

Kópavogur, 21st August 2018

Grade 4 National Examinations, 2018

Dear Grade 4 student,

All Grade 4 students are expected to take the National Examinations, to be held this coming 27th and 28th September. **The Icelandic test will take place on Thursday, 27th September, and the mathematics test on Friday, 28th September.** The time at which each test starts will be decided by the headmaster of your school, and will be communicated to you and to your parents.

All Grade 4 students take the same tests, regardless of where in Iceland they live. Everyone will be presented with the same questions and problems, and will have the same opportunities to answer or solve them.

You will be taking each test on a computer. On the day of the test, you will log in using a code given to you by the teacher. You will have 70 minutes to complete the test, a time that should be sufficient. You should do fine, but there are sample tests available online if you want to practise at home. The sample tests contain examples of questions likely to be asked, and which you can use to practise your answers and become acquainted with the examination system. We encourage you to try it out—it's both fun and useful.

The Icelandic test has two parts: reading comprehension and language use. Some of the things contained in the test are short narratives and questions about their content, and questions concerning your knowledge of the language.

The mathematics test has three parts: 1. arithmetic and operations; 2. geometry and measurements; 3. numbers and numerical literacy. You are not allowed to use a calculator for the first eight problems of the test, so you have to answer those questions first. After that, there are 24 problems that you are allowed to solve with the aid of a calculator, if you want. You can use the calculator in the computer, but you can also bring your own if that's more convenient.

Ideally, you should try to answer all of the questions, because that's the best way to show how much you have learned in school. There is no need to worry if you don't know the answers to all of the questions. Try your best anyway and don't rush your answers, even if some of the other kids have finished the test. This is not a competition of any kind, and how fast the others complete their tests tells you nothing about whether they answered correctly or not.

Good luck with your effort and remember that the purpose of the tests is to find out how much you have learned in school. That helps your teacher to know what you should keep learning more about, and how. The tests are mostly for your own benefit, and there is no reason for you to be anxious or to worry about them. Simply try your best and you will be perfectly fine.

If you have any questions the best thing is to talk to your teacher and your parents or guardians.

For the Directorate of Education

Sverrir Óskarsson
Director of Assessment