

	Results
1.	English children 'are most tested in the world' The Times (London), February 8, 2008, Friday, HOME NEWS; Pg. 31, 366 words, Nicola Woolcock

[Return to List](#)

1 of 1 DOCUMENT

The Times (London)

February 8, 2008, Friday

English children 'are most tested in the world'

BYLINE: Nicola Woolcock

SECTION: HOME NEWS; Pg. 31

LENGTH: 366 words

English children are tested longer, harder and younger than anywhere else in the world, according to an influential report that compares school standards in 22 countries.

Primary schools in England are obsessed with tests and put pupils through "pervasive" assessment, according to researchers from the Cambridge University-led Primary Review.

Before they even start secondary education, children face two sets of Sats (the national tests from which results are taken to compile league tables) - once at 7 and again at 11.

The Government has already ordered its own evaluation of primary education after being bombarded with criticism from teachers, parents and academics who claim pupils are subjected to excessive testing.

The Primary Review, the biggest of its kind in decades, echoed this censure. It found that "no other country appears so preoccupied with national standards" and said that the English system placed exceptional emphasis on external tests.

The researchers draw attention to the Sats tests, saying: "England is unusual in its high incidence of assessment and is exceptional in its emphasis on statutory external standard assessment for children at ages 7 and 11. It deviates from other countries in the frequency of its explicit references to raising standards."

Other countries used representative samples of the pupil population to monitor standards. England used national tests more frequently, at a younger age and across more subjects, and placed greater significance on league tables, the researchers found.

"England leads the emphasis on published league tables, thus holding schools to account in a very public way," they said. "The high-stakes nature of the assessments designed to make the system accountable may compromise its potential benefits."

National standard tests include:

Assessment within seven weeks of starting school

Key Stage 1 at end of Year 2

Optional tests at end of Years 3, 4 and 5 KS2 at end of Year 6; extension tests for brighter pupils. Optional tests at end of Years 7 and 8. KS3 tests in Year 9; extension tests for brighter pupils

GCSEs in Year 11 (normally 8 subjects) A/S levels in Year 12

A levels in Year 13

Source: Professional Association of Teachers

LOAD-DATE: February 8, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

Copyright 2008 Times Newspapers Limited
All Rights Reserved