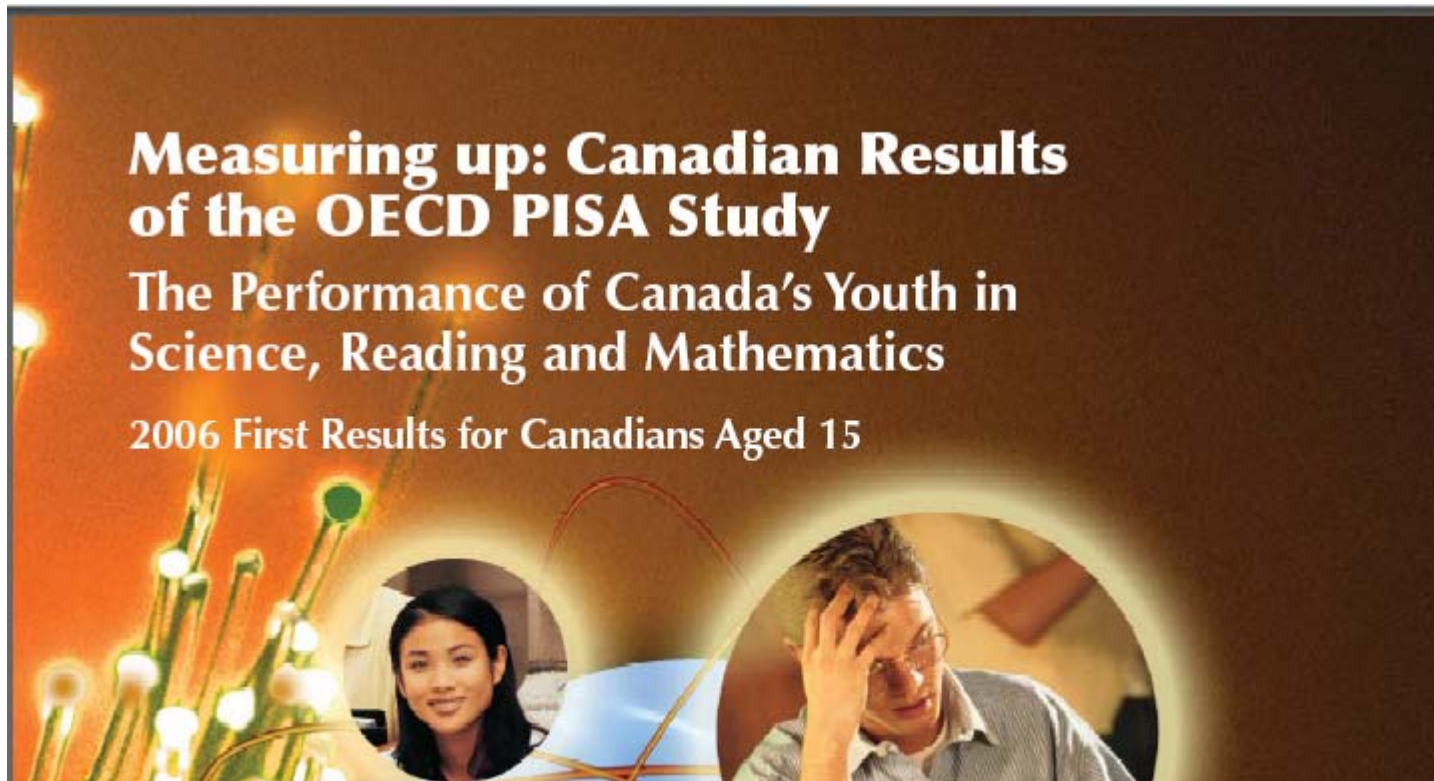


Interpretation of Manitoba's Results from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) – 2006 Science Study

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Reports Referenced



www.cmec.ca/pisa/2006/indexe.stm

PISA 2006

SCIENCE COMPETENCIES
FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD
VOLUME 1: ANALYSIS

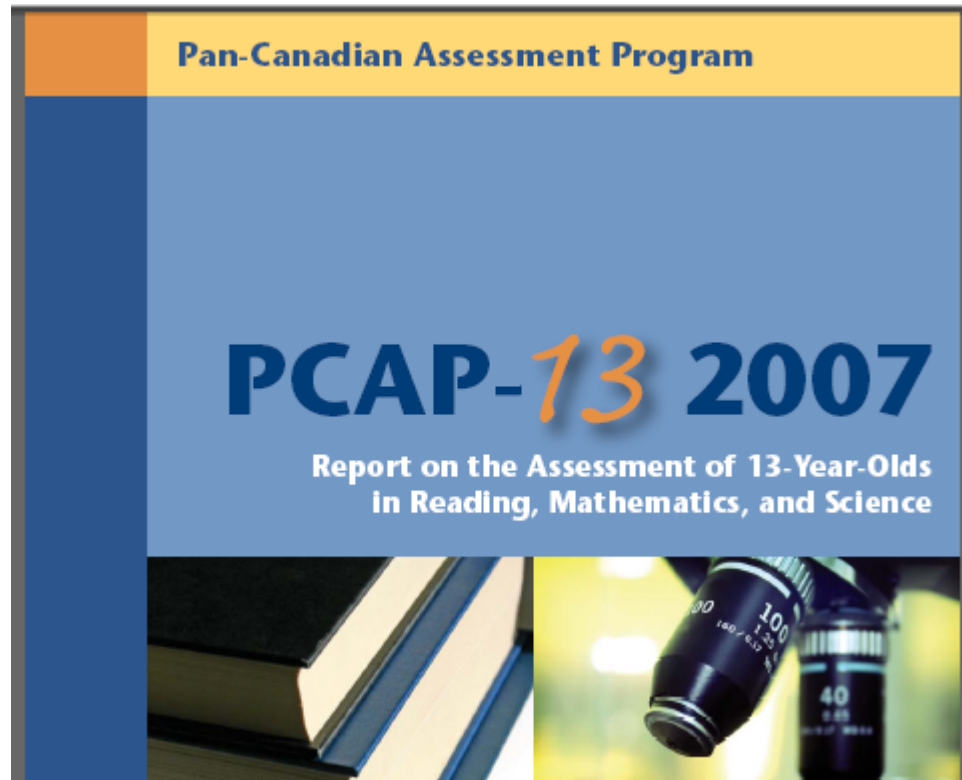


And VOLUME 2: DATA

www.oecd.org/document/2/0,3343,en_32252351_32236191_39718850_1_1_1_1,00.html



www.cmec.ca/pcap/science3/public/indexe.stm



www.cmec.ca/pcap/2007/report.en.stm

WHAT IS PISA?

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) assessment of 15-year-olds' literacy in reading, mathematics and science administered every three years
- provides policy-oriented international indicators of the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students and sheds light on a range of factors that contribute to successful students, schools and education systems.
- focuses on use of knowledge and skills to meet real life challenges - efficient learning in adulthood and full participation in society.

SCIENTIFIC LITERACY

(main domain in 2006)

- use of science knowledge to identify questions, to acquire new knowledge, to explain scientific phenomena, and to draw evidence-based conclusions about science-related issues
- understanding of the characteristic features of science as a form of human knowledge and how it shapes our material, intellectual, and cultural environments
- willingness to engage in science-related issues, and with the ideas of science, as a reflective citizen.

LEVEL 2

At Level 2, students have adequate scientific knowledge to provide possible explanations in familiar contexts or draw conclusions based on simple investigations. They are capable of direct reasoning and making literal interpretations of the results of scientific inquiry or technological problem solving.

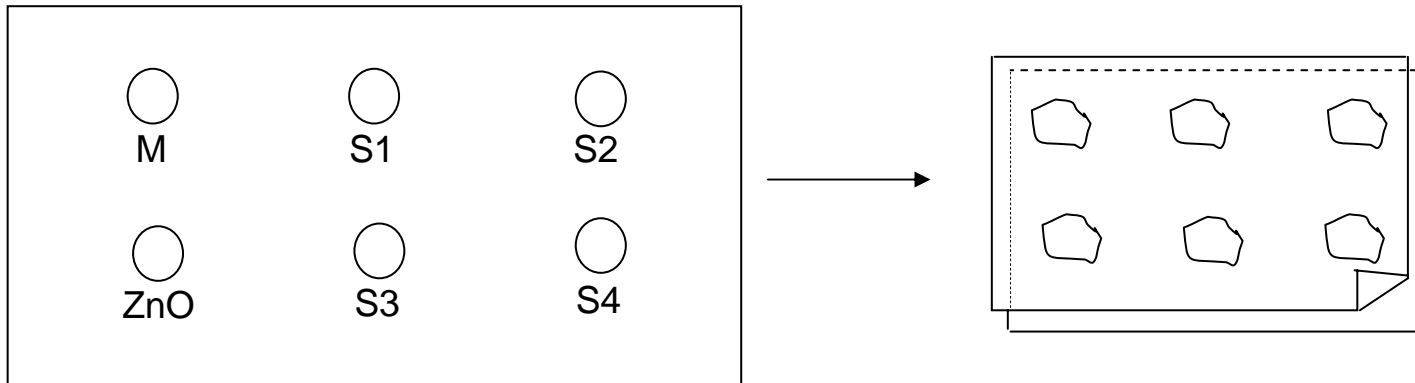
Sample item - SUNSCREENS

Mimi and Dean wondered which sunscreen product provides the best protection for their skin. Sunscreen products have a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) that shows how well each product absorbs the ultraviolet radiation component of sunlight. A high SPF sunscreen protects skin for longer than a low SPF sunscreen.

