

US PISA 2009 Summer Conference
June 25-26 2009

PISA in the UK

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What is the NFER?

- **Research institution**
- **Independent**
- **Not-for-profit**
- **Mission is to serve education**
- **Mainly in UK, also internationally**



nfer

What is the UK?

The UK is:

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Great Britain is:

England Scotland Wales

So, the UK consists of :

England Scotland Wales Northern Ireland

Why is PISA important in the UK?

The UK and international studies

Participation in international studies is considered important so that the educational system can be evaluated and monitored in comparison with other countries.

It's also an opportunity to compare the four parts of the UK

PISA in the UK

PISA 2000

The UK took part

PISA 2003

Not enough schools in England agreed to take part
The UK was not included in the international report

UK embarrassment!

PISA 2006

Good response from schools and students
UK in the international report

UK success!

PISA 2006 results

United Kingdom

Science within the UK

<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>515</i>
England	516
Scotland	515
Northern Ireland	508
Wales	505*

* significantly different to England

Mathematics within the UK

<i>United Kingdom</i>	498
Scotland	506
England	495
Northern Ireland	494¹
Wales	484²

¹significantly different to Scotland

²significantly different to England and Scotland

Reading within the UK

<i>United Kingdom</i>	495
Scotland	499
England	496
Northern Ireland	495
Wales	481*

* significantly different to England, Scotland & NI

PISA 2006 results

England

Countries significantly higher than England in science

Finland	563
<i>Hong Kong</i>	542
Canada	534
<i>Taiwan</i>	532
<i>Estonia</i>	531
New Zealand	531
Japan	531

italics = not OECD

OECD mean score set at 500

Not significantly different to England in science

Australia	527	Czech Rep	513
Netherlands	525	Switzerland	512
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	522	<i>Macao</i>	511
Korea	522	Austria	511
<i>Slovenia</i>	519	Belgium	510
Germany	516	Ireland	508
England	516	Hungary	504

OECD countries significantly lower than England in science

Sweden	503	Norway	487
Poland	498	Luxembourg	486
Denmark	496	Italy	475
France	495	Portugal	474
Iceland	491	Greece	473
USA	489	Turkey	424
Spain	488	Mexico	410
Slovak Rep.	488		

plus 21 non-OECD members

Reactions to PISA 2006

Reactions to PISA 2006

The Press



Failing schools put our future in peril

The BBC 29th November 2007
(1)

UK among
school science
leaders

The BBC 29th November 2007
(2)

UK schools slip
down in
science

Reactions to PISA 2006

Schools

Reactions from PISA schools

- **70% said the experience was positive for students. Only 4% reported negative responses.**
- **94% said they would advise other schools to take part if invited. The most common reason (48% of schools) was that the survey was well-organised and not difficult.**

***I feel it is important that
UK schools contribute to
the global debate about
educational standards.***

It proved to be a 'good' experience for students. Those who took part have since shown increased motivation to do well.

Reactions to PISA 2006

Teacher unions and associations

Association of Teachers and Lecturers

ATL sees PISA as an excellent opportunity for schools and educationalists to put their own work in an international perspective, providing broader understanding of the impact of particular practices and policies.

Reactions to PISA 2006

Polycymakers

- **Attitudes to science**
- **Low attainers**
- **Gender differences**

Attitudes to science (1)

- Science is valuable for understanding the world and improving living conditions (over 90%)
- It's less valuable to themselves as individuals (60%) than it is to society (80%)

