

Background of PIRLS 2021

The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) is administered by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) every five years, aiming to assess the reading literacy (in the mother tongue) of students aged 9 to 10 in the fourth grade from participating countries or regions.

PIRLS 2021 provided information on Hong Kong P4 students' relative standard upon completion of Key Stage I as compared to their counterparts worldwide. Selected by random sampling, 3 830 students, 3 765 parents and 155 Chinese Language teachers and 144 principals of primary schools in Hong Kong participated in PIRLS 2021.

PIRLS 2021 was originally scheduled for data collection (i.e. testing and questionnaires) in 2021. In light of the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic, 37 participating countries and regions (including all four Asian members) were able to carry out the study according to the original schedule, with P4 students in 2021 taking the test in the second term, known as “wave 1”; 14 countries and regions had to delay it by six months, with P5 students in 2022 taking the test in the first term, known as “wave 2”; and 6 countries and regions delayed it by one year, with P4 students in 2022 taking the test in the second term, known as “wave 3”. As PIRLS is meant to assess P4 students' reading literacy, the IEA only reports the P4 students' achievement of 43 participating countries and regions from “wave 1” and “wave 3”.

Ranking of Grade 4 Students' Reading Achievement

PIRLS 2016			PIRLS 2021		
排名 Rank	國家 / 地區 Country / Region	平均分 Average Scores	排名 Rank	國家 / 地區 Country/ Region	平均分 Average Scores
1	Russian Federation 俄羅斯	581	1	Singapore 新加坡	587
2	Singapore 新加坡	576	2	Hong Kong SAR 中國香港	573
3	Hong Kong SAR 中國香港	569	3	Russian Federation 俄羅斯	567

PIRLS 2016			PIRLS 2021		
4	Ireland 愛爾蘭	567	4	England 英格蘭 [Note]	558
5	Finland 芬蘭	566	5	Finland 芬蘭	549
6	Poland 波蘭	565	5	Poland 波蘭	549
6	Northern Ireland 北愛爾蘭	565	7	Chinese Taipei 中華台北	544
8	Norway 挪威 (Grade 5)	559	7	Sweden 瑞典	544
8	Chinese Taipei 中華台北	559	9	Australia 澳洲 [Note]	540
8	England 英格 蘭	559	9	Bulgaria 保加利 亞	540
11	Latvia 拉脫維 亞	558	9	Czech Republic 捷克共和國	540
12	Sweden 瑞典	555	12	Denmark 丹麥	539
13	Hungary 匈牙 利	554	12	Norway 挪威 (Grade 5)	539
14	Bulgaria 保加 利亞	552	14	Italy 意大利	537
15	United States 美國	549	15	Macao SAR 中國澳門	536
16	Lithuania 立陶 宛	548	16	Austria 奧地利	530
16	Italy 意大利	548	17	Slovak Republic 斯洛伐克共和國	529
18	Denmark 丹麥	547	18	Netherlands 荷蘭	527
19	Macao SAR 中國澳門	546	19	Germany 德國	524
20	Netherlands 荷 蘭	545	20	New Zealand 新 西蘭	521
21	Australia 澳洲	544	20	Spain 西班牙	521
22	Czech Republic 捷克共和國	543	22	Portugal 葡萄牙	520
22	Canada 加拿大	543	22	Slovenia 斯洛文 尼亞	520

PIRLS 2016			PIRLS 2021		
24	Slovenia 斯洛文尼亞	542	24	Malta 馬耳他	515
25	Austria 奧地利	541	25	France 法國	514
26	Germany 德國	537	25	Serbia 塞爾維亞	514
27	Kazakhstan 哈薩克斯坦	536	27	Albania 阿爾巴尼亞	513
28	Slovak Republic 斯洛伐克共和國	535	28	Cyprus 塞浦路斯	511
29	Israel 以色列	530	28	Belgium (Flemish) 比利時 (佛蘭德語地區)	511
30	Portugal 葡萄牙	528	30	Israel 以色列 [Note]	510
30	Spain 西班牙	528		PIRLS 國際平均分	500
32	Belgium (Flemish) 比利時 (佛蘭德語地區)	525	31	Türkiye 土耳其	496
33	New Zealand 新西蘭	523	32	Belgium (French) 比利時 (法語地區)	494
34	France 法國	511	33	Montenegro 黑山	487
	PIRLS 國際平均分	500	34	North Macedonia 北馬其頓	442
35	Belgium (French) 比利時 (法語地區)	497	35	Azerbaijan 阿塞拜疆	440
36	Chile 智利	494	36	Uzbekistan 烏茲別克斯坦	437
37	Georgia 格魯吉亞	488	37	Oman 阿曼	429

PIRLS 2016			PIRLS 2021		
38	Trinidad and Tobago 特立尼達和多巴哥 (千里達)	479	38	Kosovo 科索沃	421
39	Azerbaijan 阿塞拜疆	472	39	Brazil 巴西 ^[Note]	419
40	Malta 馬耳他	452	40	Islamic Republic of Iran 伊朗 ^[Note]	413
41	United Arab Emirates 阿拉伯聯合酋長國	450	41	Jordan 約旦	381
42	Bahrain 巴林	446	42	Egypt 埃及	378
43	Qatar 卡塔爾	442	43	South Africa 南非 [Note]	288
44	Saudi Arabia 沙特阿拉伯	430			
45	Islamic Republic of Iran 伊朗	428			
46	Oman 阿曼	418			
47	Kuwait 科威特	393			
48	Morocco 摩洛哥	358			
49	Egypt 埃及	330			
50	South Africa 南非	320			

Note

Wave 3: The test was delayed for one year, and to test the current P4 students.

Analysis of Primary 4 Students' Reading Performance

	PIRLS 2016	PIRLS 2021
Overall mean score	569 (Ranked 3rd)	573 (Ranked 2nd)
Average score for informational reading	576 (Ranked 3rd)	582 (Ranked 2nd)
Average score for literary reading	562 (Ranked 8th)	564 (Ranked 3rd)