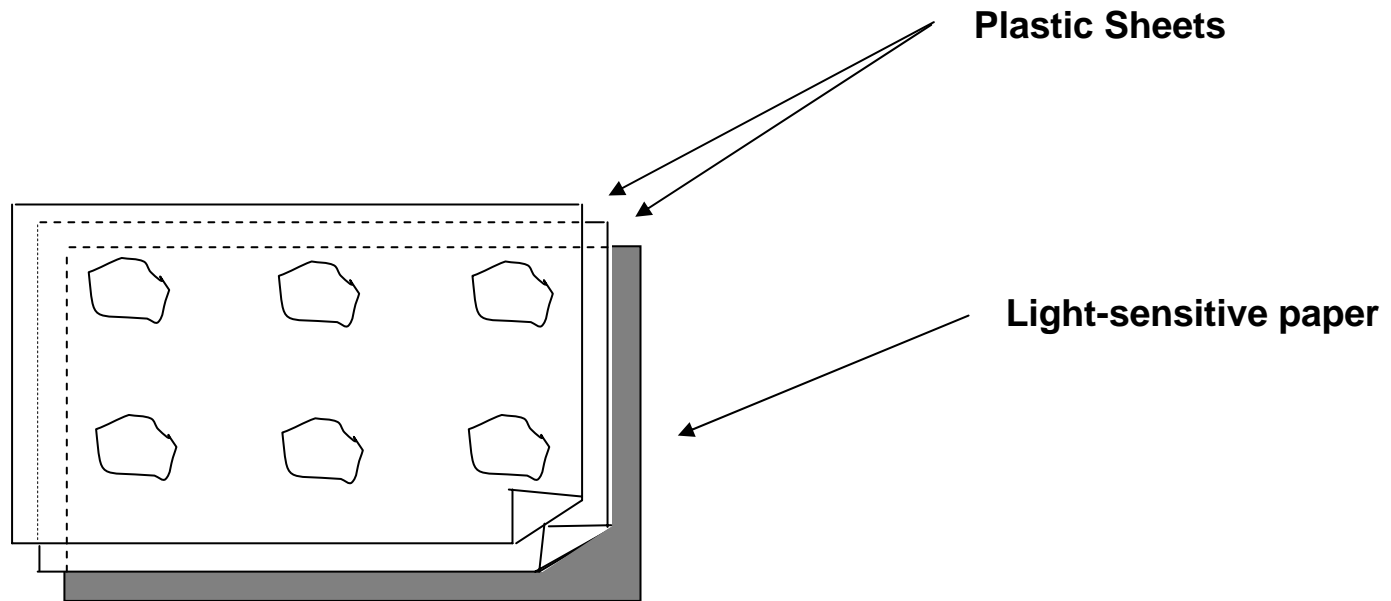
Mimi thought of a way to compare some different sunscreen products. She and Dean collected the following:

- Two sheets of clear plastic that do not absorb sunlight;
- One sheet of light-sensitive paper;
- Mineral oil (M) and a cream containing zinc oxide (ZnO); and
- Four different sunscreens that they called S1, S2, S3 and S4.

Dean placed a drop of each substance inside a circle marked on one sheet of plastic, then put the second plastic sheet over the top. He placed a large book on top of both sheets and pressed down.



Mimi then put the plastic sheets on top of the sheet of light-sensitive paper. Light-sensitive paper changes from dark grey to white (or very light grey), depending on how long it is exposed to sunlight. Finally, Dean placed the sheets in a sunny place.



SUNSCREENS – Question 2

Question Type: Multiple Choice

Competency: Identifying scientific issues

Knowledge Category: “Scientific enquiry” (knowledge about science)

Application area: “Health”

Setting: Personal

Difficulty: 588 ●

Percentage of correct answers: 40.5%

707.9	Level 6
633.3	Level 5
558.7	Level 4
484.1	Level 3
409.5	Level 2
334.9	Level 1
	Below Level 1

Which one of these statements is a scientific description of the role of the mineral oil and the zinc oxide in comparing the effectiveness of the sunscreens?

- A. Mineral oil and zinc oxide are both factors being tested.
- B. Mineral oil is a factor being tested and zinc oxide is a reference substance.
- C. Mineral oil is a reference substance and zinc oxide is a factor being tested.
- D. Mineral oil and zinc oxide are both reference substances.

Scoring:

Full Credit: D. Mineral oil and zinc oxide are both reference substances.

SUNSCREENS – Question 3

Question Type: Multiple Choice

Competency: Identifying scientific issues

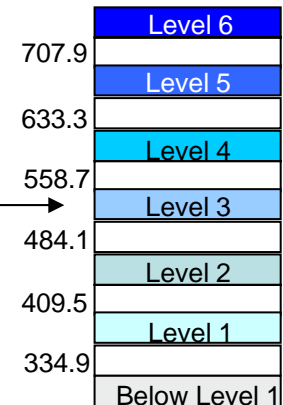
Knowledge Category: “Scientific enquiry” (knowledge about science)

Application area: “Health”

Setting: Personal

Difficulty: 499 ●

Percentage of correct answers (OCED countries): 58.3%



Which one of these questions were Mimi and Dean trying to answer?

- A. How does the protection for each sunscreen compare with the others?
- B. How do sunscreens protect your skin from ultraviolet radiation?
- C. Is there any sunscreen that gives less protection than mineral oil?
- D. Is there any sunscreen that gives more protection than zinc oxide?

Scoring:

Full Credit: A. How does the protection for each sunscreen compare with others?

SUNSCREENS – Question 4

Question Type: Multiple Choice

Competency: Identifying scientific issues

Knowledge Category: “Scientific enquiry” (knowledge about science)

Application area: “Health”

Setting: Personal

Difficulty: 574 ●

Percentage of correct answers (OCED countries): 43.0%

707.9	Level 6
	Level 5
633.3	
558.7	Level 4
	Level 3
484.1	
	Level 2
409.5	
	Level 1
334.9	
	Below Level 1

Why was the second sheet of plastic pressed down?

- A. To stop the drops from drying out.
- B. To spread the drops out as far as possible.
- C. To keep the drops inside the marked circles.
- D. To make the drops the same thickness.

Scoring:

Full Credit: D. To make the drops the same thickness.

SUNSCREENS – Question 5

Question Type: Multiple Choice

Competency: Identifying scientific issues

Knowledge Category: “Scientific enquiry” (knowledge about science)

Application area: “Health”

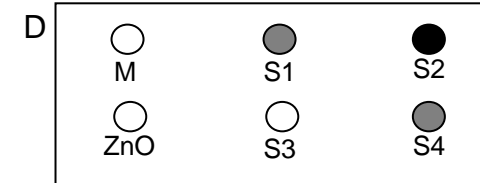
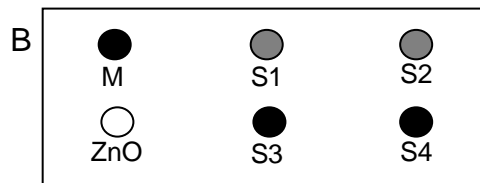
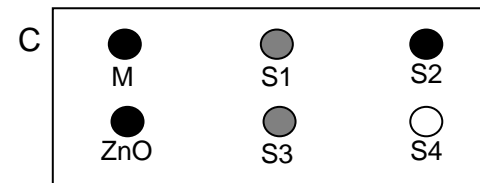
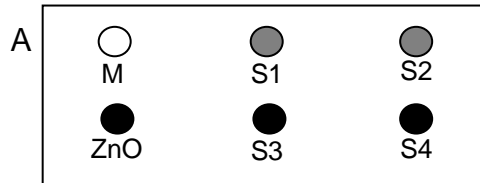
Setting: Personal

Difficulty: Full Credit 629, Partial Credit 616 ●

Percentage of correct answers (OECD countries): 27.1%

707.9	Level 6
	Level 5
633.3	
558.7	Level 4
	Level 3
484.1	
	Level 2
409.5	
	Level 1
334.9	
	Below Level 1

The light-sensitive paper is dark grey and fades to a lighter grey when it is exposed to some sunlight, and to white when exposed to a lot of sunlight. Which one of these diagrams shows a pattern that might occur? Explain why you chose it.



SUNSCREENS – Question 5 con't

Scoring:

Full Credit: A. With explanation that the ZnO spot has stayed dark grey (because it blocks sunlight) and the M spot has gone white (because mineral oil absorbs very little sunlight).

[It is not necessary (though it is sufficient) to include the further explanations that are shown in parentheses.]

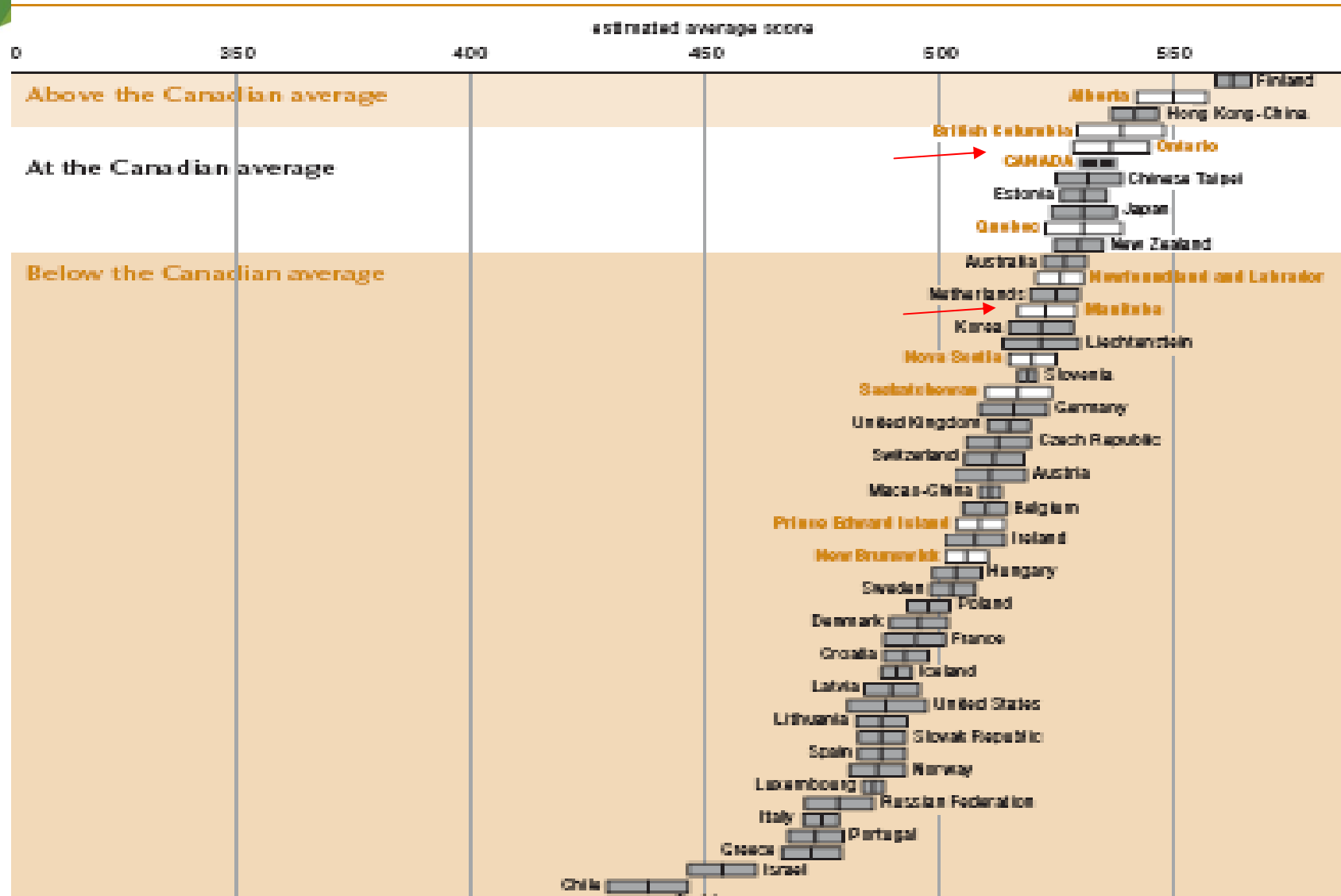
A. ZnO has blocked the sunlight as it should and M has let it through.

