BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

PIAAC Numeracy – sample items

In the Survey of adult skills (PIAAC). numeracy is defined as the ability to use, apply, interpret, and communicate mathematical information and ideas. It is an essential skill in an age when individuals encounter an increasing amount and wide range of quantitative and mathematical information in their daily lives. Numeracy is a skill parallel to reading literacy, and it is important to assess how these competencies interact, since they are distributed differently across subgroups of the population.

The items are presented in the form delivered by the computer-based version of the assessment. To answer the questions, respondents need to click in the appropriate box, and/or type figures in the space provided.

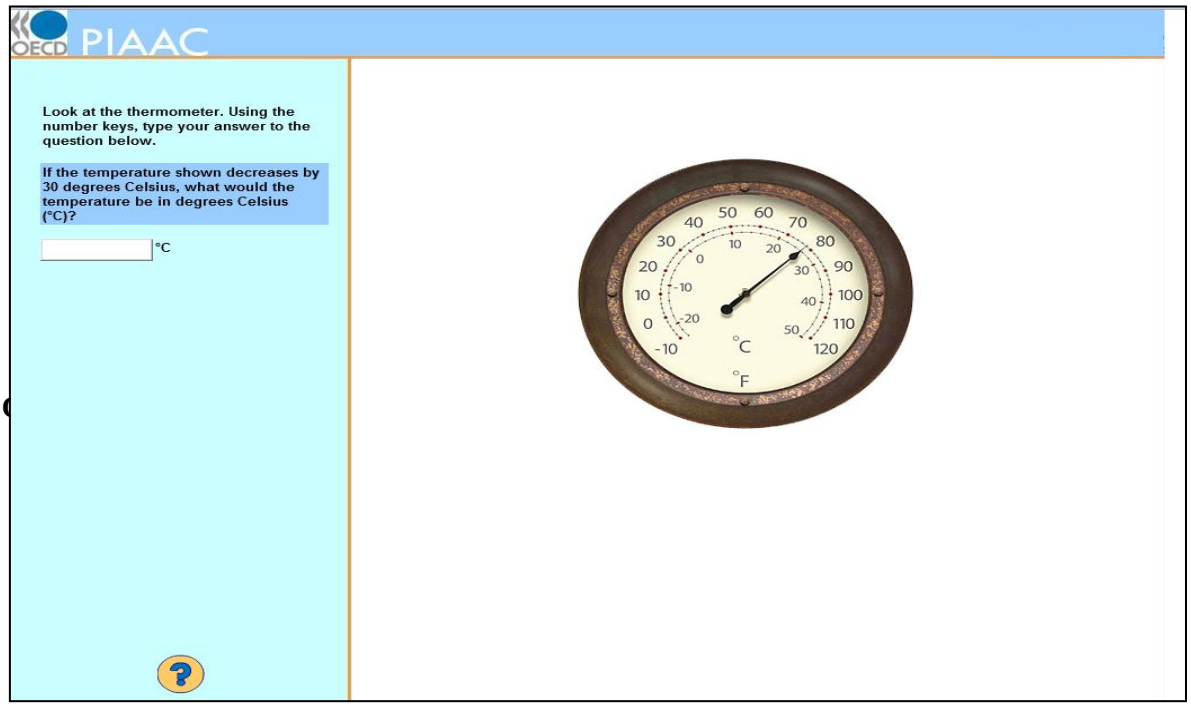
Numeracy - Sample Items

Sample Item 1: Thermometer

This item (of low difficulty) focuses on the following aspects of the numeracy construct:

Content	Dimension and shape
Process	Act upon, use (measure)
Context	Every day or work

