

Grade 9 National Examinations 2019



Dear Grade 9 student,

All Grade 9 students are expected to take the National Examinations, to be held this coming 11th to 13th March. **The Icelandic test is scheduled for Monday 11th March, the mathematics test for 12th March, and the English test for 13th March.** 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 9 students take the National Examinations, regardless of where in Iceland they live. You will be taking each of the tests 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 150 minutes to complete the test, which should be sufficient. We are confident that you will 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 tasks (questions) in the test are based on the curriculum and the learning objectives outlined in the National Curriculum Guide. The emphasis in the National Curriculum Guide is on students' knowledge, competence and skills rather than on specific learning material. For this reason, there will be no list of material to be covered. Instead, the test will consist of a wide range of tasks requiring different kinds of knowledge and skills.

The **Icelandic** test will include tasks that measure both shallow and deep reading comprehension. The basis of shallow reading comprehension is precision reading, while deep reading comprehension relies on reading between the lines and interpreting the text. Other tasks will assess comprehension of individual words and phrases, and of literary terms such as *imagery*, *mood* or *point of view*. There will also be tasks that assess linguistic skills and knowledge of grammar and spelling.

The **mathematics** test will include tasks from the fields of arithmetic and operations; geometry and measurements; patterns and algebra; and ratios and percentages. You are allowed to use your computer's calculator, but you can also bring your own if you feel that's more convenient.

The **English** test will include tasks that measure both shallow and deep reading comprehension. The basis of shallow reading comprehension is precision reading, while deep reading comprehension relies on reading between the lines and interpreting the text. Other tasks will assess comprehension of individual words and phrases. There will also be tasks that assess linguistic skills and knowledge of grammar and spelling.

A good strategy is to work on all the tasks and try to spend sufficient time on each of them. Don't worry if you don't know all the answers, and don't rush to complete your answers even if the other students have finished the test. The test is not intended in any way as a competition, and each individual works at a different speed.

We wish you good luck and remember that the goal is to find out how well you master certain aspects of the three subjects: Icelandic, mathematics and English. The tests are mostly for your own benefit, and there is no reason to worry about them a lot. 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