I chose A because the mineral oil needs to be the lightest shade while the zinc oxide is the darkest.

Partial Credit: A. Gives a correct explanation for either the ZnO spot or the M spot, but not both.

- Mineral oil provides the lowest resistance against UVL. So with other substances the paper would not be white.
- A. Zinc oxide absorbs practically all rays and the diagram shows this.
A because ZnO blocks the light and M absorbs it.

Average scores and confidence intervals for provinces and countries: Combined science

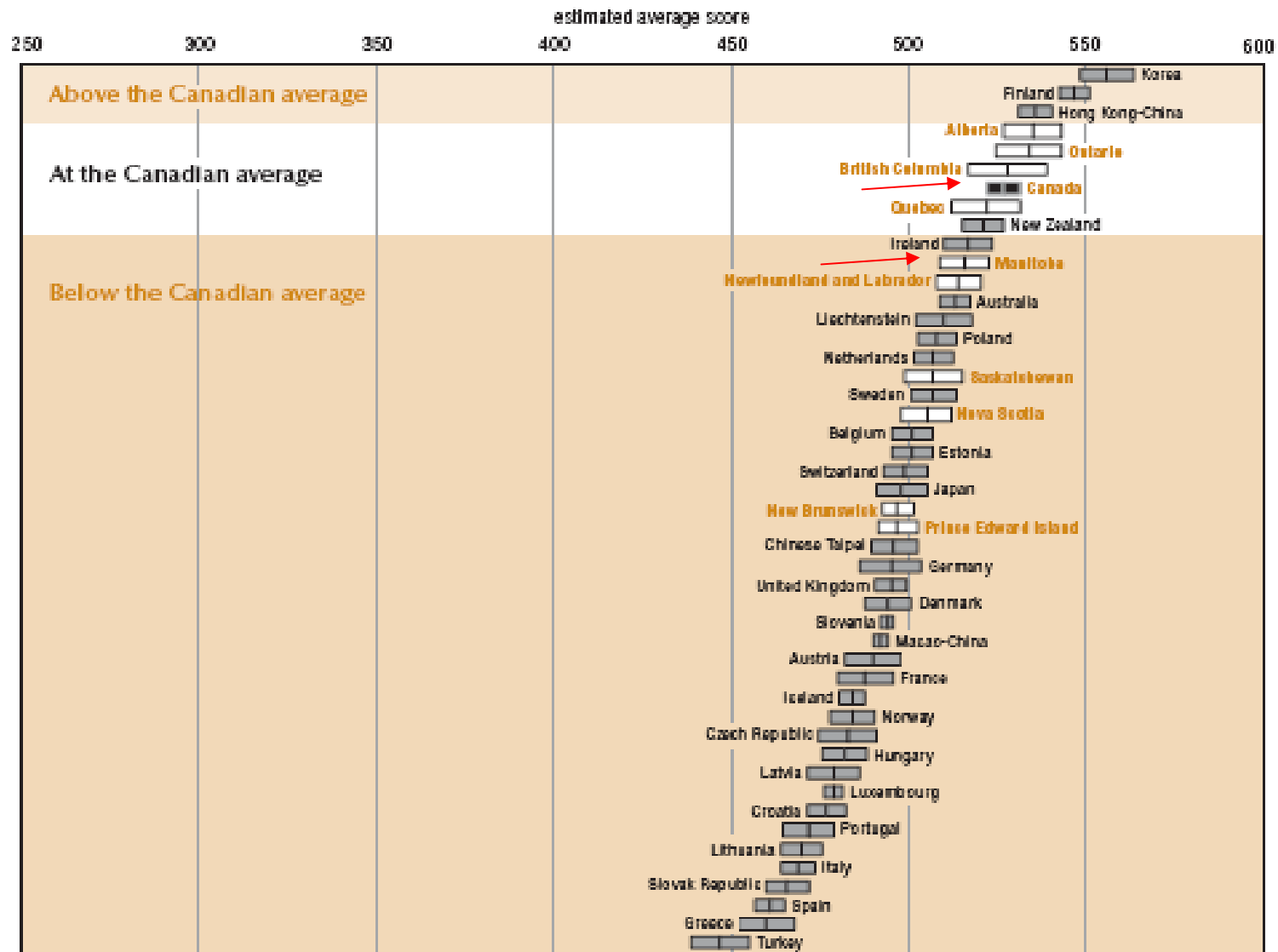


Percentage of students at each level of proficiency on the combined science scale

