Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

Sample Reading Item Marking Keys

Following are the marking keys used by PISA markers for the sample items appearing in the document *Programme for International Student Assessment—Sample Items*

General principles for coding (assigning scores) to student responses are summarized below.

- Spelling and grammar mistakes should be ignored unless they seriously obscure meaning. This is not a test of written expression.

- Responses are graded based on the degree to which students demonstrate an understanding of the text or topic in question.

- Code 0 is used for responses where there is any evidence that the student has made an unsuccessful attempt to answer the question.

- Code 9 is used for those cases where a student has apparently not attempted a question.

- The other codes used denote "full credit," "partial credit," and "no credit" instead of "correct" and "incorrect" responses. This is because some questions do not have "correct" answers. Responses are graded based on the degree to which students demonstrate an understanding of the text or topic in question. "Full credit" responses do not necessarily include only fully correct or perfect responses.

Each marking key includes the "question intent" which is the skill or knowledge being assessed by the question.

Marking Key—Sample PISA ITEM 1, QUESTION 1*

QUESTION INTENT: Retrieving information: cycling through text to find explicitly stated information

Full credit

Code 1: Immunisations will be given during working hours.

No credit

Code 0: Other responses.

Code 9: Missing.

Marking Key—Sample PISA ITEM 1, QUESTION 2*

QUESTION INTENT: Reflecting on the form of a text: identifying features relating the style and purpose of a text

Full credit

Code 2: <u>Refers accurately to the text</u> and <u>relates style to purpose</u>, consistent with "friendly and encouraging." The answer must do AT LEAST ONE of the following:

(1) <u>refer to one of the features in detail</u> (layout, style of writing, pictures or other graphics)—that is, to a specific part or quality of a feature

(2) <u>use evaluative terms other than "friendly" and "encouraging"</u> (Note that such terms as "interesting," "easy to read," and "clear" are not considered to be adequately specific.)

Opinion about whether Fiona succeeded may be stated or implied.

- No, it was a bad idea to put a picture of a syringe near the beginning. That looks scary. [*Refers to one specific part of the design: a particular picture (1). Uses own evaluative term: "scary" (2).*]
- Yes, the pictures break up the writing and make it easy to read. [*Describes a specific aspect of layout (1).*]
- The cartoon-like picture of the virus is friendly. [*Refers to a specific aspect ("cartoon-like") of one illustration (1).*]
- No, the pictures are childish and irrelevant. [*Uses own terms ("childish," "irrelevant") to evaluate one of the features mentioned in the stem (2).*]
- Yes, the written style is relaxed and informal. [*Uses own terms ("relaxed," "informal") to evaluate one of the features mentioned in the stem (2).*]
- Yes, the style was warm and inviting. [*Uses own terms to evaluate style (2).*]
- There is too much writing. People wouldn't bother reading it. [*Refers to a relevant feature of the presentation: amount of text (1). Uses own evaluative terms (2).*]
- She doesn't put pressure on people to get the injection, and that would encourage people. [*Implicit reference to manner or register: an aspect of style (2).*]
- No, the writing style is very formal. [*Debatable but plausible application of own evaluative term: "formal" (2).*]

PISA—Sample Item Marking Keys

Partial credit

Code 1: <u>Refers accurately to the text</u> and <u>relates purpose to information and content</u> (rather than style), consistent with "friendly and encouraging." Opinion about whether Fiona succeeded may be stated or implied.

- No, there is no way that a message about having an injection could be friendly and encouraging.
- Yes, she succeeded. She's giving many opportunities and arranging times for a flu immunisation. She also gave suggestions about health.

No credit

Code 0: Gives <u>insufficient or vague</u> answer.

- Yes, it makes it sound as if it would be a good idea.
- Yes, it is friendly and encouraging. [Terms not applied to specific features.]
- No, it doesn't work.
- No, because some of the information is not correct. [Refers to content without making any connection to the idea of "friendly and encouraging."]
- Yes, the illustrations are encouraging and the style of the announcement is also acceptable. ["Illustrations are encouraging" does not go beyond the terms of the question. "The style of the announcement is also acceptable" is too vague.]
- She succeeded, easy to read, and clear. [The terms used are not specific enough.]
- I think that she has succeeded well. She has selected pictures and written interesting text. [Pictures are not evaluated in any way, and "interesting text" is too vague.]

OR: Shows <u>inaccurate comprehension</u> of the material, or gives an <u>implausible or irrelevant</u> answer.

- Yes, everyone should have the injection. [Irrelevant and inaccurate.]
- No, the pictures have nothing to do with the message. [Inaccurate]
- Yes, because she wants people to be worried about getting the flu. [Conflicts with the idea of "friendly and encouraging."]
- It's good but it's only one opinion. [Irrelevant]
- Yes, it gave brief information on what they will do to stop flu. [Irrelevant—refers to content in a non-specific way.]
- Yes, she just tells the facts. [Irrelevant]
- Yes, because more people should be immunised. [Gives a general opinion on the subject of immunisation, does not refer to the style or to details of content.]
- Yes, I do because no-one wants to be sick. Everyone wants good health. [Irrelevant]

Code 9: Missing.

Marking Key—Sample PISA ITEM 1, QUESTION 3*

QUESTION INTENT: Developing an interpretation: integrating several parts of the text

Full credit

Code 1: A good idea, but not a substitute for exercise and a healthy diet.