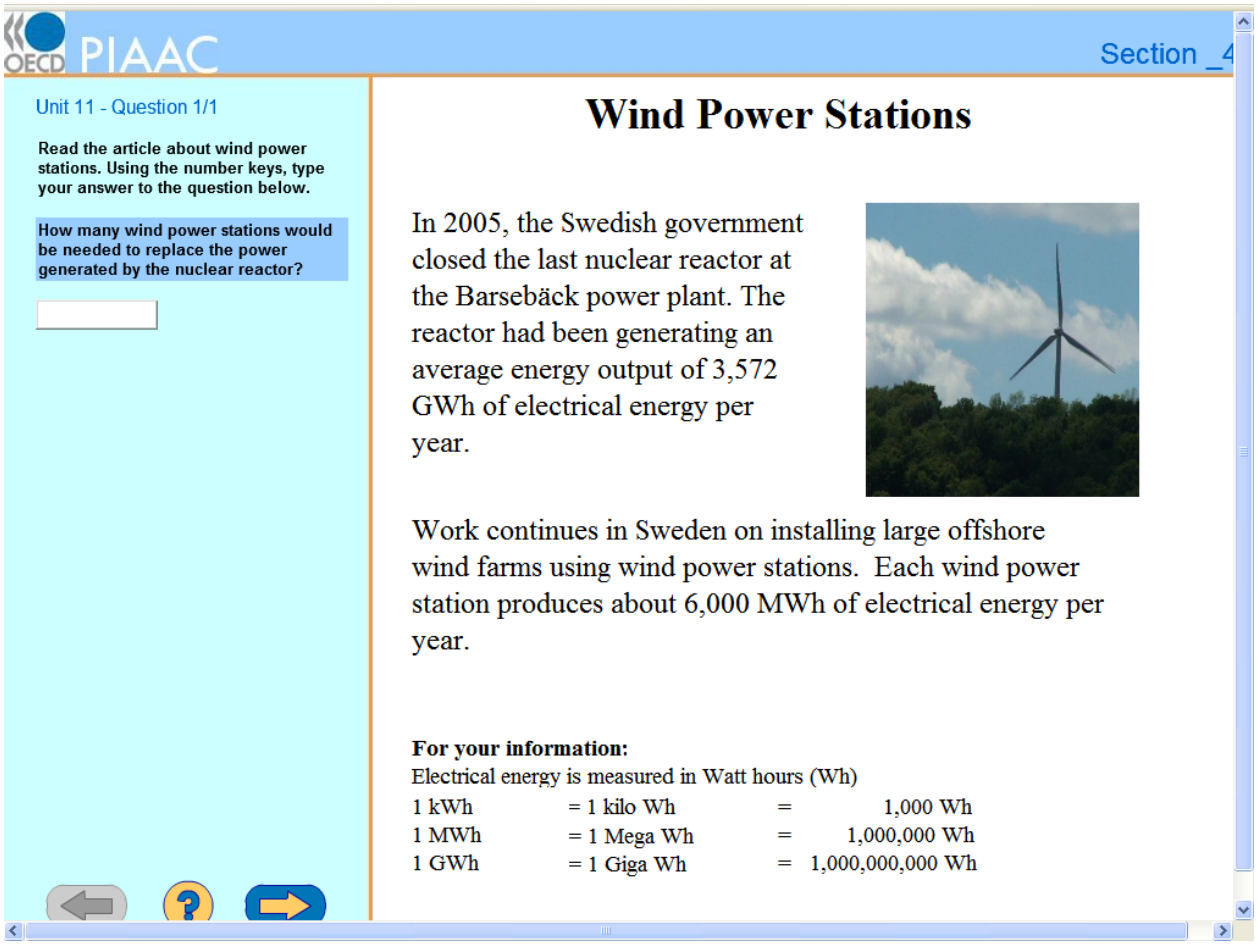
Respondents are asked to type in a numerical response based on the graphic provided.



Sample Item 2: Wind power stations

This sample item (of medium difficulty) focuses on the following aspects of the numeracy construct:

Content	Quantity and Number
Process	Act upon, use (compute)
Context	Community and society



Sample Item 3: Births in the United States

This item (of medium difficulty) focuses on the following aspects of the numeracy construct:

Content	Data and chance
Process	Interpret, evaluate
Context	Community and society

Respondents are asked to respond by clicking on one or more of the time periods provided in the left pane on the screen.