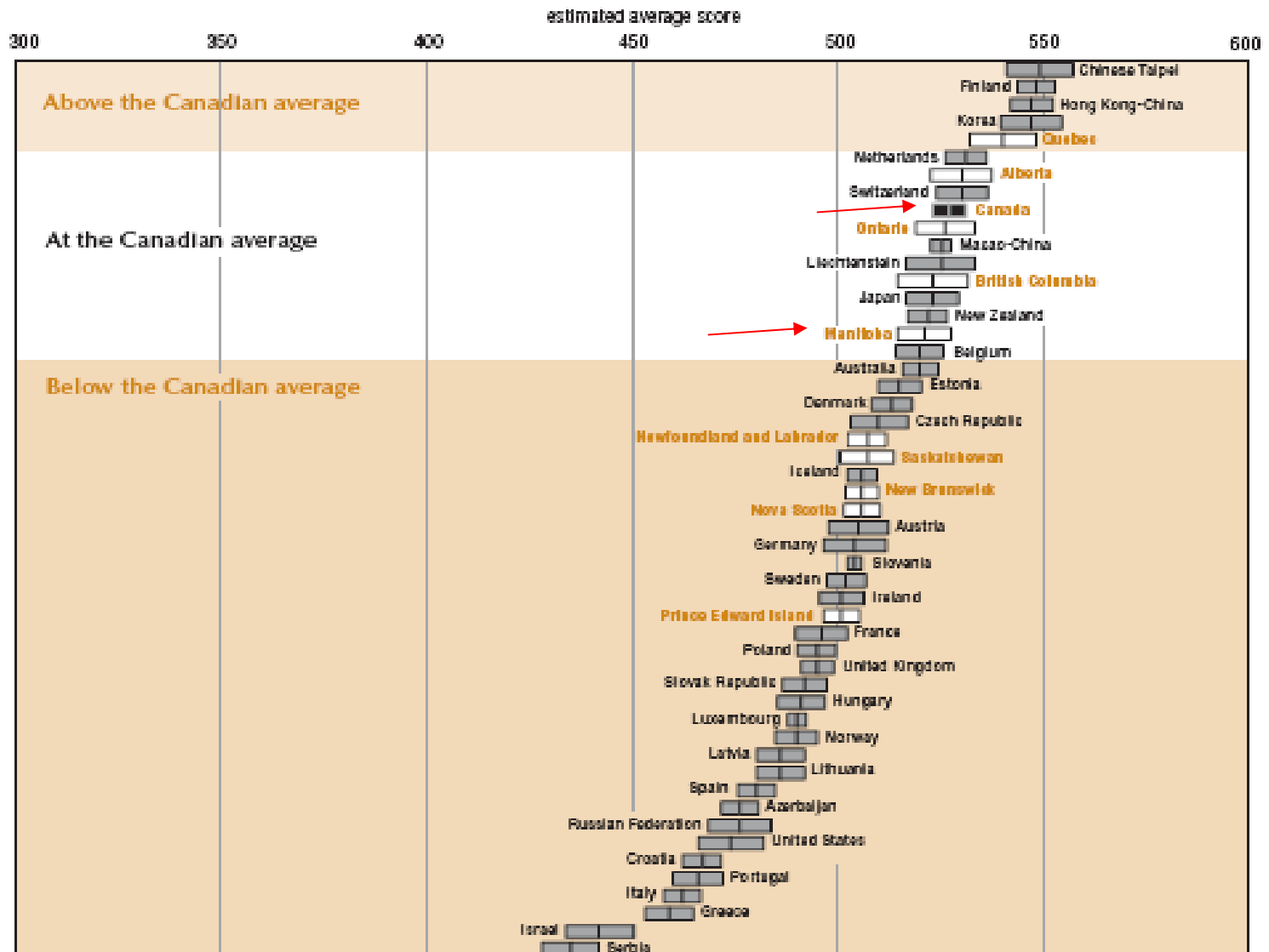




Average scores and confidence intervals for provinces and countries: Reading



Average scores and confidence intervals for provinces and countries: Mathematics



Appendix A / PISA sampling procedures and response rates

Table A.1

PISA 2006 school and student response rates

Provinces	Total number of selected schools (participating and not participating)	School response rate before replacement		School response rate after replacement		Total number of students sampled (participating and not participating)		Total number of students participating		Weighted student participation rate after replacement (percent)
		number	weighted percentage ¹	number	weighted percentage ¹	un-weighted	weighted	un-weighted	weighted	
Newfoundland and Labrador	75	74	99.8	75	100	1,960	6,167	1,741	5,481	88.9
Prince Edward Island	26	26	100	26	100	1,863	1,863	1,573	1,573	84.4
Nova Scotia	87	86	100	86	100	2,441	10,097	2,114	8,682	86.0
New Brunswick	68	67	100	67	100	2,671	8,331	2,443	7,641	91.7
Québec	187	159	82.9	159	83.2	4,942	72,201	3,695	53,243	73.7
Ontario	151	112	72.2	120	78.5	3,573	130,409	2,928	105,095	80.6
Manitoba	92	84	93.9	84	94.2	2,285	12,358	1,990	10,695	86.5
Saskatchewan	87	83	95.3	83	95.7	2,046	11,788	1,851	10,715	90.9
Alberta	90	86	96.0	87	97.6	2,349	37,460	1,984	31,676	84.6
British Columbia	78	73	94.6	73	94.9	2,198	46,911	1,884	40,238	85.8
Canada	941	850	83.2	860	86.2	26,328	337,585	22,203	275,038	81.5

1. School response rates were weighted based on 15-year-old enrolment.

Science Achievement Results

Results for Canada in Science – PISA 2006

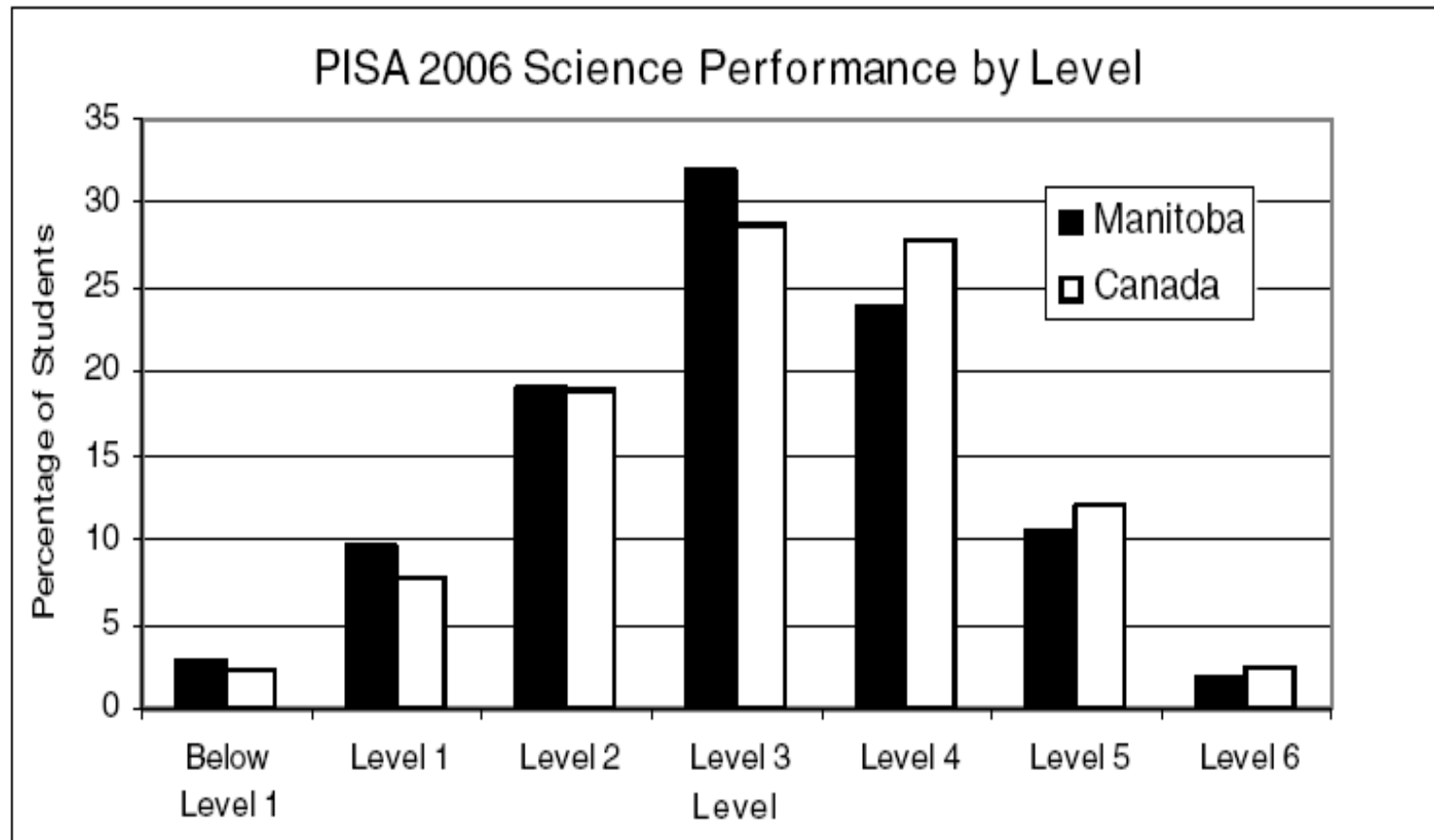
Domain (Canadian mean score)	Rank of Can.	Countries significantly (statistically) outperforming Canada	Countries tied with Canada (accounting for statistical significance)
Science overall (534)	3	2 (Finland – 563, Hong-Kong China*)	4 (Chinese Taipei*, Estonia*, Japan, New Zealand)
Identifying scientific issues (532)	5	1 (Finland – 555)	4 (New Zealand, Australia, Netherlands, Hong-Kong China*)
Explaining phenomena scientifically (531)	5	4 (Finland – 566, Hong-Kong China* – 549, Chinese Taipei* – 545, Estonia* – 541)	2 (Czech Republic, Japan)
Using scientific evidence (542)	3	1 (Finland 567)	5 (Japan, Hong-Kong China*, Korea, New Zealand, Liechtenstein)

* Non-OECD PISA 'partner countries'

Results for Manitoba in Science – PISA 2006

Domain (Manitoba mean score)	Rank of MB in Canada	Provinces significantly (statistically) outperforming MB	Provinces tied with Manitoba (accounting for margins of error)
Science overall (523)	6	3 (AB – 550, BC – 539, ON – 537)	3 (NL, NS, SK)
Identifying scientific issues (519)	6	4 (AB – 546, BC – 536, ON – 533, QC – 531)	3 (NL, NS, SK)
Explaining phenomena scientifically (522)	5	3 (AB – 553, BC – 538, ON – 533)	4 (QC, NS, NL, SK)
Using scientific evidence (530)	6	4 (AB – 552, ON – 546, C – 542, BC – 541)	1 (NL)

Results for Manitoba and Canada in Science by Level – PISA 2006



PISA Science results – historical

	2000 (31 countries)			2003 (41 countries)			2006 (57 countries)			Score Summary 2000 – 2006	
	Score	List Rank*	# Prov. above**	Score	List Rank	# Prov. above	Score	List Rank	# Prov. above	Average Change	Total Change
Canada	529	5		519	11		534	3		2.5	5
Manitoba	527	4	2	512	6	2	523	6	3	-2	-4
Manitoba-Eng	527			513			524			-1.5	-3
Manitoba-Fre***	500	2/5	1/5	490	2/5	1/5	495	3/5	1/5	-2.5	-5
OECD****	500			500			500			0	0

* Out of 10 provinces

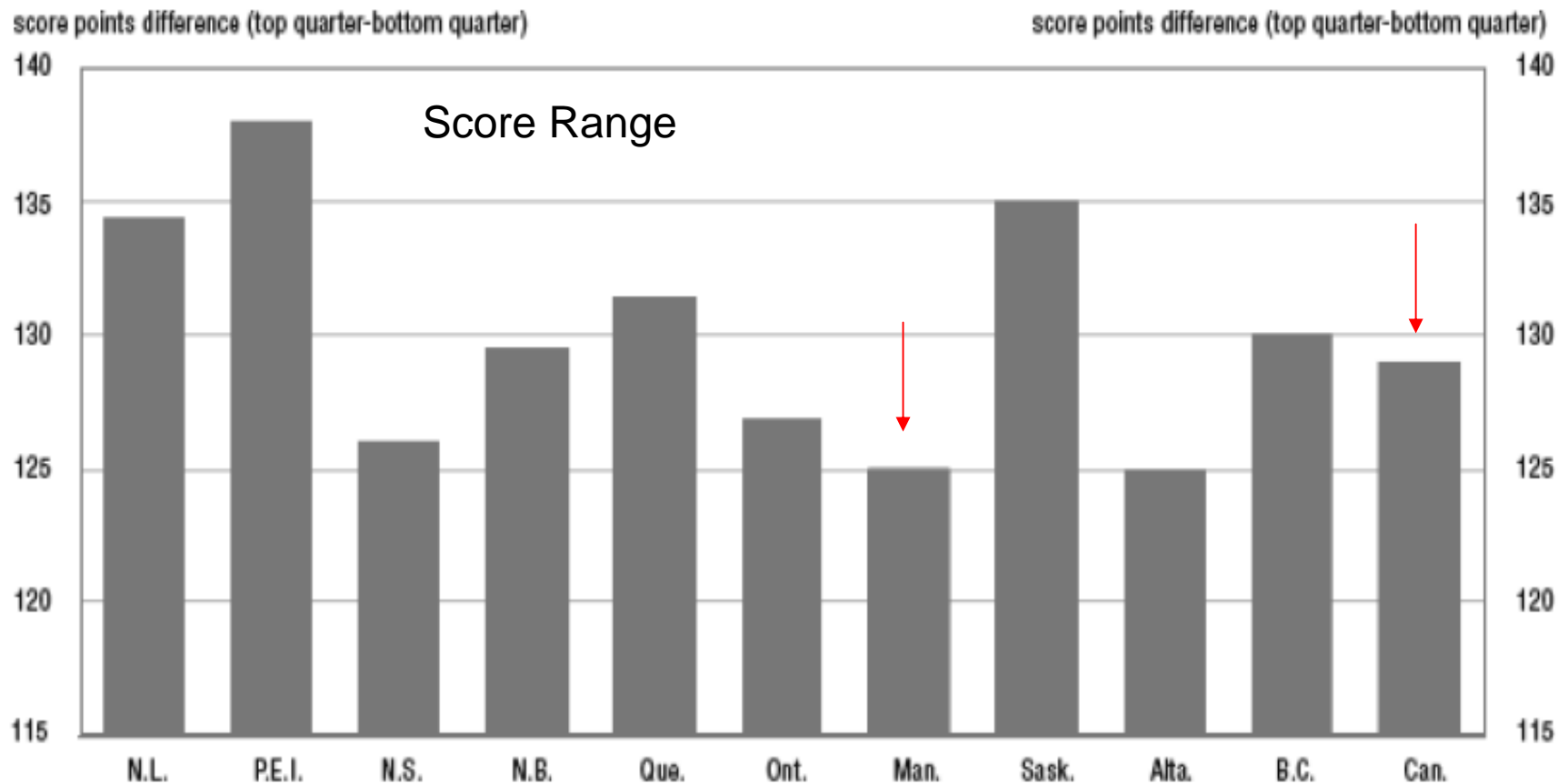
*** x/5 indicates out of the five provinces reporting separately by language including Quebec which consistently ranks first

