



NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATIONS CENTER

REPORT 2023



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND SCIENCE OF GEORGIA**



**NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND
EXAMINATIONS CENTER**

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Georgia to Host the General Assembly Meeting of the International Association for the
Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) in 2024
2023 Exams Gallery



Sophia Gorgodze

Director of the National Assessment and Examinations Center

Photo Credit: Giorgi Ebanoidze

For the National Assessment and Examinations Center each new year brings forth new challenges.

In the past years, particularly during the COVID 19 outbreak, the NAEC team faced significant challenges, yet the pandemic also provided a unique opportunity to build resilience. Remarkably, 2023 marked a record number of university applicants.

More than 45,000 applicants registered for the Unified National Exams in 2023. In total, for all summer exams, NAEC had to serve more than 75,000 examinees. Creating a comfortable environment for everyone, assigning examinees to the exam centers without prolonging the exams period, delivering results efficiently in the shortest time possible, obviously was not easy; however, like in previous years, the Center managed to cope with these tasks successfully.

This year's exam experience also shows that the number of applicants for whom age is no longer an obstacle has increased - higher education can be obtained at any age, if there is a desire for it. In this regard many inspirational stories were brought to our attention. We have watched mothers breast-feeding their babies during short exam breaks, women with children and grandchildren testing their skills in new directions. Such facts bring us joy and admiration, also hope that more and more people will be drawn to self-development and life-long learning within the upcoming years.

In the 2023 report, we will introduce you to the most memorable exam stories. You will also receive detailed information about the activities that the Center has carried out in various directions throughout the year.

UNIFIED NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

The Unified National Examinations began on the 3rd of July with Georgian language and literature exam and ended on the 26th of July with the physics exam. A record number of examinees registered for the exams - more than 45,000 entrants.

One of the examinees was a 45-year-old Megi Tateshvili –mother of 7 children and grandmother of 2 grandchildren, who is already a student of Samtskhe-Javakheti State University.

"This year 7 members of my family will study at the university. It is surprising to many, but I am one of them. My dream has come true – I became a student. My son also became a student, and my daughter enrolled in master's program. What can I say, it's a year full of emotions.

I was accepted in my first choice program - Primary Education. Along with a busy work schedule, studying was definitely not easy for me. I was especially nervous about history and Georgian language. My tutors in both subjects were kind enough not to charge me for any of my classes. I did my best. The Georgian language teacher sometimes even doubted whether the children were fulfilling the assignments for me. I studied well at school. Having a strong foundation always helps, however, I think motivation was the driv-



ing force in my case. My willpower was so strong even some random phrases like "you are too old to study" couldn't stop me.

I used to lead a quiet life. But after my husband's death, I realized I had to take care of my family. This tragedy, of course, had a heavy impact on my mental and physical health. But I managed to overcome everything and became more determined than ever. First I got a driver's license, and then set a new goal – higher education. I wanted to show everyone that, regardless of age, nothing is impossible - I believed in this and now I advise others not to give up.

My family members, who believed in me, encouraged me in every way. My colleagues also

helped me a lot in my studies. The exams went smoothly. I even collected some funny memories like one case when someone thought I was an invigilator and not an examinee.

It doesn't matter how old you are or what problems you face - when you have potential, you should create your own future. After the article about me was published on your page, several people wrote me: "I was ashamed to even tell others what I wanted to do... Now I will set a goal and, like

you, I will definitely fulfill it", - such responses make me so happy.

I want to tell everyone, especially single mothers, spouses, that life goes on and we have to fight for the well-being of ourselves and our families. It is simply impossible to do much without education. Social status does not matter - an educated person acts and thinks differently. I want to wish everyone success! Never give up on your dreams and do everything to make them come true!"



This year, a mother of three children, Leila Vanadze from Khulo, passed the Unified National Exams and became a student:

"My two children are pupils, and one goes to kindergarten. I am 29 years old. It may be a little late, but I still made studying one of the main priorities in my life. I graduated from school in 2022 as an external student. I am currently working in the public library of Khulo, and at the same time, I am studying information technologies at the college "New Wave". This year I decided to take the Unified National Exams. I chose law as a specialty. I hoped that my dedication would turn into success and fortunately, it did. I enrolled in the Faculty of Law at the Tbel Abuserisdze Teaching University of Georgian Patriarchate. I am sure that with this step I will set a better example for my children."

General statistics of unified national exams:

- ✓ Out of more than 45,000 registered applicants, 94% passed the exams.
- ✓ In 2023, more than 34,800 examinees enrolled, which is 77% of registered applicants.
- ✓ More than 12,000 were funded in 2023.
- ✓ More than 6,540 examinees received the state grants. Out of whom more than 1,000 applicants received a 100% state grant, more than 1,450 examinees received a 70% grant, and more than 4,080 entrants received 50% grant. More than 5,500 examinees were enrolled in state-funded higher education programs. About 1,550 applicants will continue to study at the Georgian language training programs.

