

TIMSS 2011 Item Release Plan

The design of TIMSS 2011 is based on groups or blocks of items assigned to test booklets. An item block is a group of items that is administered together as part of the test. As far as possible, within each block the distribution of items across content and cognitive domains matches the distribution across the item pool overall. TIMSS 2011 has a total of 28 blocks, 14 containing mathematics items and 14 containing science items. Student booklets were assembled from various combinations of these item blocks. Details about the TIMSS 2011 student booklet design are included in the *TIMSS 2011 Assessment Frameworks*.

TIMSS 2011 is the fifth assessment in a series of studies that take place every four years, providing data on trends in achievement dating as far back as 1995. Due to the evolving nature of the TIMSS design, portions of the assessment blocks are released and replaced with each new study. Therefore, TIMSS 2011 contains assessment blocks from 2003, 2007, and 2011. Six of the fourteen TIMSS 2011 assessment blocks in each subject will be released in February of 2013 and made widely available as part of the *TIMSS 2011 International Database*.

Item blocks are released to provide the public with as much information as possible about the nature and contents of the assessment. The exhibits on the following pages show the cycle for which each assessment block was developed and whether the block will be released to the public after the 2011 assessment. The released item blocks include three blocks containing items from 2003 and three blocks containing items from 2007 and 2011.

Fourth Grade TIMSS 2011 Assessment Blocks by Number of Score Points, Assessment Year, and Release Status

Blocks	Number of Score Points	First Year of Assessment	Release Status
Mathematics Blocks			
M01	10	2003	Released
M02	12	2011	Released
M03	16	2007	Released
M04	13	2011	Secured
M05	12	2003	Released
M06	16	2007	Released
M07	13	2003	Released
M08	13	2011	Secured
M09	15	2007	Secured
M10	12	2011	Secured
M11	14	2007	Secured
M12	12	2011	Secured
M13	15	2007	Secured
M14	12	2011	Secured
Mathematics Total	185		
Science Blocks			
S01	13	2003	Released
S02	12	2011	Released
S03	15	2007	Released
S04	12	2011	Secured
S05	11	2003	Released
S06	14	2007	Released
S07	12	2003	Released
S08	12	2011	Secured
S09	16	2007	Secured
S10	13	2011	Secured
S11	15	2007	Secured
S12	12	2011	Secured
S13	15	2007	Secured
S14	12	2011	Secured
Science Total	184		
Overall Total	369		

Eighth Grade TIMSS 2011 Assessment Blocks by Number of Score Points, Assessment Year, and Release Status

Blocks	Number of Score Points	First Year of Assessment	Release Status
Mathematics Blocks			
M01	15	2003	Released
M02	16	2011	Released
M03	19	2007	Released
M04	15	2011	Secured
M05	15	2003	Released
M06	17	2007	Released
M07	16	2003	Released
M08	15	2011	Secured
M09	18	2007	Secured
M10	17	2011	Secured
M11	17	2007	Secured
M12	16	2011	Secured
M13	20	2007	Secured
M14	16	2011	Secured
Mathematics Total	232		
Science Blocks			
S01	16	2003	Released
S02	16	2011	Released
S03	19	2007	Released
S04	16	2011	Secured
S05	15	2003	Released
S06	20	2007	Released
S07	15	2003	Released
S08	15	2011	Secured
S09	17	2007	Secured
S10	18	2011	Secured
S11	18	2007	Secured
S12	16	2011	Secured
S13	17	2007	Secured
S14	16	2011	Secured
Science Total	234		
Overall Total	466		