdependence, cultural divides, new digital opportunities and calls for sustainability will have a significant impact on the well-being of all members of the communities they serve. All people, in both diverse and homogenous communities, are called upon to challenge cultural stereotypes, reflect on the causes of racial, religious and hate violence, and participate in the creation of respectful, integrated and sustainable societies.

Achieving global competence through education will require significant changes in the classroom: changes concerning what students learn about the world and other cultures, the opportunities they have to practice what they learn, and how teachers support this learning by working with diverse students. Some national curricula now put emphasis on education for sustainable development and intercultural education. Many teachers also encourage students to analyse and reflect on the root causes of global issues.

The results of the assessment can also stimulate innovation at the level of individual schools, as schools seek effective approaches to enhance their students’ global competence. A broad range of learning activities in the classroom can in fact influence students’ global competence and involve teachers in all subject areas, although to differing degrees. These may include role-playing activities that allow students to take on different perspectives, discussions on prejudice and discrimination, or project-based activities that encourage students to analyse and reflect on the root causes of global issues.

No single assessment can fully account for the complexity of global competence as a learning goal. Importantly, the PISA approach reflects the needs and the constraints of an international, large-scale assessment. It is thus no substitute for formative assessments of global competence at the classroom and school level. More efforts, beyond 2018, will be needed to build on the lessons learnt from this initiative to further improve the measurement of the constructs defined in this framework. The most challenging, but perhaps most urgent endeavour will be to experiment with and evaluate new methods to further improve the measurement of the socio-emotional, attitudinal and value dimensions of global competence.

Conclusions

References

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British Council (2013), Culture at Work : The Value of Intercultural Skills in the Workplace, British Council, United Kingdom.
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Annex A. Illustrative examples of scenarios for the cognitive assessment of global understanding

Are global temperatures rising?

Content domain: 3. Environmental Sustainability (3.1 Natural resources and environmental risks).

In her science class, Mei reads a research article that was featured in the daily press. The author of the article uses the following graph to argue that popular claims about a rise in global temperatures are not supported by the data. In fact, global temperatures were lower in 2011 and 2012 than in 2008 and 2009.

Global temperature

Mei’s teacher asks the class to have a look at another chart she produced from the same source of data in the article.

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8 These examples are provided only for illustrative purposes. They have not been prepared nor verified by the professional test developers who are responsible for developing the cognitive instruments for PISA 2018. No fully developed test item is included in these examples. The examples include questions and “answer keys” to those questions that are meant to guide the development of test items using either a multiple-choice or an open-response format.
Last weekend your team lost because a foreign-born player decided to walk away from the game after putting up with racial insults by the visiting team’s fans for almost one hour, forcing your team to play 10 against 11. One of your friends was at the stadium, and told you that the player should have gone on with the game, and not have let the insults get to him.

As you keep talking about the player who left the game, you realise that both you and your friend have never used his real name but always referred to him as “the Animal”. This is the nickname he got from the press after his first game with your team. The captain of your team, who is also the captain of your national team, is nicknamed “the Brain”.

A talented player

Content domain: 1. Culture and Intercultural relations (1.4 Perspective taking, stereotypes, discrimination and intolerance).

Last weekend your team lost because a foreign-born player decided to walk away from the game after putting up with racial insults by the visiting team’s fans for almost one hour, forcing your team to play 10 against 11. One of your friends was at the stadium, and told you that the player should have gone on with the game, and not have let the insults get to him.

Question: What could have prevented the player leaving and destabilising his team?

Question classification: 4. Evaluate actions and consequences (4.1 Considering actions)

Answer key: Clear regulations enforced by the referee in which he or she suspends a match whenever he/she hears racial insults, disqualifying the team whose supporters perpetrate racist acts.

A song in Quechua

Content domain: 1. Culture and Intercultural relations (1.1 Identity formation in multicultural societies)/ 4. Institutions, conflicts and human rights (4.3 Political participation and global engagement).

In a YouTube video that reached over 2 million viewers, Renata Flores sings in Quechua, her native language, to Michael Jackson’s “The Way You Make Me Feel” against the backdrop of ancient Inca ruins. Renata is an activist participating in a project called “Las juventudes también hablamos Quechua” (The youth, we speak Quechua too).

Question: What messages do you think Renata is trying to convey?

Question classification: 2. Identify and analyse multiple perspectives (2.1 Recognising perspectives and contexts)

Answer keys: She wants to combat young people’s perceptions of the indigenous language as unhip and backwards. She wants to revive her culture and combat uniformity.