****OECD scale with mean of 500 first established and fixed where results are in bold. No conclusions of an absolute nature about trends in science literacy over time are possible before this point.

Science Results by Gender for Canada – PISA 2006

Domain	Canada		Manitoba
	All students	Observations – jurisdictions	
Science overall	No difference	Girls average higher than boys' – NF	No difference
Using scientific evidence	No difference	Girls average higher than boys' – NF, SK	No difference
Explaining phenomena scientifically	Boys scored average 17 points higher	Boys' average higher than girls' – PE, NS, NB, QC, ON, MB, AB, BC	Boys scored average 15 points higher
Identifying scientific issues	Girls scored average 14 points higher	Girls' average higher than boys' – all provinces	Girls scored average 15 points higher

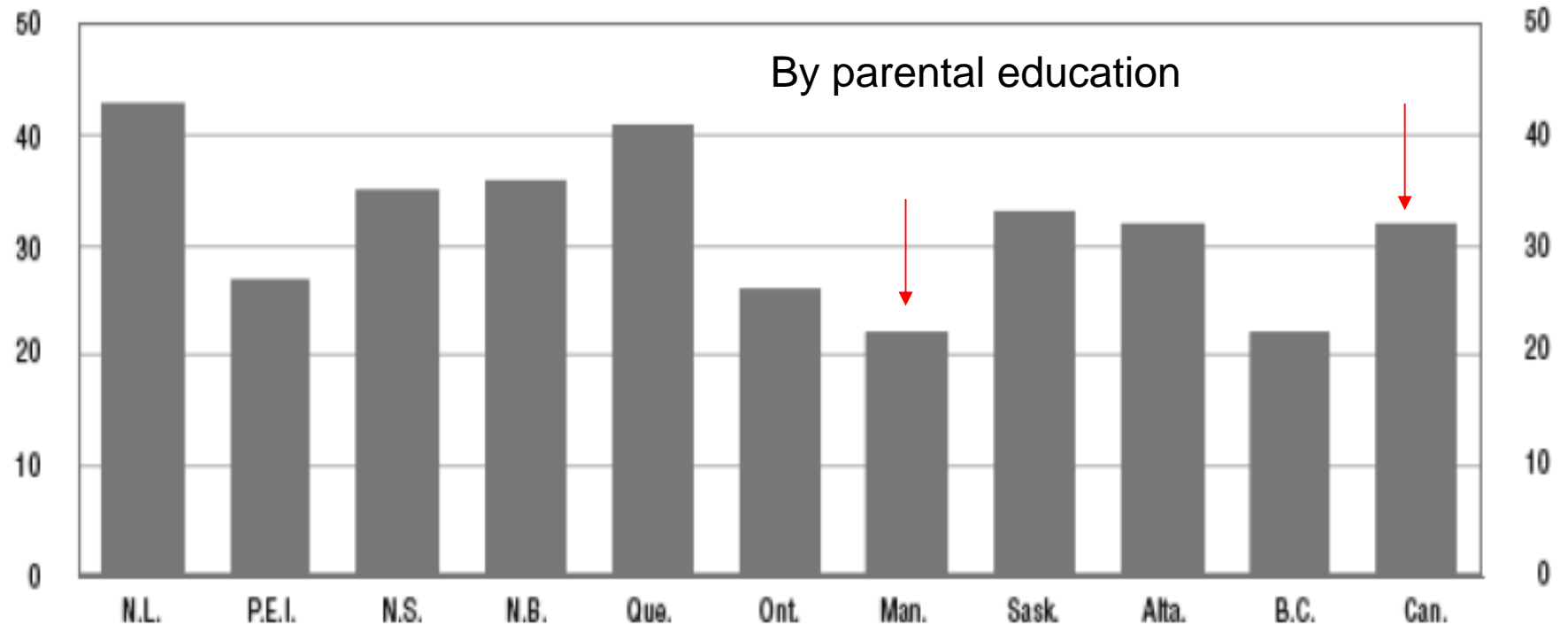
Difference in average scores in science between students who performed in the bottom quarter of performance and students who performed in the top quarter of performance



Difference in score points of the combined science scale between students whose parents had some post secondary education and students whose parents had high school or less

score point difference (parents with postsecondary education - parents without postsecondary education)

score point difference (parents with postsecondary education - parents without postsecondary education)