No credit

Code 0: Other responses.

Code 9: Missing.

Marking Key—Sample PISA ITEM 1, QUESTION 4*

QUESTION INTENT: Reflecting on the content of a text: evaluating appropriateness of a section of the text in relation to its overall meaning and purpose

Full credit

Code 2: <u>Evaluates</u> the section of text <u>in relation to the term "misleading"</u> by indicating that there is a potential <u>contradiction</u>. ("Who should be immunised? Anyone…" vs. "Who should not be immunised?"). May or may not explain what the contradiction is. Agreement or disagreement may be stated or implied.

- Yes, because it would be dangerous for some people to have the immunisation (e.g., pregnant women). [*Describes contradiction.*]
- No, because you only have to read another couple of lines to realise that some people shouldn't have the injection, and on the whole she wants people to have it.
- Yes, because she says "anyone" can and later she states the people who should not be immunised. [*Contradiction identified.*]
- This line suggests that all people should get the vaccine, which is untrue*. [Contradiction briefly indicated.*]
- Yes, to some extent! Maybe: "Anyone interested in being protected against the virus, but who doesn't suffer from any of the following symptoms or diseases." [*Suggested rewording implies recognition of the contradiction.*]

OR: <u>Evaluates</u> the section of text <u>in relation to the term "misleading"</u> by indicating that the statement may be an <u>exaggeration</u>. (*i.e.,* Not everyone needs the immunisation, or the immunisation does not offer complete protection). May or may not explain what the exaggeration is. Agreement or disagreement may be stated or implied.

- Leave out because having the immunisation is not a guarantee that you won't get the flu.
- I don't agree, even though it makes it sound as if you will definitely get the flu if you don't have the injection.
- Having the injection is not a complete protection.
- Leave out because not everyone gets the flu, especially if you are fit and well.
- Yes, I agree because it makes the shot sound better than it is. [*Implies an exaggeration, though unspecified.*]

Partial credit

Code 1: <u>Evaluates the section of text, but not in relation to the term "misleading."</u>

    (1)   Indicates that the statement is <u>strong, effective, and/or encouraging</u> without mentioning potential contradiction or misleading element.

    (2)   Indicates that the statement "Anyone interested in being protected against the virus" is <u>redundant</u> because it is stating the obvious.

- It was good to put it in, because it would encourage people [*1*].
- It should be there because it makes the message stand out [*1*].
- I think that these words should have been left out because it goes without saying that everyone wants to be protected against the virus, even if this is not accomplished through immunisation [*2*].

No credit

Code 0: Gives <u>insufficient or vague</u> answer, or restates "misleading" without explanation.

- Leave it in, it's good. [No explanation.]
- They should have put another picture there instead of the heading. [No explanation.]
- Yes, this sentence is misleading and it could cause problems. [No explanation.]

OR: Shows <u>inaccurate comprehension</u> of the material or gives an <u>implausible or irrelevant answer</u>.

- It should have been left out because everyone has the right to decide for themselves. [Misunderstanding of register of the text: it is not an order.]
- I think the word FLU should have been put in between THE and VIRUS, because people just taking a glance at it might think that they are talking about another virus and not the flu. [Implausible explanation for "misleading."]
- Yes, people may be interested but may have a fear of needles. [Irrelevant]

Code 9: Missing.

Marking Key—Sample PISA ITEM 1, QUESTION 5*

QUESTION INTENT: Reflecting on the content of a text: applying a set of criteria given in a text to other cases

Full credit

Code 1: Michael from accounts who would like to be immunised but will be on leave the week of November 17.

No credit

Code 0: Other responses.

Code 9: Missing.

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Marking Key—Sample PISA ITEM 2, QUESTION 1*

QUESTION INTENT: Retrieving information: using information from another source to fill out a form

Code 9: Missing. Use this code only if there is no attempt on any part of the warranty card.

Full credit

Code 1: Correctly identifies model.
- Rolly Fotonex 250 zoom.
- Rolly Fotonex.
- Fotonex.

No credit

Code 0: Other responses.
- 150214 [*Product number rather than camera name and model.*]
- Rolly fotonex 250 Zoom Tripod. [*Includes redundant and potentially confusing information. Shows poor understanding of the organisation and substance of the receipt.*]

Code 8: Off task.

[A similar approach is used to code the other information students fill in on the form.]

Marking Key—Sample PISA ITEM 2, QUESTION 2*

QUESTION INTENT: Retrieving information: literal match

Full credit

Code 1: Indicates 10 days.
- ten days
- within 10 days of purchase

No credit

Code 0: Other responses.

Code 8: Off task.

Code 9: Missing.

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*Marking Key—Sample PISA ITEM 2, QUESTION 3**

QUESTION INTENT: Retrieving information

Full credit

Code 1: A tripod.

No credit

Code 0: Other responses.

Code 8: Off task.

Code 9: Missing.

*Marking Key—Sample PISA ITEM 2, QUESTION 4**

QUESTION INTENT: Reflecting on the form of a text

Full credit

Code 1: Refers either explicitly or implicitly to development of the <u>business–customer relationship</u>.
- It's good for business to be nice to you.
- To create a good relationship with the customer.
- They want you to come back.

No credit

Code 0: Other responses.
- They're being polite.
- They're glad you bought the camera from them.
- They want you to feel special.
- To let the customers know they are appreciated.

Code 8: Off task.

Code 9: Missing.