Several other initiatives are trying to revive disappearing languages. For example, one of the top Internet search engines has launched a version in Quechua and the New South Wales Government of Australia has proposed legislation for protecting and reviving Aboriginal languages. However, keeping alive a disappearing language is not an easy task.

Question: Which factors, among the following, can contribute to the disappearance of languages?

Question classification: 1. Evaluate information, formulate arguments and explain complex situations or problems (1.4 Describing perspectives and contexts)

Answer keys: Young people from minority groups who think that speaking their heritage language is not cool; lack of Aboriginal and indigenous language teachers; few disappearing languages have written grammar and dictionaries that people can use to learn them.
Annex B. Description of possible topics for the scenarios of the cognitive test

This annex lists global and intercultural issues that can be used as reference topics to develop scenarios in the cognitive test. It is implied in this list that these complex topics have to be developmentally appropriate for 15-year-olds and sufficiently engaging.

1. Culture and intercultural relations

This content domain relates to the manifold expressions of cultural diversity, such as languages, arts, knowledge, traditions and norms. Acquiring knowledge in this domain can help young people recognise that perspectives are shaped by multiple cultural influences, better understand differences among cultures, and value the importance of protecting cultural differences.

1.1 Identity formation in multicultural societies

This subdomain focuses on how young people develop their cultural identity in multicultural communities and interconnected societies. Scenarios in this content area can describe: expression of different cultures in a globalised world; significance of cultural diversity; public policies to protect and promote the diversity of language and other cultural expressions; school initiatives to encourage learning and appreciating different cultural traditions; different perspectives on what development means and on how countries should support other countries’ development; designing art and cultural education programmes in schools; new technologies’ role in providing access to cultural expressions; diversity of public media (access, content and language); convergence of people’s habits and consumption patterns and how transnational ideas (e.g. hip hop, meditation) are culturally appropriated in local contexts and/or fused with other cultural practices to form hybrid cultures. Scenarios could include recognising cultural elements or messages within such expressions.

1.2 Cultural expressions and cultural exchanges

This subdomain focuses on issues related to preserving the world’s cultural capital (e.g. language, arts and traditions) and the relationships between dominant and non-dominant cultures. Scenarios in this content area can describe: expression of different cultures in a globalised world; significance of cultural diversity; public policies to protect and promote the diversity of language and other cultural expressions; school initiatives to encourage learning and appreciating different cultural traditions; different perspectives on what development means and on how countries should support other countries’ development; designing art and cultural education programmes in schools; new technologies’ role in providing access to cultural expressions; diversity of public media (access, content and language); convergence of people’s habits and consumption patterns and how transnational ideas (e.g. hip hop, meditation) are culturally appropriated in local contexts and/or fused with other cultural practices to form hybrid cultures. Scenarios could include recognising cultural elements or messages within such expressions.

1.3 Intercultural communication

This subdomain focuses on what students can learn about the complexity of communicative processes involving individuals from different cultural backgrounds. Scenarios in this area can represent situations where: diverse audiences interpret different meanings from the same information; two or more people fail to understand each other because they follow different communication norms; individuals explore the idea that languages sometimes encode meanings which can be difficult to access in other languages; multicultural settings such as schools, community organisations, or workplaces become more effective as colleagues/peers adjust their communication styles; people fail to understand each other because of different non-verbal communication styles (especially given that more is often communicated nonverbally than through spoken word); individuals adapt (or fail to adapt) their communication style to different contexts (academic/informal neighbourhood/online settings); or individuals seek to communicate while not sharing a language. These situations can be within informal contexts to which 15-year-olds may better be able to relate such as a sports team, within a friend group, in welcoming a new student (even from within the same country but different background), and so on.

1.4 Perspective taking, stereotypes, discrimination and intolerance

This subdomain refers to what students can learn about social/cultural understanding and perspective taking as well as the nature, manifestations and impact of cultural prejudices and ways to combat these. Scenarios in this subdomain can reproduce texts, media messages or conversations that: exhibit some explicit or implicit cultural bias against some groups; describe how individuals adjust and suffer as a result of cultural prejudices; show how people correct their stereotypes as they acquire new information about others. Common expressions of prejudice and oversimplification include: gender or socioeconomic-based stereotyping about what students can achieve in different subjects; gender or racial biases while selecting applicants for a job; perceptions about certain groups’ predispositions to violence and crime; stereotypes about indigenous cultures; intolerance towards sexual inclinations; and religious stereotypes. The scenarios may invite students to identify, articulate, explain and position different cultural perspectives. They may ask students to engage with these discrimination cases and manage dilemmas associated with conflicting value systems. Specifically, this could be a conversational exchange in which a biased remark is made and the respondent must determine how to respond.

