



Geography
Student Background Questionnaire

2010
Grade 12

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DIRECTIONS

In sections 1 and 4, you will be asked questions about yourself and your education. The choices for some questions will be written across the page as shown. Fill in the oval for the best answer.

Example 1

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day
1. How often do you watch movies on TV?	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D

You should have filled in the oval below the answer that best tells how often you watch movies on TV.

The choices for some questions will be written down the page as shown. Now read Example 2 and indicate your answer.

Example 2

2. Which event would you prefer to attend?

☐ A basketball game

☐ B car show

☐ C concert

☐ D play

Make your answer mark clear and dark in the oval. If you make a mistake or want to change your answer, be sure to completely erase any unwanted marks.

Do not go past the  sign at the end of each section until you are told to do so.

If you finish before time is called, go back and check your work on that section only. Use your time carefully. Do as much as you can in each section.



SECTION 1

Section 1

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. The section has 15 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question except where instructed otherwise.

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in **one** or **more** ovals.

VB331330

- Ⓐ No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
- Ⓑ Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
- Ⓒ Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.
- Ⓓ Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.
- Ⓔ Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background.

2. Which of the following best describes you? Fill in **one** or **more** ovals.

VB331331

- Ⓐ White
- Ⓑ Black or African American
- Ⓒ Asian
- Ⓓ American Indian or Alaska Native
- Ⓔ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Section 1

3. Does your family get a newspaper at least four times a week? VB331333

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No
- Ⓒ I don't know.

4. Does your family get any magazines regularly? VB331334

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No
- Ⓒ I don't know.

5. About how many books are there in your home? VB331335

- Ⓐ Few (0-10)
- Ⓑ Enough to fill one shelf (11-25)
- Ⓒ Enough to fill one bookcase (26-100)
- Ⓓ Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)

6. Is there a computer at home that you use? VB331336

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

7. Is there an encyclopedia in your home? It could be a set of books, or it could be on the computer. VB331337

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No
- Ⓒ I don't know.

8. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework? TB001101

- Ⓐ 5 or fewer
- Ⓑ 6-10
- Ⓒ 11-15
- Ⓓ 16-20
- Ⓔ More than 20

9. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family? VB331339

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once every few weeks
- Ⓒ About once a week
- Ⓓ Two or three times a week
- Ⓔ Every day

10. How many days were you absent from school in the last month?

VB331447

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1 or 2 days
- Ⓒ 3 or 4 days
- Ⓓ 5 to 10 days
- Ⓔ More than 10 days

11. How far in school did your mother go?

VB330870

- Ⓐ She did not finish high school.
- Ⓑ She graduated from high school.
- Ⓒ She had some education after high school.
- Ⓓ She graduated from college.
- Ⓔ I don't know.

12. How far in school did your father go?

VB330871

- Ⓐ He did not finish high school.
- Ⓑ He graduated from high school.
- Ⓒ He had some education after high school.
- Ⓓ He graduated from college.
- Ⓔ I don't know.

13. How often do people in your home talk to each other in a language other than English?

VB331451

- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ Once in a while
- Ⓒ About half of the time
- Ⓓ All or most of the time

14. Which of the following best describes your high school program?

HE002549

- Ⓐ General
- Ⓑ Academic or college preparatory
- Ⓒ Vocational or technical

15. Write the ZIP code of your home address in the boxes.

VE102537

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SECTION 4

Section 4

This section has 16 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question except where instructed otherwise.

1. Did you take or do you expect to take a geography course in the following grades?
Fill in **one** oval on each line.

VB345592

	Yes	No	I don't know.	
a. 9th grade	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	VB345606
b. 10th grade	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	VB345607
c. 11th grade	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	VB345608
d. 12th grade	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	VB345609

2. In this school year, how often have you learned about geography?

VC472881

- ☐ (A) Never or hardly ever
☐ (B) A few times a year
☐ (C) Once or twice a month
☐ (D) Once or twice a week
☐ (E) Every day or almost every day

3. How often have you studied the following geography skills and topics in school? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

