



Kópavogur, January 30th 2017

An Introduction to Standardized Tests/Examinations for Lower-Secondary Schools 2017

Dear parent/custodian.

Web-based Standardized Tests/Examinations will be administered to students in 9th and 10th grades of Lower-Secondary Schools on 7th to 10th of March. The examination is in two parts. The first part will be administered on 7th and 8th of March, and the second part on 9th and 10th of March. It is up to the principal's discretion to decide which days a student takes the examination. These web-based examinations are an element in the introduction of individualized web-based examinations which is estimated to conclude in 2018.

The purpose of the examinations is mainly two-fold. Firstly, to inform us to what extent students have grasped the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for further education. Secondly, to give parents, teachers and school administrators an indication as to the educational status of students.

The examinations start at 8.30 a.m. and students should arrive at a time decided by the school.

The material dealt with in Standardized Tests/Examinations is relative to the national curriculum for Elementary Schools, especially the educational goals of the lower-secondary 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. Standardized Tests/Examinations take this into account and their content is therefore very diverse. The problems in the examinations should test both weak and strong students.

On the Directorate of Education's website, you will find information about the examinations, along with a [practice test](#) which students can access to acquaint themselves with the environment used in the test. The practice test is open to all and you can log on as often as you like.

For each examination are given two types of grades which show a cross-section of a student's ability in the corresponding subject and should demonstrate their strengths and weaknesses. There is a final grade which shows the student's performance on the examination and a grade for each educational section in it. Quality grades will be used to show the status of the student as to the assessment norms of the National Curriculum and ranking grades which shows the status of the student in relation to the whole class.

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 examination. These days can be expected to be different from regular school days.

On behalf of the Directorate of Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Gylfi Jón Gylfason". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gylfi Jón Gylfason
Director of Assessment