2. Socio-economic development and interdependence

This domain focuses on economic links between local, regional and worldwide levels and looks at how these links influence opportunities around the globe and across social or cultural groups. Students who acquire an advanced level of knowledge in this domain more easily understand how people, places and economies are strongly interrelated, and are aware that economic policies and choices made at any level have consequences at all levels, from individual to global.

2.1 Economic interactions and interdependence

This subdomain focuses on the connections and interdependencies of economic systems at multiple levels. Some examples of scenario topics framed in this subdomain are: transnational production of everyday goods (cell phones, clothing); financial liberalisation, contagion and crisis; capital flow directions and instability; the emergence of global corporations; impacts of low-cost travel and shipping on local economic systems; technological investments and technology exchanges; wage differences and foreign investments; and the impact of job migration on countries.

2.2 Human capital, development and inequality

This subdomain focuses on the relationship between economic integration and social development. Examples of topics in this subdomain include: inequality in education, trends in income inequalities between and within countries; economic integration and reducing poverty; developing sustainable tourism; changes in employment opportunities in the face of global automated production and computerisation; and education mobility and brain drain.
3. Environmental Sustainability

This content domain focuses on the complex systems surrounding the demand for and use of natural resources. Students who are more exposed to this area learn about the main drivers that deplete the planet’s natural environment, and better understand how improving the quality of life should be pursued without damaging the planet for future generations.

3.1 Natural resources and environmental risks

In this subdomain students learn about the main environmental risks facing our planet and about the ecological interdependence of the natural world. Scenarios considered in this subdomain are widespread, concerning both developed and developing countries, and cause harm to people who have not voluntarily chosen to suffer their consequences, requiring public authority regulation. In most cases, these risks cannot be assessed precisely, and can be evaluated differently in different contexts and social terms. A partial list of these risks include: climate change; air pollution and related health risks; pollution and over-acidification of the oceans; soil degradation; desertification and drought; population growth and unsustainable urbanisation; natural disasters; glacier mass balance; contamination from pesticide residues; loss of biodiversity on the planet; access to clean, fresh water; overfishing; and the clearing of forests. With any of these topics, it will be important to select ones that are most relevant to 15-year-olds.

3.2 Policies, practices and behaviours for environmental sustainability

This subdomain focuses on what policy makers and individuals can do to reduce resource depletion and better manage environmental risks. Scenarios in this subdomain can ask students to reflect on tools and instruments (e.g. standards, taxes, subsidies, communication campaigns, education) put in place to encourage sustainable consumption and production; how environmental risks are communicated in the media; how governments weigh the risks of the depletion of natural resources when making choices of economic policy; what role non-government organisations have in forming the public opinion about environmental issues and changing policies; trade-offs between development and environmental concerns and differences in how sustainable development is understood and political responsibilities are allocated in different countries and contexts.

4. Institutions, conflicts and human rights

This content domain focuses on the formal and informal institutions supporting peaceful relationships between people and the respect of fundamental human rights. Students can learn how global institutions such as the United Nations have developed, can be asked to reflect on the contested nature of global governance in a world with highly asymmetrical power relationships, review factors of and solutions to current and historical conflicts between countries, ethnic or social groups, and examine spaces and opportunities for young people to play an active part in society and exercise their rights and responsibilities.

4.1 Prevention of conflicts and hate crimes

This subdomain relates to institutions and strategies for managing, resolving and preventing violent conflicts. Relevant conflicts include international wars, civil wars, ethnic or religious conflicts and hate crimes against particular groups. Scenarios in this area can expose students to different interpretations about the causes of a particular violent conflict; present different historical reconstructions of conflicts driven by competition over scarce natural resources or by economic competition between countries; encourage them to analyse strategies for managing, resolving and preventing conflicts; ask them to think about why some conflicts are more difficult to resolve than others; let them reflect on the psychological preconditions that might be necessary for reconciliation between conflicting parties (e.g. willingness to admit that one’s own group has perpetrated unacceptable acts, etc.); make them examine the role of non-violent protests in social and political change, conflicting definitions of social justice, and contrasting arguments about the conditions for lasting peace and greater social cohesion.

4.2 Universal human rights and local traditions

This subdomain includes human right education and scenarios can refer to key documents such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Students might be asked to reflect on the reasons why some people’s rights are denied (e.g. why gender inequalities in access to education persist); enquire about the political, legal, socio-cultural, religious and economic factors that can undermine human rights in particular contexts; analyse opposing arguments and evidence about the universality or relativity of human rights; reflect on the obligations of states in relation to human rights and/or on the means to protect oneself which are available to citizens; and reflect on rights that are in conflict with one another and how to resolve such conflicts.