VB345597

	Almost every day	Once or twice a week	Once or twice a month	Never or hardly ever	
a. Using maps and globes	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VB345598
b. Natural resources (for example, oil, forests, and water)	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VB345599
c. Countries and cultures	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VB345600
d. Environmental issues (for example, pollution and recycling)	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VB345601

Section 4

VE117406

4. Indicate how often you do each of the following when you study social studies or geography in school. Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day	
a. Read material from a textbook	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE117427
b. Read extra material not in the regular textbook (e.g., newspapers, magazines, maps, charts, or cartoons)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE117428
c. Discuss the material studied	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE117429
d. Write short answers (a paragraph or less) to questions	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE117430
e. Write a report	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE117431
f. Work on a group project	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE117432
g. Give a presentation to the class on the topic being studied	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE117433
h. Watch movies or videos	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE117435
i. Take a test or quiz	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE117437
j. Go on field trips or have outside speakers	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE117438
k. Use the books or computers in the library to do schoolwork	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE117439
l. Listen to information presented online	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE131746

5. This year, how often have you used computers at school for studying geography?

VE111121

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once every few weeks
- Ⓒ About once a week
- Ⓓ Two or three times a week
- Ⓔ Every day

6. Think about all the courses since the 9th grade in which you have studied history or geography. To what extent have you used computers to do the following? For this question include both class work and homework assignments. Fill in **one** oval on each line.

VE141477

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	
a. Did research projects about topics in history or geography using a CD or the Internet	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VE141536
b. Used computer programs in which you play the role of an explorer, geographer, anthropologist, or historian	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VE141571
c. Created or used maps using geographic information systems (GIS)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VE141603
d. Put history or geography information into tables, charts, or graphs on the computer	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VE141631
e. Wrote reports or other things about history or geography on the computer	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VE141656
f. Combined words, images, and sounds to create multimedia reports or projects about history or geography	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VE141692
g. Used e-mail or the Internet to communicate with others about history or geography	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VE141715

Section 4

VC629461

7. When you study social studies or geography, how often do you agree with the following statements? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Sometimes	Often	Always or almost always	
a. I have a clear understanding of what my social studies or geography teacher is asking me to do.	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VC629462
b. The social studies or geography work is easy.	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VC629463
c. The social studies or geography work is difficult.	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VC629465
d. The social studies or geography work is interesting.	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VC629473

VE131544

8. How much do you agree that social studies or geography is one of your favorite subjects?

- ☐ A Not at all
- ☐ B A little
- ☐ C A lot

VE040688

10. Are you currently enrolled in or have you taken an Advanced Placement course in Human Geography?

- ☐ A Yes
- ☐ B No

VC473873

9. Are you currently enrolled in or have you taken an International Baccalaureate course in geography?

- ☐ A Yes
- ☐ B No
- ☐ C I don't know.

VC473870

11. Are you currently enrolled in or have you taken any online geography courses for high school or college credit?

- ☐ A Yes
- ☐ B No
- ☐ C I don't know.

12. How much education do you think you will complete?

QK070697

- Ⓐ I will not finish high school.
- Ⓑ I will graduate from high school.
- Ⓒ I will have some education after high school.
- Ⓓ I will graduate from college.
- Ⓔ I will go to graduate school.
- Ⓕ I don't know.

13. What do you expect that your main activity will be in the year after you leave high school?

VC101417

- Ⓐ Working full time
- Ⓑ Attending a vocational, technical, or business school
- Ⓒ Attending a two-year college
- Ⓓ Attending a four-year college, service academy, or university
- Ⓔ Serving in the military
- Ⓕ Other

14. How hard was this test compared to most other tests you have taken this year in school?

VB595182

- Ⓐ Easier than other tests
- Ⓑ About as hard as other tests
- Ⓒ Harder than other tests
- Ⓓ Much harder than other tests

15. How hard did you try on this test compared to how hard you tried on most other tests you have taken this year in school?

VC034559

- Ⓐ Not as hard as on other tests
- Ⓑ About as hard as on other tests
- Ⓒ Harder than on other tests
- Ⓓ Much harder than on other tests

16. How important was it to you to do well on this test?

VB595184

- Ⓐ Not very important
- Ⓑ Somewhat important
- Ⓒ Important
- Ⓓ Very important