According to the first choice of applicants, the highest competition was for the following programs:

- ✓ Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University - Psychology;
- ✓ Ilia State University - Law;
- ✓ Ilia State University - Psychology;
- ✓ Ilia State University - Business Administration (Tourism);
- ✓ Technical University of Georgia - Construction.

The list of Optional Subjects 2023 According to the Applicants' Choice:

- ✓ About 22,200 entrants chose history;
- ✓ Mathematics - more than 15,700 applicants;
- ✓ Biology - more than 3,600 applicants;
- ✓ Chemistry - more than 2,600 applicants;
- ✓ Geography - more than 2,200 applicants;
- ✓ Physics - up to 700 applicants;
- ✓ Literature - up to 1,300 entrants;
- ✓ Civic education - more than 2,000 entrants;
- ✓ More than 300 entrants chose fine and applied arts.

In 2023, 24 examination centers were operating throughout Georgia, including: Tbilisi, Batumi, Zugdidi, Kutaisi, Poti, Akhaltsikhe, Gori, Ozurgeti, Rustavi, Telavi and Khulo.



This year, for the first time, the exam center was opened in Ambrolauri, where about 120 applicants took the exam. They no longer had to travel from Racha to another region to take the exams, which gave the entrants an opportunity to save both time and financial resources.



EXAMINATIONS AND REGULATIONS

In 2023, the covid-19 regulations were no longer effective. If an applicant with infectious diseases, including covid, was willing to take an exam on a set date, a specially arranged examination sector was assigned according to the medical documentation submitted by an examinee.



In 2023, an applicant who was absent during an exam had an opportunity to request a mock up exam session due to the following compassionate reasons:

- a) Being in a medical facility for at least one day during the exam;
- b) The death of a family member (spouse, mother, father, sibling, child);
- c) Natural disaster or other uncontrollable event.

The entrant was obliged to present relevant documents confirming one of the mentioned compassionate reasons to the center within 3 working days after the end of the relevant examination session.

This regulation was implemented in 2023 following the decision of the Constitutional Court and it applies to entrants and participants of the student grant competition.

The center conducted makeup exam sessions for 33 examinees.



PRE-EXAM PREPARATION

The very first steps for the pre-exam preparation were announcing tenders for relevant products and services for example: exam equipment, network infrastructure, transportation of invigilators, etc. After stocking up on Stationery, medical and household items sound amplifiers, headphones and pens were checked.

14,000 notebook computers and servers were prepared and loaded with with a special program.

The examination schedule was developed, after which the examinees were assigned to examination centers.

Preparatory trainings were held for invigilators (in total 1979 people; 1481 - Tbilisi, 498 - region).



Administrator-coordinators and assistants. Technical (IT managers, video operators, registrars, etc.) and other support staff were selected.

Guidelines including instructions, the lists of educational programs and other necessary information were prepared.



Due to the significance of the centralized exams inter-sectoral working group was created including the following agencies:

- ✓ **Administration of the Government of Georgia;**
- ✓ **Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia;**
- ✓ **National Assessment and Examinations Center;**
- ✓ **Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia;**
- ✓ **Tbilisi City Hall;**
- ✓ **Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia;**
- ✓ **Ministry of IDPs from Occupied Territories , Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;**
- ✓ **The Special Penitentiary Service under the Ministry of Justice of Georgia – Department of Convict Resocialization-Rehabilitation;**
- ✓ **Office of Resource Officers of Educational Institutions;**
- ✓ **LEPL Education Management Information System;**
- ✓ **LEPL Educational and Scientific Infrastructure Development Agency;**
- ✓ **JSC "Telasi";**
- ✓ **JSC Energo-pro Georgia";**
- ✓ **Magticom LLC;**
- ✓ **Skytel LLC.**

The meeting of the 2023 inter-sectoral working group was held, where the members discussed issues related to the exam preparation and drafted an action plan highlighting specific tasks for each agency.

The director of the National Assessment and Examinations Center presented the pre-examination preparatory works to the Education and Science Committee of the Parliament. Sophia Gorgodze shared details about the pre-examination period and answered the parliamentarians' questions. The questions were related to various directions of the center's activities, including Unified National Exams, Student Grant Competition and International Assessments.



ITEM DEVELOPMENT AND TEST DESIGN

Just like in previous years, in 2023, the most important and responsible part of pre-exam preparation was working on test booklets and supporting materials.