4.3 Political participation and global engagement

This subdomain refers to the opportunities young people across the world have to express their voice and make a difference in local or global contexts. Scenarios in this area can describe real experiences of young people who have taken action to improve peoples’ living conditions in their own or other communities, or who are evaluating the actions they can take on a social, civic or political issue. The situations presented in the scenarios can also describe practical difficulties young people face when they start volunteering, such as lack of knowledge about the people they wish to help, recognising their limits in taking action as an individual, backlash, discouragement and fatigue. This subdomain also includes issues related to how young people are exposed to political propaganda and develop their political opinions.
Annex C. Questions related to global competence in the student questionnaire

How easy do you think it would be for you to perform the following tasks on your own?
(Please select one response in each row.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>I couldn’t do this</th>
<th>I would struggle to do this on my own</th>
<th>I could do this with a bit of effort</th>
<th>I could do this easily</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explain how carbon-dioxide emissions affect global climate change</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish a connection between prices of textiles and working conditions in the countries of production</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discuss the different reasons why people become refugees</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain why some countries suffer more from global climate change than others</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain how economic crises in single countries affect the global economy</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discuss the consequences of economic development on the environment</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construct: Self-efficacy regarding global issues

How informed are you about the following topics?
(Please select one response in each row.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>I have never heard of this</th>
<th>I have heard about this but I would not be able to explain what it is really about</th>
<th>I know something about this and could explain the general issue</th>
<th>I am familiar with this and I would be able to explain this well</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate change and global warming</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global health (e.g. epidemics)</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration (movement of people)</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International conflicts</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunger or malnutrition in different parts of the world</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Causes of poverty</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality between men and women in different parts of the world</td>
<td>□ □ □ □</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construct: Awareness of global issues
How well does each of the following statements below describe you?

(Please select one response in each row.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Very much like me</th>
<th>Mostly like me</th>
<th>Somewhat like me</th>
<th>Not much like me</th>
<th>Not at all like me</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I try to look at everybody’s side of a disagreement before I make a decision.</td>
<td>☐ 41</td>
<td>☐ 42</td>
<td>☐ 43</td>
<td>☐ 44</td>
<td>☐ 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I believe that there are two sides to every question and try to look at them both.</td>
<td>☐ 41</td>
<td>☐ 42</td>
<td>☐ 43</td>
<td>☐ 44</td>
<td>☐ 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I sometimes try to understand my friends better by imagining how things look from their perspective.</td>
<td>☐ 41</td>
<td>☐ 42</td>
<td>☐ 43</td>
<td>☐ 44</td>
<td>☐ 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before criticizing somebody, I try to imagine how I would feel if I were in their place.</td>
<td>☐ 41</td>
<td>☐ 42</td>
<td>☐ 43</td>
<td>☐ 44</td>
<td>☐ 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When I’m upset at someone, I try to take the perspective of that person for a while.</td>
<td>☐ 41</td>
<td>☐ 42</td>
<td>☐ 43</td>
<td>☐ 44</td>
<td>☐ 45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construct: Perspective-taking

How well does each of the following statements below describe you?

(Please select one response in each row.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Very much like me</th>
<th>Mostly like me</th>
<th>Somewhat like me</th>
<th>Not much like me</th>
<th>Not at all like me</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I can deal with unusual situations.</td>
<td>☐ 41</td>
<td>☐ 42</td>
<td>☐ 43</td>
<td>☐ 44</td>
<td>☐ 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can change my behaviour to meet the needs of new situations.</td>
<td>☐ 41</td>
<td>☐ 42</td>
<td>☐ 43</td>
<td>☐ 44</td>
<td>☐ 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can adapt to different situations even when under stress or pressure.</td>
<td>☐ 41</td>
<td>☐ 42</td>
<td>☐ 43</td>
<td>☐ 44</td>
<td>☐ 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can adapt easily to a new culture.</td>
<td>☐ 41</td>
<td>☐ 42</td>
<td>☐ 43</td>
<td>☐ 44</td>
<td>☐ 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When encountering difficult situations with other people, I can think of a way to resolve the situation.</td>
<td>☐ 41</td>
<td>☐ 42</td>
<td>☐ 43</td>
<td>☐ 44</td>
<td>☐ 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am capable of overcoming my difficulties in interacting with people from other cultures.</td>
<td>☐ 41</td>
<td>☐ 42</td>
<td>☐ 43</td>
<td>☐ 44</td>
<td>☐ 45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construct: Adaptability
Imagine you are talking in your native language to people whose native language is different from yours.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (Please select one response in each row.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I carefully observe their reactions.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I frequently check that we are understanding each other correctly.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I listen carefully to what they say.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I choose my words carefully.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I give concrete examples to explain my ideas.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I explain things very carefully.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If there is a problem with communication, I find ways around it (e.g. by using gestures, re-explaining, writing etc.).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construct: Awareness of intercultural communication