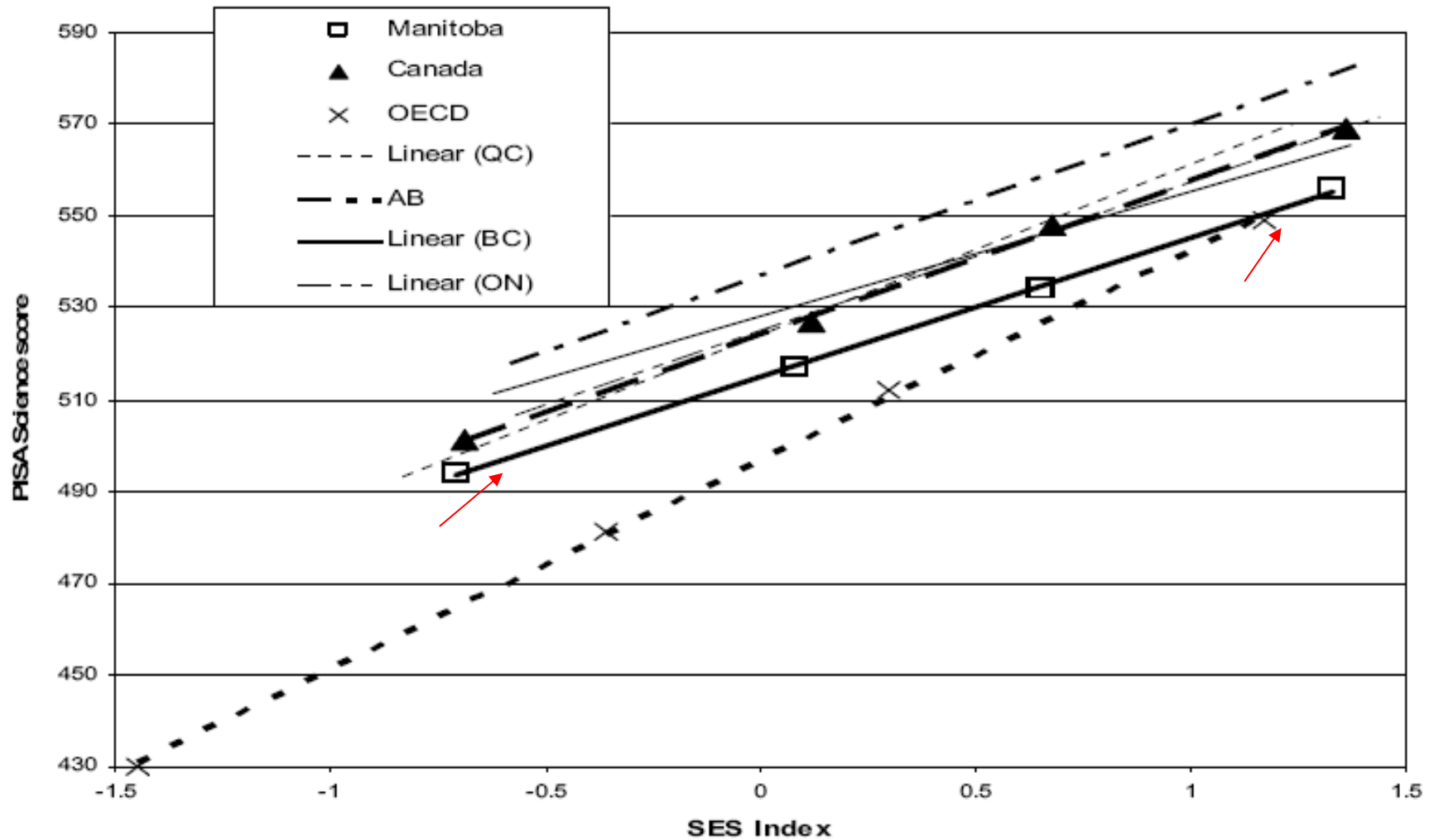


Variation in student performance, Canada and other top-performing countries

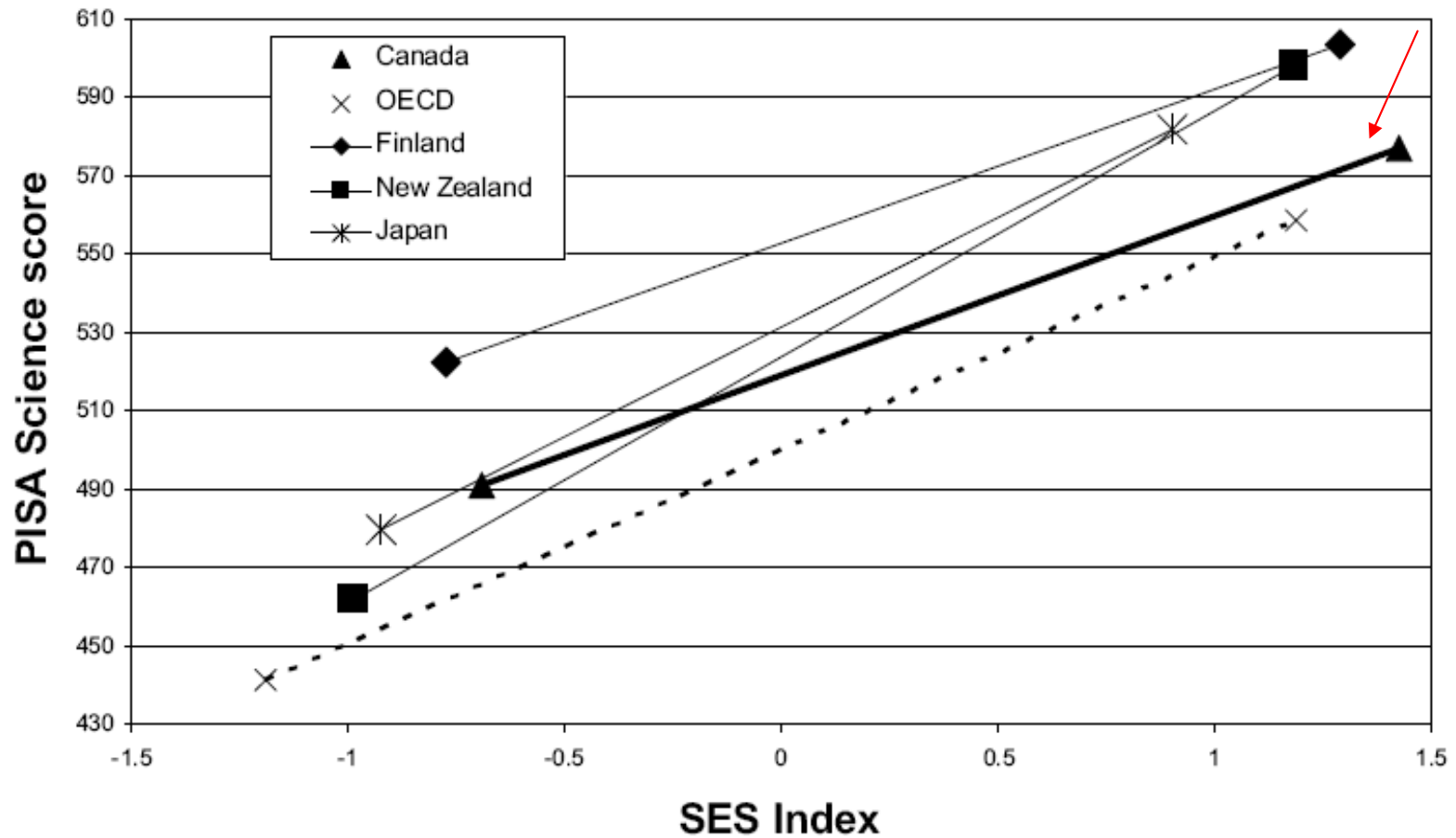
Country	PISA Science Literacy Achievement Score	Standard deviation of science score	Difference in mean score between students whose parents have completed a post-secondary degree and those whose parents completed lower secondary or less
Finland	563	86	39 ←
Hong-Kong China*	542	92	52
Canada	534	94	71 ←
Chinese Taipei*	532	94	98
Estonia*	531	84	—
Japan	531	100	—
New Zealand	530	107	82
OECD	500	95	79 ←

* Non-OECD PISA 'partner countries'

Science score vs SES (Manitoba, Canada, Provinces) PISA 2006



Science score vs SES - selected countries
PISA 2006



Language and Immigrant Status of Students countries out-performing or tied with Canada

Country	PISA Science Literacy Achievement Score	Proportion non-native born, %	Proportion whose language spoken at home is different from the assessment, %
Finland	563	1.5	1.3
Hong-Kong China*	542	43.8	2.7
Canada	534	21.1	10.6
Chinese Taipei*	532	0.6	0.6
Estonia*	531	11.6	0.5
Japan	531	0.4	0.3
New Zealand	530	21.3	8.7

* Non-OECD PISA 'partner countries'

Science Results by Immigration Status, Canada – PISA Science 2006

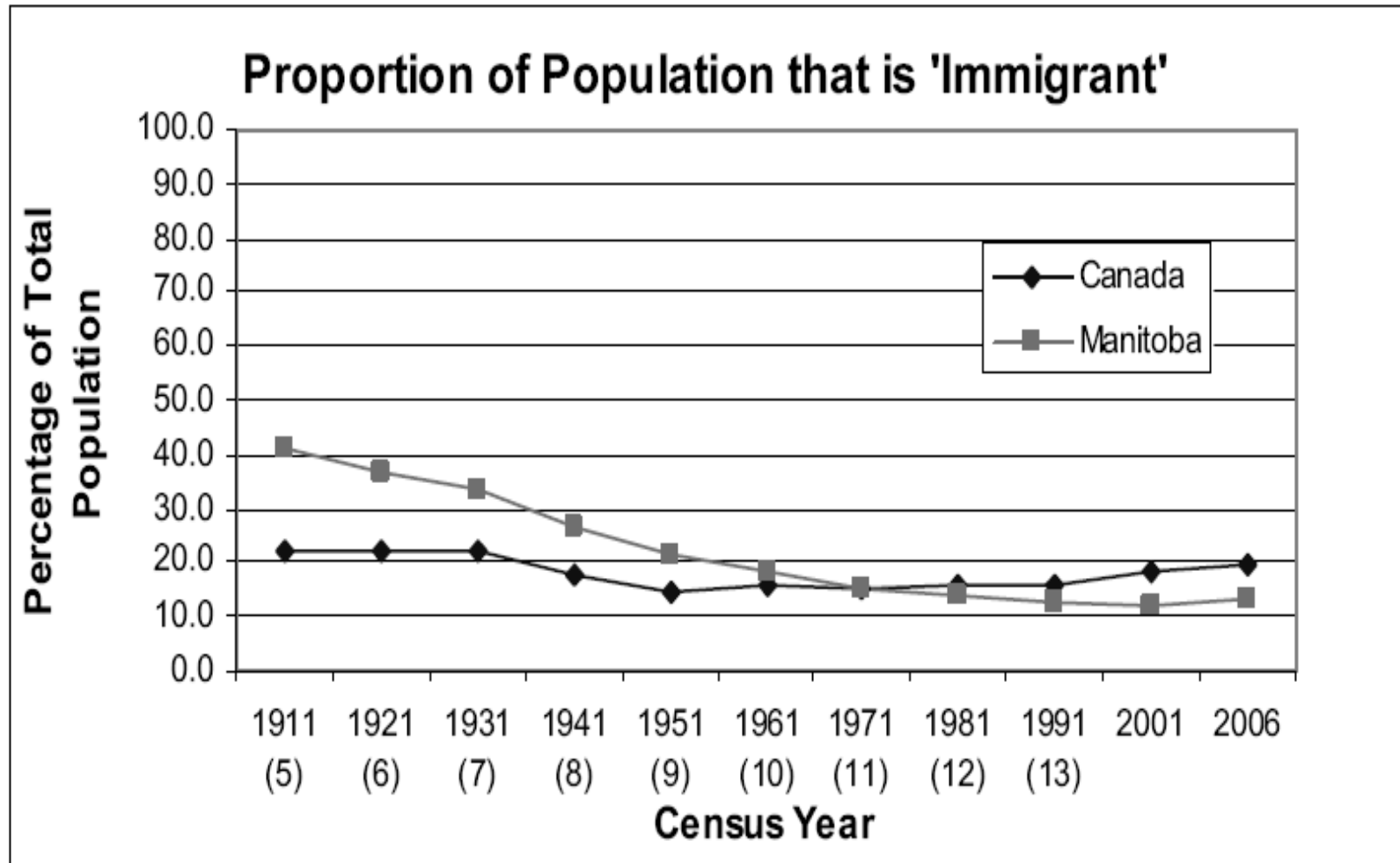
Jurisdiction	% non-immigrant	% 2 nd generation	% 1 st generation	PISA average score difference (non-immigrant score higher)	
	Percent of population			2 nd generation	1 st generation
Manitoba	88	7	5	20	33
QC, ON, AB, BC	69 (ON) to 87 (QC)	7 (QC) to 16 (ON)	6 (QC) to 15 (ON)	11 (AB) to 39 (QC)	5 (AB) to 57 (QC)
Canada	79	11	10	12	22

Science Results by Immigration Status, Top-performing Countries – PISA Science 2006

Jurisdiction	% non-immigrant	% 2 nd generation	% 1 st generation	PISA average score difference (non-immigrant score higher)	
	Percent of population			2 nd generation	1 st generation
Finland	98.5	0.2	1.3	—	—
Hong-Kong China*	56.2	24.6	19.2	-4.0**	26
Canada	78.9	11.2	9.9	13.0	22
Chinese Taipei*	99.4	0.4	0.2	—	—
Estonia*	88.4	10.5	1.1	32	—
Japan	99.6	0.1	0.3	—	—
New Zealand	78.7	6.9	14.3	28	10
OECD	90.7	5.1	3.9	34	45

* Non-OECD PISA 'partner countries'

** Negative sign indicates the non-immigrant average score was lower



Source: Statistics Canada – 2006 Census. Catalogue Number 97-557-XCB2006006.