Due to the unprecedented number of registered entrants this year, NAEC's subject experts prepared more test versions than in other years.

- ✓ 44 tests in 17 subjects for entrants;
- ✓ 73 tests in 24 subjects for teachers.

The center also prepared several test versions (main and additional) for the Unified Master's Examination and the Student Grant Competition.

The process included the following stages:

- ✓ Creating test blueprints, item development, pre-test and psychometric analysis;
- ✓ Designing main and additional test versions;
- ✓ Editing the final versions of the tests;

- ✓ Translating tests for ethnic minorities;
- ✓ Selecting and training of markers, revising the evaluation schemes and preparing for marking process.

In order to control the quality, protect the fairness and accuracy of the assessment the National Assessment and Examinations Center conducts psychometric analysis every year. The center uses classical and modern test theory to thoroughly analyze the results, which enables refinement and improvement of the examination process. The analysis involves several key steps.

First, the average score and average difficulty of each test are calculated, which provides information about the general level of achievement in the individual subject.

Standard deviations and reliability coefficients are calculated annually to assess the variation in scores and the consistency of the tests. These indicators help the staff of the center to constantly monitor the reliability of the evaluation process.

In addition, difficulty level, correlation of the individual item with the whole test and distinction are determined. This allows to control not only the reliability and accuracy of the test as a whole, but also the interoperability and accuracy of its constituent parts.

The use of such comprehensive analysis ensures that examination tests meet standards of accuracy, validity, and reliability.

INFORMATION MEETINGS FOR ENTRANTS

In 2023, the National Assessment and Examinations Center actively held information meetings throughout Georgia. Meetings were held both face-to-face (held in 17 cities) and online.

Meetings were organized for the students of the schools of the border villages, as well as for the accused/convicted entrants.

NAEC's subject experts and the heads of the relevant services shared the latest updates about exams 2023 and answered questions regarding exam materials, as well as logistical and administrative issues.



EMPLOYEES FROM EXAMINATION CENTERS

This year, more than 75,000 examinees were served by 3,500 employees of 24 examination centers. Exams were held smoothly, in compli-

ance with all the rules and in a comfortable environment thanks to the hard work and efforts of everyone.















The biggest supporters of the 2023 examinees were the youngest members of the NAEC's team who were themselves entrants a few years ago. One of them was the registrar of the examination center opened in the 10th public school of Batumi - Lizi Lomtadidze.

"I was 19 years old when I started working at the examination center. I was still studying at the university in the first year. I have been involved in this important process for the sixth year. This year I graduated from Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University Faculty of Medicine. Since I passed the entrance exams not so long ago, I understand the applicants very well. I want to reassure everyone and advise them to meet all life's challenges appropriately and with dignity. The new generation is different. It is obvious that they come to the exams with much more confidence, and this fact makes me very happy."



Like in previous years, Eter Mukhigulashvili, the hostess of the exam center in the 175th public school was all loved up during the exams.

"I wrote well, grandma!" – I am so happy every time the students tell me this when they come out of the exam and share a warm goodbye. I recently turned 70 years old – in addition to my grandchildren, you can say that I am also a grandmother of these applicants. I support each of them with all my heart.

I have been working as a cleaning lady for 12 years in the examination center in the 175th public school. This place is more than a job for me – I have a second home and a second family here. It seems that the joy of life increases with the interaction with the employees of the center.

We start cleaning the examination center from 6 o'clock in the morning. Physical work is not easy for anyone, but the love of caring for people makes everything easier for us."

Eter Mukhigulashvili.



This year, the colleagues from exam center in the 39th public school added one more rule to the traditional regulations – a common dress code, which made exams more joyful experience.

"On the first day of exams when we came to work, we discovered by chance that 5 employees were wearing the same color - yellow clothes. It looked so dapper, we decided that everyone, including the registrars and members of the ad-

ministration, would dress in the same color every day.

We chose the color randomly and took a group picture at the end of each day. Such a small detail made our day and the examinees also liked our initiative. We kept hearing: "Wow, how red are you today?" What color will you pick for the next exam?" - The administrator of the 39th public school examination center Sofiko Davitaya.





STORIES FROM EXAM CENTERS

The examinees were the main characters of the most memorable stories of this year.

Music became an essential pre-exam energizer and a stress reliever for some applicants.



For some examinees, the Unified National Examinations of 2023 became another opportunity to express themselves – many applicants came to exam centers dressed in traditional Georgian outfits “Chokha”. Giorgi Dobadzishvili, who is already a student of the Faculty of Public Relations of the Technical University of Georgia, happened to be one of them.