---

Are you involved in the following activities? (Please select one response in each row.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I reduce the energy I use at home (e.g. by turning the heating down or turning the air conditioning up or down or by turning off the lights when leaving a room) to protect the environment.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I choose certain products for ethical or environmental reasons, even if they are a bit more expensive.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I sign environmental or social petitions online.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I keep myself informed about world events via &lt;Twitter&gt; or &lt;Facebook&gt;.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I boycott products or companies for political, ethical or environmental reasons.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I participate in activities promoting equality between men and women.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I participate in activities in favour of environmental protection.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I regularly read websites on international social issues (e.g. poverty, human rights).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construct: Student’s engagement (with others) regarding global issues
How well does each of the following statements below describe you?
(Please select one response in each row.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Very much like me</th>
<th>Mostly like me</th>
<th>Somewhat like me</th>
<th>Not much like me</th>
<th>Not at all like me</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I want to learn how people live in different countries.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want to learn more about the religions of the world.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am interested in how people from various cultures see the world.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am interested in finding out about the traditions of other cultures.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construct: Interest in learning about other cultures

Do you have contact with people from other countries?
(Please select one response in each row.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In your family</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In your neighbourhood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In your circle of friends</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construct: Contact with people from other countries

How well does each of the following statements below describe you?
(Please select one response in each row.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Very much like me</th>
<th>Mostly like me</th>
<th>Somewhat like me</th>
<th>Not much like me</th>
<th>Not at all like me</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I respect people from other cultures as equal human beings.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I treat all people with respect regardless of their cultural background.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I give space to people from other cultures to express themselves.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I respect the values of people from different cultures.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I value the opinions of people from different cultures.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construct: Respect for people from other cultural backgrounds
To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

(Please select one response in each row.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I think of myself as a citizen of the world.</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When I see the poor conditions that some people in the world live under, I feel a responsibility to do something about it.</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think my behaviour can impact people in other countries.</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is right to boycott companies that are known to provide poor workplace conditions for their employees.</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can do something about the problems of the world.</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking after the global environment is important to me.</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construct: Global mindedness

People are increasingly moving from one country to another. How much do you agree with the following statements about immigrants?

(Please select one response in each row.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant children should have the same opportunities for education that other children in the country have.</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrants who live in a country for several years should have the opportunity to vote in elections.</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrants should have the opportunity to continue their own customs and lifestyle.</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrants should have all the same rights that everyone else in the country has.</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construct: Attitudes towards immigrants

How many languages, including the language(s) you speak at home, do you and your parents speak well enough to converse with others?

(Please select one response in each row.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One</th>
<th>Two</th>
<th>Three</th>
<th>Four or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your mother</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your father</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
<td>[ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construct: Number of languages spoken
**How many foreign languages do you learn at your school this school year?**

*(Please enter a number. Enter “0” (zero) if you do not have any foreign language courses this school year.)*

Number of foreign languages ____________ 01

Construct: Number of foreign languages learnt at school

**Do you learn the following at school?**

*(Please select one response in each row.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I learn about the interconnectedness of countries’ economies.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learn how to solve conflicts with other people in our classrooms.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learn about different cultures.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We read newspapers, look for news on the internet or watch the news together during classes.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am often invited by my teachers to give my personal opinion about international news.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I participate in events celebrating cultural diversity throughout the school year.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I participate in classroom discussions about world events as part of the regular instruction.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I analyse global issues together with my classmates in small groups during class.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learn that how people from different cultures can have different perspectives on some issues.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learn how to communicate with people from different backgrounds.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construct: Global competence activities at school

**Thinking about teachers in your school: to how many of them do the following statements apply?**

*(Please select one response in each row.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>To none or almost none of them</th>
<th>To some of them</th>
<th>To most of them</th>
<th>To all or almost all of them</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They have misconceptions about the history of some cultural groups.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They say negative things about people of some cultural groups.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They blame people of some cultural groups for problems faced by &lt;country of test&gt;.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They have lower academic expectations for students of some cultural groups.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construct: Intercultural attitudes of teachers