Attitudes towards Science in Canada – PISA 2006

Attitude		Attitude Index			Attitude change index	
		MB	Canada Mean	Provinces high on the index	MB	Canada mean
Belief in self	Can do science	0.16	0.21	AB (0.39), NF (0.30), BC (0.27), ON (0.26)	36.9	39.0
	Can learn science	0.17*	0.27	PE (0.34), QC (0.33), AB, BC, NB (0.28)	36.1	34.3
Value of Science	To society	0.10	0.14	AB (0.20), NF, BC (0.18), ON (0.15)	22.0	25.3
	To self	0.21	0.20	NF (0.36), AB (0.34), PE (0.33)	24.0	24.8
Interest in science	In learning	0.0* (lowest)	0.11	NB (0.18), NF (0.17), AB (0.14)	22.2	23.6
	Enjoyment	0.04* (2 nd lowest)	0.17	NF (0.27), BC (0.25), NB, AB (0.22),	30.6	32.6
	Usefulness	0.39	0.32	NF (0.59), PE (0.57), NB (0.50), AB (0.48)	23.8	22.8
	Future work	0.22	0.20C	PE (0.45), NF (0.43), NB, AB (0.33)	24.1	25.0
	Out-of-school	-0.29* (lowest)	-0.15	NB, QC (-0.09C), NF (-0.1)	20.8	21.1

* statistically significantly below Canadian mean

Attitudes towards Science, Canada and other nations – PISA 2006

Attitude		Attitude Index		Attitude change index	
		Canada	Other top-performing OECD countries	Canada ¹⁵	OECD, Finland, Japan, New Zealand
Belief in self	Can do science	0.21*	Finland (0.02) Japan (-0.53) New Zealand (-0.02)	39.0	33.1, 41.0, 32.8, 53.2
	Can learn science	0.27*	Finland (0.06) Japan (-0.87) New Zealand (-0.06)	34.3	14.9, 41.3, 25.2, 41.2
Value of Science	To society	0.14*	Finland (0.07) Japan (-0.18) New Zealand (-0.13)	25.3	21.8, 31.5, 27.5, 35.4
	To self	0.20*	Finland (-0.09) Japan (-0.23) New Zealand (0.04)	24.8	12.6, 29.0, 25.4, 32.3
Interest in science	In learning	0.11	Finland (-0.25) Japan (-0.13) New Zealand (-0.10)	23.6	13.0, 31.5, 34.4, 26.2
	Enjoyment	0.17*	Finland (0.11) Japan (-0.26) New Zealand (-0.01)	32.6	19.8, 32.1, 33.4, 40.3
	Usefulness	0.32**	Finland (-0.22) Japan (-0.43) New Zealand (0.17)	22.8	9.3, 30.5, 27.5, 29.2
	Future work	0.20	Finland (-0.17) Japan (-0.24) New Zealand (-0.00)	25.0	8.3, 32.4, 28.6, 29.5
	Out-of-school	-0.15*	Finland (-0.16) Japan (-0.62) New Zealand (-0.26)	21.1	4.4, 25.5, 22.8, 25.0

* boys' average attitude score more positive than girls' average

** girls' average attitude score more positive than boys' average

Choice, design

Index of Science Teaching Strategies and Relationship to PISA score – Canada

e.g.,
debates,
discuss

	Interaction		Hands-on		Investigations		Models/Apppls	
	Index	Change index	Index	Change index	Index	Change index	Index	Change index
Manitoba	0.22	-7.9	0.36	-15	0.17	-31.6	0.40	4.3
Canada	0.17	-2.7	0.46	-1.3	0.13	-25.1	0.39	7.5
Canada range	-0.07 QC) to 0.35 (NL)	-7.9 (MB) to 4.7(NL)	0.14 (NL) to 0.53 (ON)	-15(MB) to 6.5 (QC)	-0.02 (QC) to 0.25 (PE)	-31.6 (MB) to -18.8(AB)	0.31 (NS,SK) to 0.40 (MB, ON)	1.6(BC) to 13.5(QC)
OECD	0	-8.5	0	-1.1	0	-23.9	0	5.1

Index of Science Teaching Strategies and Relationship to PISA score – Top Performing Nations

	Interaction		Hands-on		Investigations		Models/Applns	
	Index	Change index	Index	Change index	Index	Change index	Index	Change index
Canada	0.17	-2.7	0.46	-1.3	0.13	-25.1	0.39	7.5
Finland	-0.13	-6.6	0.0	13.5	-0.26	-22.7	-0.13	13.8
Japan	-1.13	-22.2	-0.53	2.5	-0.24	-11.9	-0.93	0.79
New Zealand	0.14	6.5	0.31	1.3	0.02	-26.3	0.18	8.0
OECD	0	-8.5	0	-1.1	0	-23.9	0	5.1

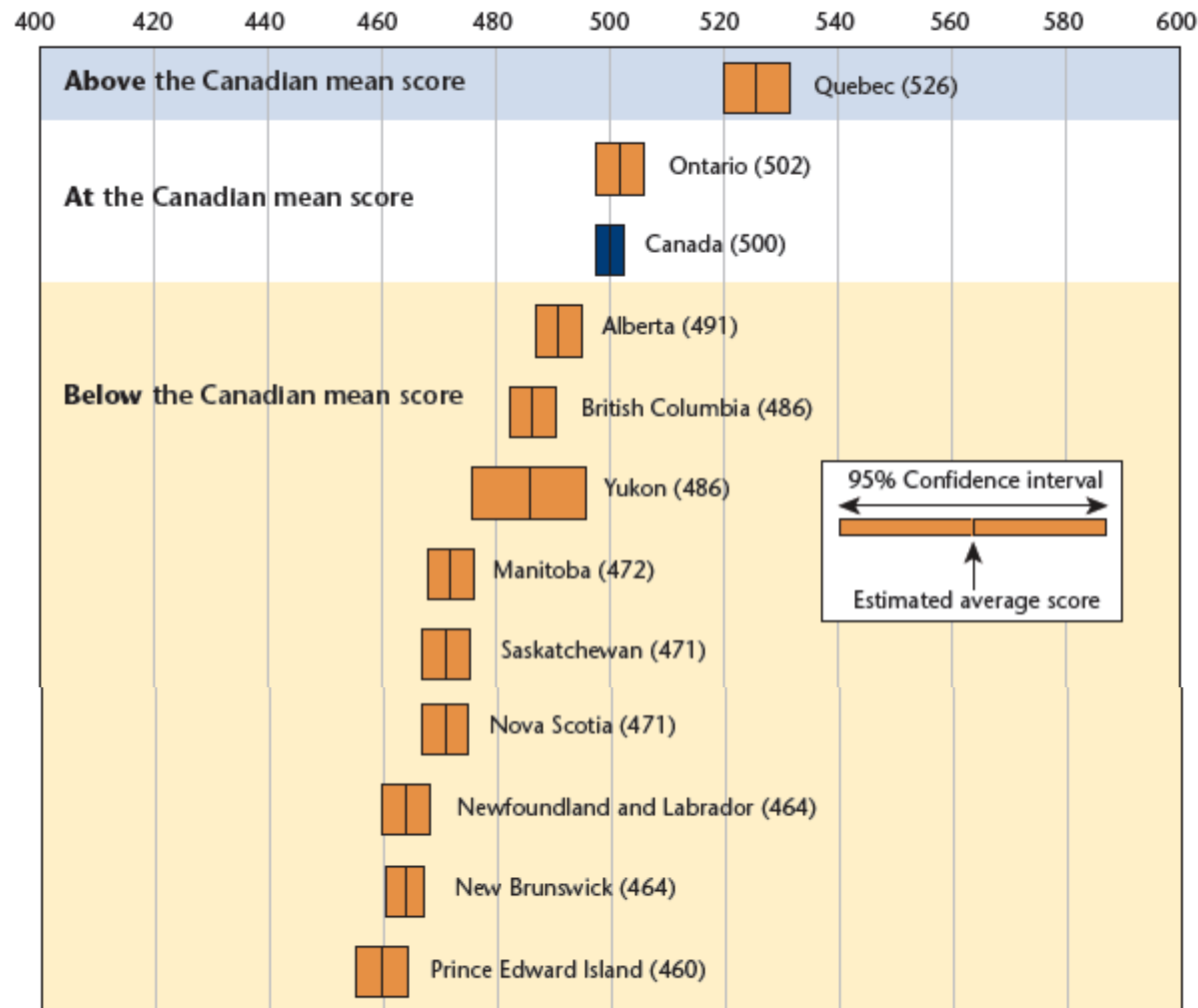
SAIP Science results – Percentages of students achieving at or above Level 2 for 13-year-olds, Level 3 for 16-year-olds

Jurisdiction	13-year-olds at or above Level 2 (percent)			16-year-olds at or above Level 3 (percent)		
	1996	1999	2004	1996	1999	2004
Manitoba-Eng	72.9	72.8 →	67.6	67.8	79.8 →	59.3*
Manitoba-Fre	59.8*	61.2* →	58.4*	67.8	76.2 →	58.2*
Canada	71.9	73.3 →	71.0	69.0	76.1 →	64.0
Alberta	83.0	82.5	77.9	78.6	85.8	72.4
Canada-Eng	NA	NA	70.8	NA	NA	64.0
Canada-Fre	NA	NA	71.6	NA	NA	63.9

* Statistically below the Canadian average.