"This year, I am not the first person to appear for the history exam wearing a traditional Georgian outfit- this fact makes me happy. I have been very fond of national clothes since childhood - I sing in the folk ensemble "Martve" and play folk instruments. I respect the history and traditions of my country. This was the reason for selecting that look. I passed the exam successfully. Obviously, the issues related to the history of Georgia turned out to be simpler and more "native" to me," - Giorgi Dobadzishvili.

In addition to the examinees, the staff of the exam center also took care of the center's four-legged friends this year. That’s how the homeless puppy “Namtsetsa” found a new home at the 4th public school of Zugdidi.

Luara Lataria met "Namtsetsa" in the yard of the exam center after taking the exam. She learned more about the puppy from the registrar who took

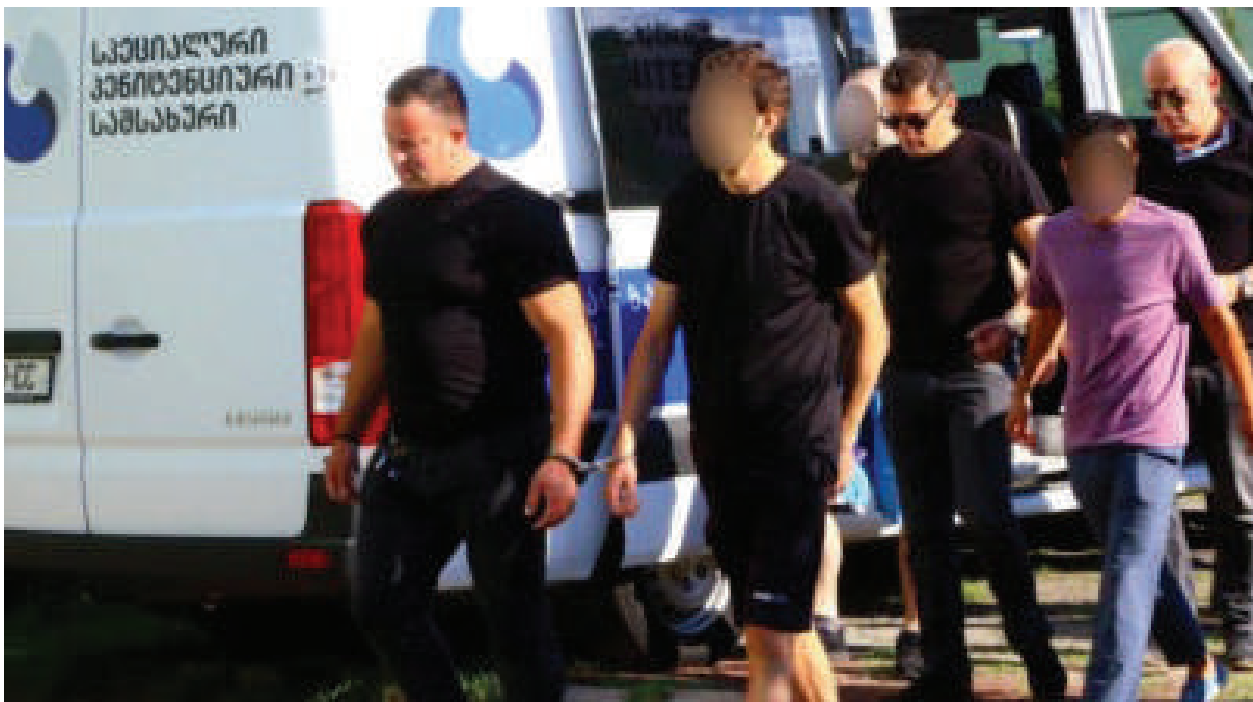


care of it during previous days. Therefore, Luara an ultimate dog lover asked to take "Namtsetsa" home to her 4 dogs.



EXAMINATIONS FOR ACCUSED INDIVIDUALS /CONVICTS

A total of 22 convicts/accused participated in the 2023 Unified National and Unified Master's exams this year. 21 of them passed the exams successfully.



APPLICANTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Like in previous years the National Assessment and Examinations Center offered equal conditions for all examinees. Each applicant had an opportunity to inform the center about the special need. A group of independent experts identified and analyzed the requirements of examinees with special needs based on their applications and medical documents.

About 2 weeks before the beginning of the exams, the final decision of the commission regarding the special arrangements was posted on the official website of the center. The information was confidential and the examinee could only see it through the nine-digit identification code on the test card.

At the same time, the center contacted each of those examinees and made sure they were well-informed.

In 2023, the center created special arrangements for more than 300 examinees.

The center hosted applicants with a wide range of disabilities including blindness, hearing impairment, cerebral palsy and limited motor functions. The necessary special arrangements were created in the examination centers, some applicants received additional exam time, others were granted with an assistant. In relevant cases, the applicants were offered scribe/amanuensis.