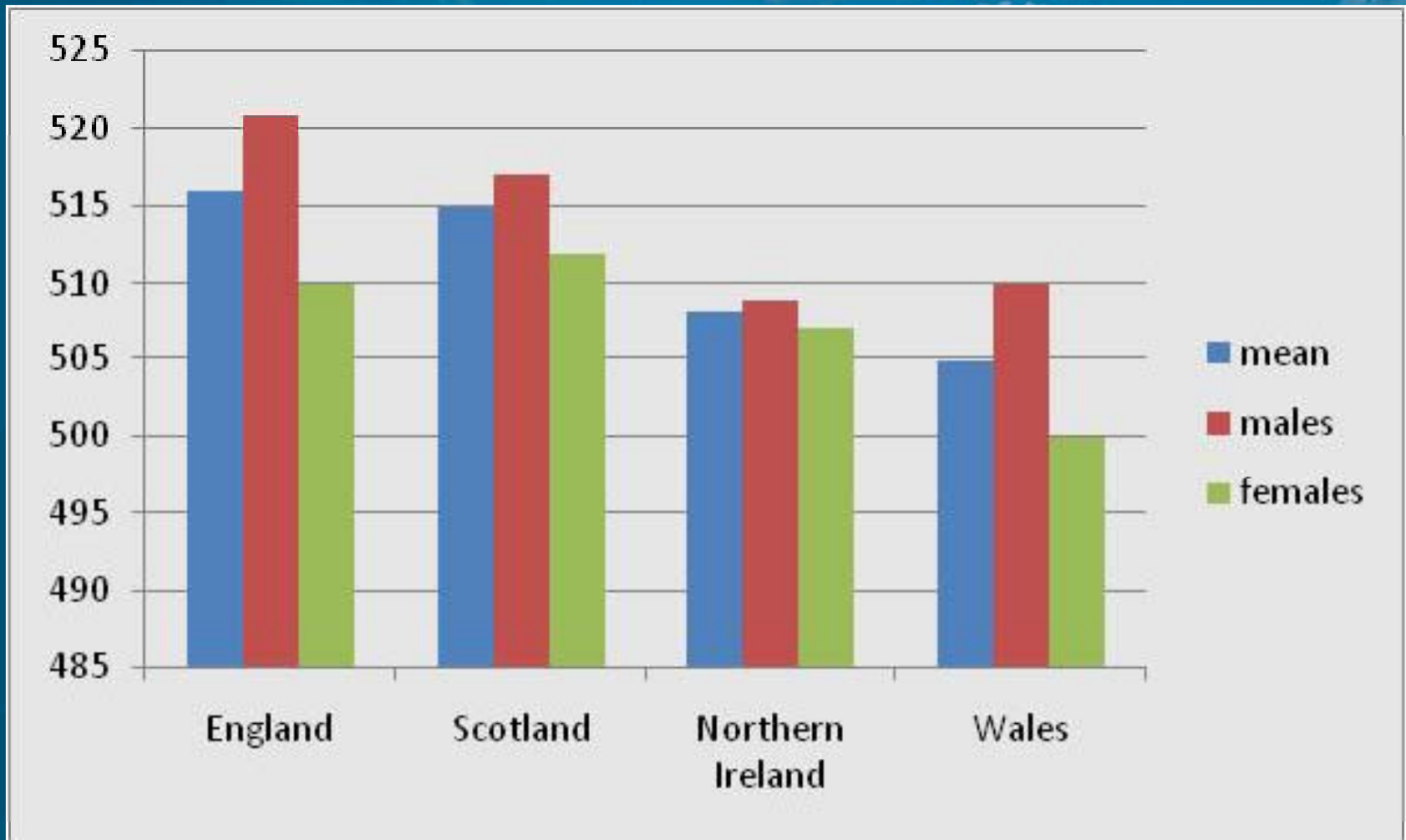
Attitudes to science (2)

- **Students enjoy learning about science and think they do it relatively well (70%)**
- **Only a small majority think science is fun (55% - OECD 63%)**

Range of achievement in science

- **Wide distribution in science compared to most other countries; only exceeded by Israel & New Zealand**
- **3rd highest percentage at Level 6 for science:**
 - Finland 4%, New Zealand 4%, England 3%
- **but also a lot at Level 1 & below**
 - Finland 4%, New Zealand 14%, England 17%

Gender differences in science



What's next?



Further analysis of PISA data

- **Student attitudes**
- **Links with national assessment**
- **Links with other international studies (eg TIMSS 2007)**
- **Background variables (eg Welsh language)**

PISA 2009

- Already done in Scotland
- England, Wales and Northern Ireland in November
- Hoping for a good response again
- Looking forward to finding out about reading skills

Good Luck

for

PISA 2009