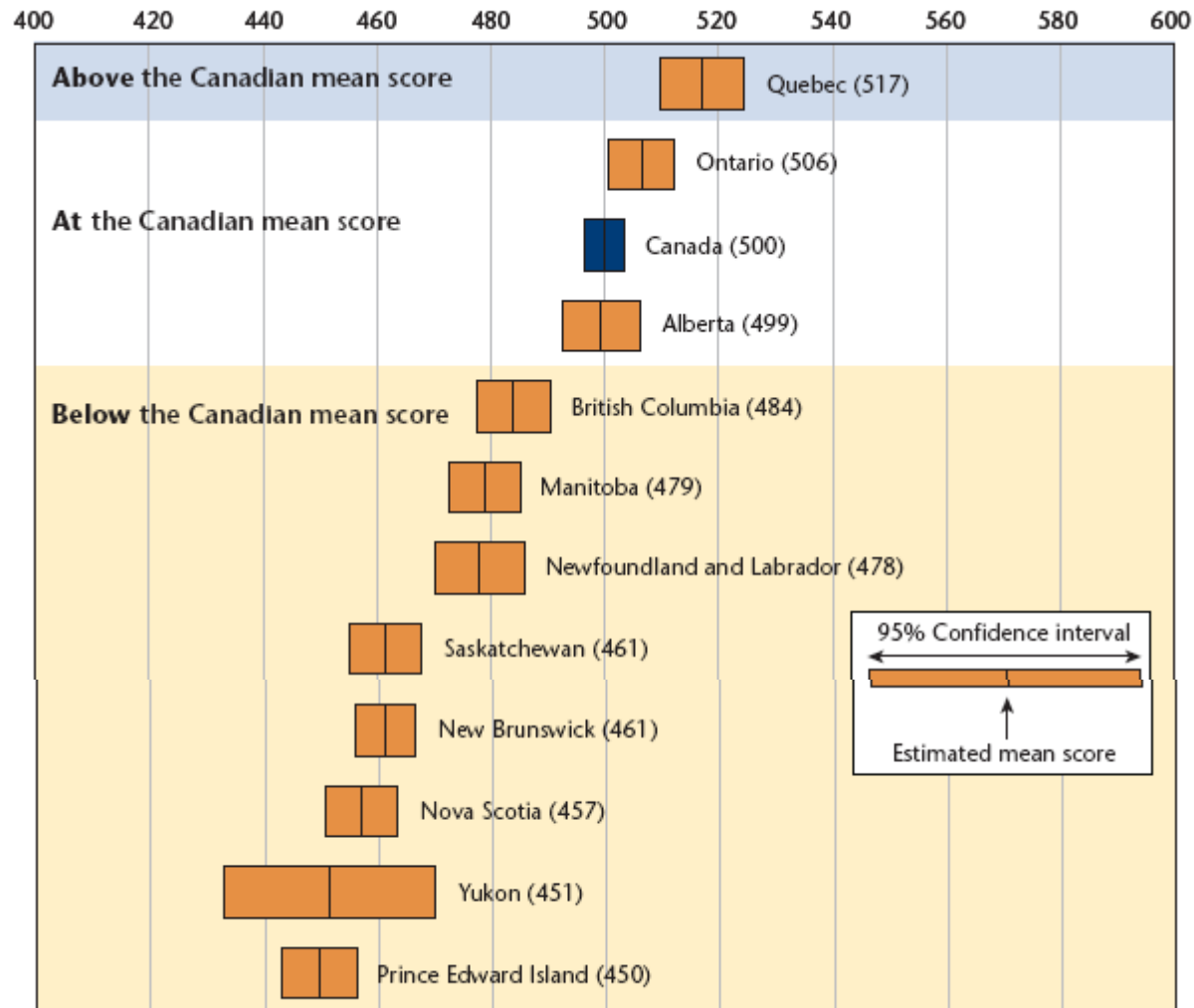
Pan-Canadian Assessment Program – 2007: Reading

CHART 3-1 Mean scores and confidence intervals for Canadian jurisdictions in reading



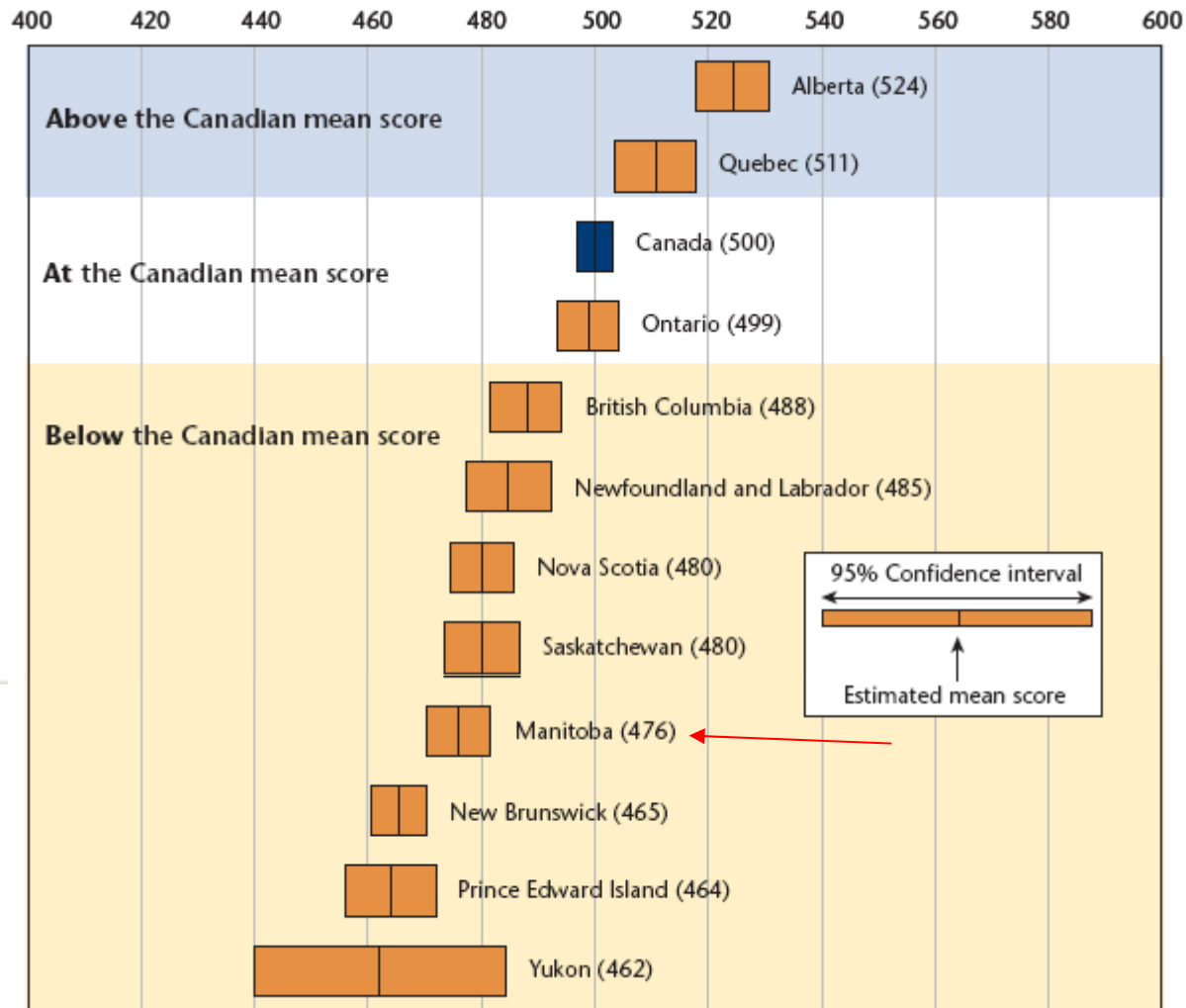
PCAP 2007 - Mathematics

CHART 4-1 Mean scores and confidence intervals for Canadian jurisdictions in mathematics



PCAP 2007 - Science

CHART 4-2 Mean scores and confidence intervals for Canadian jurisdictions in science



PCAP 2007 Participation

TABLE A-29 Students' participation and exemption

	Absent		Students participating in the assessment		Students exempted because of low abilities		Student and Parent Refusal		Other*		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
British Columbia (E)	212	7.0	2,488	82.7	111	3.7	67	2.2	132	4.4	3,010	100
British Columbia (F)	15	8.6	138	78.9	14	8.0	2	1.1	6	3.4	175	100
Alberta (E)	170	5.6	2,604	85.2	107	3.5	49	1.6	127	4.2	3,057	100
Alberta (F)	12	3.9	268	86.7	14	4.5	6	1.9	9	2.9	309	100
Saskatchewan (E)	127	4.6	2,417	88.1	89	3.2	15	0.5	94	3.4	2,742	100
Saskatchewan (F)	3	5.3	54	94.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	57	100
Manitoba (E)	142	5.2	2,310	85.0	124	4.6	32	1.2	111	4.1	2,719	100
Manitoba (F)	24	3.2	707	93.6	12	1.6	6	0.8	6	0.8	755	100
Ontario (E)	117	4.2	2,476	89.7	71	2.6	39	1.4	57	2.1	2,760	100
Ontario (F)	112	4.7	2,132	90.1	62	2.6	27	1.1	34	1.4	2,367	100
Quebec (E)	108	5.1	1,531	72.6	11	0.5	401	19.0	59	2.8	2,110	100
Quebec (F)	129	4.7	1,775	64.7	40	1.5	753	27.4	47	1.7	2,744	100
New Brunswick (E)	153	5.5	2,315	83.9	160	5.8	20	0.7	111	4.0	2,759	100
New Brunswick (F)	123	4.8	2,189	85.5	128	5.0	46	1.8	75	2.9	2,561	100
Nova Scotia (E)	179	6.3	2,400	83.8	169	5.9	54	1.9	62	2.2	2,864	100
Nova Scotia (F)	22	6.9	286	89.7	4	1.3	2	0.6	5	1.6	319	100
Prince Edward Island (E)	105	5.6	1,659	89.1	66	3.5	5	0.3	28	1.5	1,863	100
Prince Edward Island (F)	0	0.0	21	87.5	3	12.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	24	100
Newfoundland and Labrador (E)	95	4.3	1,967	89.4	73	3.3	22	1.0	42	1.9	2,199	100
Newfoundland and Labrador (F)	0	0.0	7	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	100
Yukon (E)	31	9.1	252	74.3	20	5.9	2	0.6	34	10.0	339	100
Yukon (F)	2	6.5	26	83.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	9.7	31	100
Total	1,881	5.3	30,022	83.9	1,278	3.6	1,548	4.3	1,042	2.9	35,771	100