TEACHER COMPETENCY EXAMINATION AND EXAM FOR CANDIDATE TEACHERS

More than 16,000 applicants registered for the 2023 teacher subject exam, and about 2,500 examinees registered for the senior special teacher exam.

The exam started on the 6th of July and concluded on the 24th of July. More than 82% of the

18,500 applicants were present for the exams. As for the test of professional skills to advance the status of a leading and mentor teacher, according to the decision of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, the registration was postponed until the beginning of 2024.



This year, along parents, babies visited the exam centers for the teachers exams.

Nursing mothers were offered to take feeding breaks during the exams. The center staff contributed to comfortable and peaceful breastfeeding experience for the examinees.



LANGUAGE EXAM FOR ITALIAN LANGUAGE TEACHERS

This year, for the first time, Italian language teachers and candidate teachers were given an opportunity to take the subject exam. The exam was held on the 31st of August at the National Assessment and Examinations Center. Out of 50 registered applicants, 42 were present during the exam.

Italian language exam tested listening, reading, writing and speaking skills in Italian. The maximum score of the exam test was 90. Duration of the exam: listening, writing and reading parts - 4 hours; Speaking part - 15 minutes.

The order of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia "On approving the rules for conducting subject and professional skills exams" was amended from 2023, according to which Italian language teachers were given the opportunity to take the subject exam. The Italian language test items were developed by the language center "Minerva" and handed over to the National Center for Professional Development of Teachers within the framework of the memorandum. The Italian language subject test was administered by the NAEC.



STUDENT GRANT COMPETITION

More than 3,000 students expressed their desire to participate in the student grant competition; More than 75% of registered applicants were present at the exam. The number of students who received or improved the state educational grant in 2023 was 252.



THE UNIFIED MASTER'S EXAMINATION

In 2023, more than 10,000 applicants registered for the Unified Master's Examination. This year the test consisted of 4 parts: reading comprehension, analytical writing, logical reasoning, quantitative reasoning. Exceeding the minimum threshold of competence in any of the three was sufficient for the examinee to be considered to have successfully passed the Unified Master's

Examination. At the same time, the higher education institution could still determine the 3 parts in which it was required to overcome the barrier. Testing was conducted on July 27-28, in 2 sessions. More than 80% of registered candidates were present. 5043 applicants enrolled and 890 received educational grants.



CONTINUE STUDYING IN GEORGIA

The National Assessment and Examinations Center supports Georgian citizens' endeavors to transfer from foreign universities to Georgian higher educational institutions. Therefore, the organization facilitates special exams to ensure more flexible schedule and broader opportunities.

In 2023, an exam for applicants who were willing to continue their studies in Georgia was held three times. Testing was conducted on the 1st of February, the 1st of September and the 12th of October.

Eligible candidates were citizens of Georgia who had studied, were studying or had received credits in a higher educational institution recognized in accordance with the legislation of a foreign country (not less than one semester/ 75 days).

Tests consisting of 3 parts (reading comprehension, logical reasoning and quantitative reasoning) were specially prepared for those exams.

2023 Statistics

✓ 246 registered applicants; ✓ 94% were present; ✓ 49 passed successfully.



POST-EXAMINATION STEPS

- ✓ Marking;
- ✓ Psychometric analysis;
- ✓ Publishing the assessment scheme and primary results;
- ✓ Introducing the test and evaluation scheme to the appeal commission;
- ✓ Reviewing appeals;
- ✓ Publishing the final results;
- ✓ Developing a future plan based on the results of the psychometric analysis.

EXAMINEES' MESSAGES TO THE NAEC

განცხადება

მოგახსენებთ, რომ ჩემმა ქორმა, ანა მანუშვიძე, წელს ჩაბარა გამოცდები უმაღლესი ქულებით, ხოლო გამოცდის 100%-იანი გაცემის შემთხვევაში მისი დამსახურებაა, რომ, თუკი, სერტიფიკატს მივაწვდით! ეს წარმოუდგენლად დიდი დამსახურება იყო ჩვენთვის! ჩემი შთაბეჭდილებაა, რომ ვერ ვმეცნობ. შესაძლებელია, ანა მისი კომპიუტერული აქტის, მისი ნებისმიერი შედეგის მიხედვით არ ყველაფერს შეძლებს, ხოლო ანა უნდა იმდენი დამსახურება გვქონდეს! თუკი იმის მიხედვით შევნიშნავთ ანაზე ნამდვირად!

" I am writing to let you know that my daughter Ana Mazmishvili enrolled with highest scores and was awarded with an educational grant this year. Two days ago, we found out that she also received a scholarship from the university! This was so timely support for us, my husband is a person with disability, I'm unemployed, Ana had no computer and she lacks educational resources. With your work you have contributed to her educational development. God bless you!"

