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Directorate of Education

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Kópavogur, August 23rd, 2016

An Introduction to the Icelandic National Examinations for 7th grade 2016

Dear student.

The National Exams for students in the 7th grade will be held early this fall. The examination in Icelandic is on September 22nd and in Mathematics on September 23rd. Below are instructions so you get a better picture of the exams and to be sure that nothing will surprise you during the examination.

Testing

Web-based exams begin at 9 a.m. and take about 80 minutes. Further information will be given by the school.

Remember that a good night sleep and breakfast is important.

Exams: You log in with a code given to you by the teacher. After the exam has started you can move between test parts and test questions by using the progress bar.

Overview of each examination:

Icelandic

The exam is made of three parts; reading, language usage and writing. In the reading part there are texts, followed by questions and you will write a short story about a picture.

Mathematics

The examination in Mathematics has two parts, with and without calculator. A ruler, calculator and a protractor are imbedded where permitted. You have to finish the first part before you can begin work on the second part of the examination.

On behalf of the Directorate of Education

Gylfi Jón Gylfason
Director of Assessment

Kópavogur, August 23rd, 2016

Dear parent/custodian.

The National Examinations will be administered in a web-based format to students in 7th grade of Elementary School in September. The examination in Icelandic is on 22nd September and in Mathematics on 23rd September. These web-based examinations are the first stage in the development of individualized web-based examinations which is estimated to be completed in 2018.

The examinations have several purposes. Firstly, to inform to what extent students in Iceland have grasped the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for further education. Secondly, to give parents, teachers and school administrators an indication about the educational status of individual students. By administering the National Examinations in the autumn there is opportunity to utilize their outcome in planning and teaching.

The examinations start at 9 a.m. and students should arrive at a time decided by the school. There is a considerable difference in the development and abilities of children at this age, therefore the time limits are generous.

The material dealt with in the National Examinations is based on the National Curriculum Guide for Elementary Schools, especially the educational goals of the youngest level. The National Curriculum lays the main principles in education but schools are allowed flexibility as to the administration of it. Furthermore, the speed at which students learn is variable. The National Examinations take this into account and their content is therefore very diverse.

On the website of the Directorate of Education you will find practice examinations which are open to all, along with information about the examinations.
(<https://mms.is/rafraen-prof>)

Students receive one final grade in each examination and also one grade for each section of the examination. Students receive traditional Icelandic grades in the 1 to 10 range. They also receive a ranking grade which shows the status of the student in relation to the whole class. Lastly, normalized grades are used for reporting school and national results.

It is imperative that students are in good form, have had enough sleep and eaten breakfast before coming to school on the days of the examinations. These days can be expected to be different from regular school days. Students' grades will be sent to school in October and after that parents/custodians will get their children's grades sent from the school.

On behalf of the Directorate of Education



Gylfi Jón Gylfason
Director of Assessment