

Kópavogur, August 18th 2017

## 4th grade examinations 2017 – an introduction

Dear 4th grade student.

**The Icelandic exam (Language Arts) will be held on September 28th.  
The Maths exam will be held on September 29th.**

Both exams start at 09:00, but your school decides at what time you should arrive at school on exam days.

The duration of each exam is 70 minutes and you take the exam on-line. You sign in with a code given to you by the teacher.

An overview of each exam:

**Icelandic-exam:** The exam is divided into two categories, reading where you read a few short stories and answer questions based on their contents and language usage related questions.

**Mathematics-exam:** This exam is also divided into two categories. In the first part you are not allowed to use a calculator. In the second part you are allowed to use the calculator which appears in the exam program.

You need to finish the first part of the exam before you can start the second part.

Good luck with the exams and remember that these exams are meant to give you an indication of where you stand in your studies and where you can do better.

Menntamálastofnun (Directorate of Education) advises you to go to bed early in the evening before the exams and to have a good breakfast in the morning of the exam-days.

If you have any questions, please ask your teacher.

On behalf of Menntamálastofnun  
Sverrir Óskarsson  
Executive of Evaluation and Testing

Kópavogur, August 18th 2017.

Dear parent/legal guardian.

On the 28th and 29th of September 2017 the National Exams will be administered to 4th graders in all elementary-schools in Iceland. The Icelandic exam (Language Arts) will take place on the 28th and the Math exam on the 29th. The exams will be administered on-line.

The exams start at 09:00 and students need to attend at a time the school decides.

A considerable difference in development and ability of children at this age is met with abundant test-time. The aim of the exams is twofold, firstly, to inform parents, teachers and school-authorities on the students educational status, and secondly to give information on to which extent the students have reached the basic skills and knowledge that further education is based on.

Administering these exams in the autumn, their results can be used to design a teaching-plan for the remainder of the school year.

The content of the exams is based on the National Curriculum Guide, especially the learning objectives for the 2nd and 3rd grade. The main curriculum sets guidelines in education, but each school is allowed flexibility in its implementation. Also, the pace of the course of each students learning varies. The National Exams take this into account, and therefore their content is varied.

We'd like to point out that practice-exams are accessible on the web page of Menntamálastofnun. They enable students, parents and teachers to familiarize themselves with and get some practice in the use of the exam program. The practice exams are only meant to introduce the exam program, and do not give any intication of the contents of the exams. Useful information about the exams can also be found on the web page.

Students get one **overall grade** for each exam and one grade for each component of the exams. Students receive **INE-scores** (samræmd einkunn) which is the official score scale of the exams. They also receive **Percentile Ranks** scores (raðeinkunn) which shows their status in comparison with other students of the same age. Lastly, Normal Distribution grades“ are used in all sorts of calculations and reports.

It is very important that students have had a good rest and good breakfast on the morning of each exam day. Some disruptions in the normal school routine may occur on exam days.

Grades will be sent to schools towards the end of October. Subsequently guardians will have their children's grades sent home.

On behalf of Menntamálastofnun  
Sverrir Óskarsson  
Executive of Evaluation and Testing