Madona Mazmishvili
29.09.2023



02 AUG AT 16:27

გამარჯობა. მე არაფერი
მაინტერესებს ისე გწერთ
მადლობის სათქმელად იმიტომ,
რომ ამდენ ადამიანს პასუხობთ
(უძლებთ)💖💖💖💖👉



Hello! I'm not writing to inquire about anything. I'd like to just express my gratitude for your timely responses and dedication.



მოგესალმებით. მადლობას გიხდით ამ წლის გამოცდებისთვის. დიაბეტი მაქვს და ფორმა ასი ვერ წარვადგინე დროულად, თუმცა თელავის საგამოცდო ცენტრში ერთი კარგი ბიჭი იყო, ვინც ამ საკითხს კურიერება და ყველაფერში ხელი შემიწყო - საგამოცდო ოთახამდე მომყვა ყველა გამოცდაზე და გარეთ დამატოვებინა შაქრის საზომი და წვენი. დიდი გულის ადამიანია ეგ ბიჭი.

მადლობა, რომ მუშაობთ ისე, როგორც სწორია. ❤️
წარმატებები.

P.S. თორნიკე ერქვა მაგ ბიჭს, გვარი სამწუხაროდ დამავიწყდა. მადლობა გადაუხადეთ, რომ ასე ასრულებს თავის საქმეს.



Hello! Thank you for this year's exams. I have a diabetes but couldn't present medical documents to the NAEC on time. However, there was a boy in Telavi exam center who assisted me and gave me an opportunity to have easy access to Glucometer and juice. That boy had a big heart. Thanks for this attitude and doing the right thing!

05 JUL AT 14:13

ყველაზე მაგარი დამკვირვებლები იყვნენ დღეს 175სკოლის ბ კორპუსის 22სექტორში უსაყვარლესი ქალბატონები ❤️
❤️ ❤️



The best invigilators were in 175 public school, B block, sector 22.

ასევე დიდი მადლობა მინდა გადავუხადო ქუთაისის 17 სკოლაში ვინც იყო ყველა თანამშრომელს, მშვიდი და თბილი გარემოსთვის ❤️ ❤️



I'd like to thank the exam center staff from Kutaisi 17-th public school for creating peaceful and warm environment.

15 AUG AT 14:57

უღრმესი მადლობა
რომ ასეთი ყურადღებიანი
გუნდი გყავთ



Thank you for such considerate and kind staff!

SUMMARY OF THE EXAMINATION PROCESS

Every year after concluding examination process the National Assessment and Examinations Center holds a meeting. Administrators, Coordinators of exam centers along with the NAEC's permanent staff get together to summarize the work done and develop a better action plan for the next year. This year was no exception.

During the working meeting the participants shared some "lessons learnt" and suggested ways to further develop the process.



NATIONAL SCHOOL OLYMPIAD

2022-2023

The National School Olympiad 2022-2023 was organized in three rounds in the following subjects: Georgian language and literature, Georgian language (for students of non-Georgian-speaking schools), mathematics, history, geography, physics, chemistry, biology and foreign language.

More than 56,700 students took part in the Olympiad. Up to 9,000 participants moved to the second round, and more than 600 students moved to the third round.

The National School Olympiad is held every year. The purpose of the Olympiad is to stimulate

learning process and encourage students. The winners become members of the national teams and participate in the International Olympiads on behalf of Georgia.

The winners of the National School Olympiad 2022-2023 academic year were awarded by the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, Gela Geladze, and the Director of the National Assessment and Examinations Center, Sophia Gorgodze. Gift cards and diplomas were granted to the 52 participants who won the first, second and third places in various subjects.



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION EXAMS

In 2023, Vocational Exams were conducted by the NAEC. Registration was available until the 10th of September online at vet.emis.ge as well as through vocational colleges.

More than 11,000 applicants expressed their desire to participate.

In 2023, the maximum score for each test was 30. The minimum competency threshold was considered exceeded if the examinee scored 15% of the maximum score. The time allotted for testing was 1 hour and 30 minutes.

The National Assessment and Examinations Center published examination programs and created sample tests for applicants.

Vocational testing was held on September 23-24 throughout Georgia. 53 examination centers were opened in total, 5 of them were in Tbilisi. 1 day before the exam, all applicants had an opportunity to take the mock test online and familiarize with the test format.

The registration as well as enrollement and technical support were provided by the LEPL Education Management Information System.



CERTUS – ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TESTING

In 2023, after several years of development and technological advancement, the National Assessment and Examinations Center launched an updated version of the project “Certus”. The first exam was held on the 10th of May.

