The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a triennial survey of 15-year-old students that assesses the extent to which they have acquired the key knowledge and skills essential for full participation in society. The assessment focuses on proficiency in reading, mathematics, science and an innovative domain (in 2018, the innovative domain was global competence), and on students’ well-being.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam in PISA 2018

Viet Nam participated in PISA 2018 using paper-based instruments.

By the time this report was published, the international comparability of Viet Nam’s performance in reading, mathematics and science could not be fully ensured. For this reason, the OECD does not report comparisons of Viet Nam’s performance in PISA with other countries.

This note includes only results based on the student and school questionnaire.


Where All Students Can Succeed

- School principals in Viet Nam reported a similar level of staff shortage and more material shortage than the OECD average; but there was no significant difference in staff shortages between advantaged and disadvantaged schools. In Viet Nam, 19% of students enrolled in a disadvantaged school and 18% of students enrolled in an advantaged school attend a school whose principal reported that the capacity of the school to provide instruction is hindered at least to some extent by a lack of teaching staff. On average across OECD countries, 34% of students in disadvantaged schools and 18% of students in advantaged schools attend such a school.

- According to school principals in Viet Nam, 92% of teachers in advantaged schools and 100% of teachers in disadvantaged schools are “fully certified”. The proportions of teachers with at least a master’s degree are larger in advantaged schools than in disadvantaged schools.
What School Life Means for Students’ Lives

How is the school climate in Viet Nam?

- In Viet Nam, 27% of students reported being bullied at least a few times a month, compared to 23% on average across OECD countries. At the same time, 85% of students in Viet Nam (and 88% of students on average across OECD countries) agreed or strongly agreed that it is a good thing to help students who cannot defend themselves.
- Some 13% of students in Viet Nam (OECD average: 26%) reported that, in every or most language-of-instruction lessons, their teacher has to wait a long time for students to quiet down.
- On average across OECD countries, 21% of students had skipped a day of school and 48% of students had arrived late for school in the two weeks prior to the PISA test. In Viet Nam, 6% of students had skipped a day of school and 45% of students had arrived late for school during that period. In most countries and economies, frequently bullied students were more likely to have skipped school, whereas students who valued school, enjoyed a better disciplinary climate and received greater emotional support from parents were less likely to have skipped school.

Figure 4. School climate

Notes: Only countries and economies with available data are shown. (1) In every or most language-of-instruction lessons; (2) Very or extremely true; (3) Agreed or strongly agreed.
Source: OECD, PISA 2018 Database, Tables III.B1.2.1, III.B1.3.1, III.B1.4.1, III.B1.8.1, III.B1.8.2 and III.B1.9.1

- Some 87% of students in Viet Nam (OECD average: 74%) agreed or strongly agreed that their teacher shows enjoyment in teaching. In most countries and economies, students scored higher in reading when they perceived their teacher as more enthusiastic, especially when students said their teachers are interested in the subject.
- In Viet Nam, 58% of students reported that their schoolmates co-operate with each other (OECD average: 62%) and 44% reported that they compete with each other (OECD average: 50%).
- Some 13% of students in Viet Nam (OECD average: 16%) agreed or strongly agreed that they feel lonely at school.
How do students in Viet Nam feel about their lives and learning?

- In Viet Nam, 73% of students (OECD average: 67%) reported that they are satisfied with their lives (students who reported between 7 and 10 on the 10-point life-satisfaction scale).
- Some 85% of students in Viet Nam reported sometimes or always feeling happy and about 13% of students reported always feeling sad. In most countries and economies, students were more likely to report positive feelings when they reported a stronger sense of belonging at school and greater student co-operation, and were more likely to express sadness when they were bullied more frequently.
- In Viet Nam, 79% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they can usually find a way out of difficult situations (OECD average: 84%), and 67% agreed or strongly agreed that, when they fail, they worry about what others think of them (OECD average: 56% of students). In almost every education system, including Viet Nam, girls expressed greater fear of failure than boys, and this gender gap was considerably wider amongst top-performing students.
- A majority of students across OECD countries holds a growth mindset (they disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement "Your intelligence is something about you that you can’t change very much"). In Viet Nam, 53% of students hold a growth mindset.

Figure 5. Student well-being and growth mindset

Notes: Only countries and economies with available data are shown. (1) Between 7 and 10 on the life-satisfaction scale; (2) Agreed or strongly agreed; (3) Disagreed or strongly disagreed.
Key features of PISA 2018

The content

- The PISA 2018 survey focused on reading, with mathematics, science and global competence as minor areas of assessment; Viet Nam did not participate in the assessment of global competence. PISA 2018 also included an assessment of young people’s financial literacy, which was optional for countries and economies. Results for reading, mathematics and science are released on 3 December 2019 and results for global competence and financial literacy in 2020.

The students

- Some 600 000 students completed the assessment in 2018, representing about 32 million 15-year-olds in the schools of the 79 participating countries and economies. In Viet Nam, 5 377 students, in 151 schools, completed the assessment, representing 926 260 15-year-old students (70% of the total population of 15-year-olds).

The assessment

- Computer-based tests were used in most countries, with assessments lasting a total of two hours. In reading, a multi-stage adaptive approach was applied in computer-based tests whereby students were assigned a block of test items based on their performance in preceding blocks.
- Test items were a mixture of multiple-choice questions and questions requiring students to construct their own responses. The items were organised into groups based on a passage of text describing a real-life situation. More than 15 hours of test items for reading, mathematics, science and global competence were covered, with different students taking different combinations of test items.
- Students also answered a background questionnaire, which took about 35 minutes to complete. The questionnaire sought information about the students themselves, their attitudes, dispositions and beliefs, their homes, and their school and learning experiences. School principals completed a questionnaire that covered school management and organisation, and the learning environment.
- Some countries/economies also distributed additional questionnaires to elicit more information. These included: in 19 countries/economies, a questionnaire for teachers asking about themselves and their teaching practices; and in 17 countries/economies, a questionnaire for parents asking them to provide information about their perceptions of and involvement in their child’s school and learning.
- Countries/economies could also chose to distribute three other optional questionnaires for students: 52 countries/economies distributed a questionnaire about students’ familiarity with computers; 32 countries/economies distributed a questionnaire about students’ expectations for further education; and 9 countries/economies distributed a questionnaire, developed for PISA 2018, about students’ well-being.

References

Viet Nam - Country Note - PISA 2018 Results

Map of PISA countries and economies

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For more information about PISA 2018 visit http://www.oecd.org/pisa/
Data can also be found online by following the StatLinks under the tables and charts in the publication.
Explore, compare and visualise more data and analysis using: http://gpseducation.oecd.org/.

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