“CERTUS” is a great way to test English language proficiency and obtain a certificate in a flash. The test evaluates examinee’s level of grammatical structures, vocabulary, as well as reading, listening, speaking and writing skills. The level of language proficiency is determined in accordance with the levels set by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages – C1 (high), B2 (above average), B1 (medium), A2 (below average), A1 (elementary).

The test consists of four parts:

1. Reading and use of English;
2. Listening;
3. Speaking;
4. Writing.

The examinee can take the test fully or partially.

“CERTUS” is a computer-based test. Therefore, the results of reading comprehension and use of English are revealed upon completion. However, the results of the speaking and listening parts are known within 10 working days.

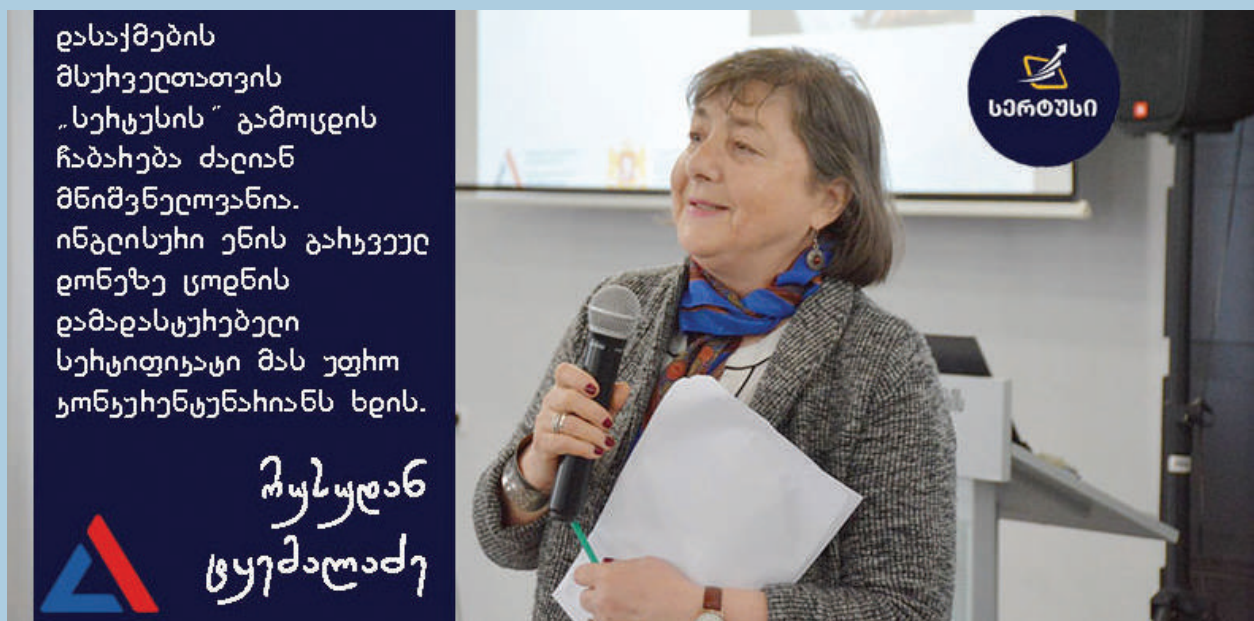
The project is intended for job seekers, master's degree and doctoral candidates, as well as for any interested person who wants to test the level of English language proficiency.





The presentation of the project was held at the NAEC in April 2023. The author of the project and other members of the “Certus” team introduced the project and discussed future plans with the representatives of higher educational institutions and other guests.

An abstract from the interview
with the author of the project,
Dr. Rusudan Tkemaladze, Head of the Center's
Foreign Languages Group.



**"Certus" a test that meets modern requirements",
Author: Lali Jeladze, "New Education";
September 13, Wednesday, 2023**

How did you come up with an idea of this project and how do you see the consumer demand in this direction?

The idea came from the demand for English language, which Today it is all over the world and not only in the country. English today is the "Lingua Franca" — the language of the international com-

munity (oral, written). Most of the information on the Internet is in English, including scientific literature and fiction. Due to this as well as the Center's wealth of experience in test development we made up our minds to create a valid, reliable test which would meet modern requirements and be affordable to our citizens.

ASSESSMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

In May 2023, the 5th intensive pilot testing was successfully completed within the framework of the project “Assessment for Development”. Four days of testing started on the 2nd of May. Each day, up to 14,000 students from 770 public schools were involved in each session.



4th and 6th graders were tested in mathematics, as well as in Georgian language and literature. Pilot testing aimed to test the functionality and the test format of the e-assessment platform.

The National Assessment and Examinations Center started working on the project “Assessment for Development” back in 2019. Since then, a number of pilots have been conducted in order to refine the electronic platform and the testing format, as well as adapt it to the needs of the school as much as possible.

The project “Assessment for Development” aims to assess the achievements of fourth and sixth graders in Georgian and mathematics. The testing is conducted entirely by electronic software: students complete the tasks and receive results electronically.

In the future, the project will give the school an opportunity to observe the trends in teaching and learning both at the individual class level and at the school level in general. In addition, the re-

sults will help students and parents gain information about students’ strengths and weaknesses. It should be noted that the obtained points are not reflected in the student’s annual summative assessment..

It is worth mentioning that project manager Eka Jeladze and developer Giorgi Khurtsidze shared their experience with the participants of the 6th FLIP+ conference on June 8-9, 2023. The conference was hosted by Cambridge University Press and Assessment Center.

FLIP+ is an e-assessment community that brings together organizations and individuals involved in educational assessment to share their knowledge and experience with e-Assessment. Among them is the National Assessment and Examinations Center. The FLIP+ conference is held annually and covers the latest developments in the field.



TAOtesting is a widely used platform for centralized assessments among FLIP+ members, although most countries use the platform as a commercial service. Eka Jeladze and Giorgi Khurtsidze shared a completely different approach and experience of modifying TAOtesting open source software in accordance with the tasks and goals of the project.

INTERNATIONAL EXAMS

In 2023, the National Assessment and Examinations Center administered various types of international examinations (Cambridge, TOEFL, ACCA).

- ✓ In 2023, 46 examinees took TOEFL exam.
- ✓ ACCA - 61 examinees.
- ✓ 532 applicants took the Cambridge exams.



On the 15th of July, 2023, the National Assessment and Examinations Center administered an entrance exam for V. Komarov Tbilisi physics-mathematics N199 public school. 741 students in total participated.



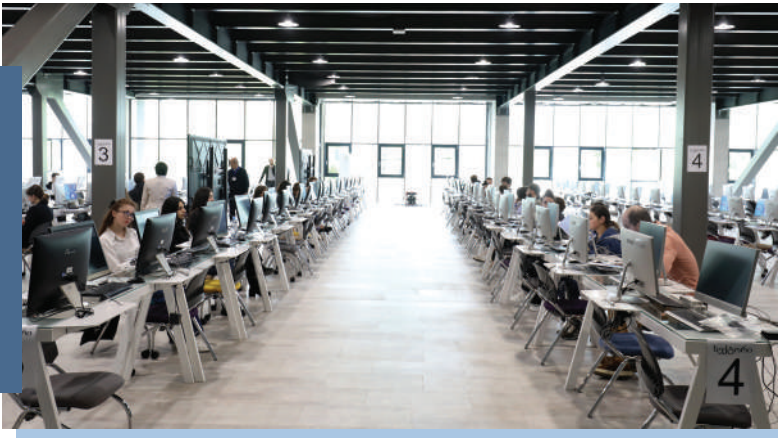
CADET MILITARY LYCEUM NAMED AFTER GENERAL GIORGI KVINITADZE ENTRANCE EXAMS

The National Assessment and examinations Center conducted an entrance exam for the Cadet Military Lyceum named after General Giorgi Kvinitadze in Tbilisi and Kutaisi. Applicants took an exam in mathematics on the 8th of July, and in general abilities on the 9th of July. A total of 392 applicants were examined.



SELECTION TESTING FOR EY LLC

This year, the National Assessment and Examinations Center also conducted a selection exam for Ltd “EUI”. 74 applicants participated in the test.



TRAINING IN ITEM WRITING AND TEST DESIGN

In 2023, the National Assessment and Examinations Center organized a training for teachers in 2 stages, in spring and in autumn. The topic of the training was “item writing and test design”. Training sessions lasted about 6 hours a day (with short breaks). The working language was English - the meetings were led by an international consultant invited by the World Bank.

Participants were selected via an open competition based on their experience in teaching and English language proficiency (high level of English language proficiency was mandatory, as well as at least three years of teaching experience). Trainings were held in the following subjects: mathematics, Georgian language and literature, history, foreign languages, physics, chemistry, biology, geography.



AN ECONOMIC NEED-BASED PRIVATE FUNDING MECHANISM FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

In 2023, with an active involvement of the National Assessment and Examinations Center, a project was implemented, the goal of which is to promote the implementation of an alternative financing mechanism based on economic needs of undergraduate students in Georgia with the participation of the private sector.

Within the framework of the project, a web platform was created, which is an effective tool for communication between the funder and the university. The private and charitable sector registered in Georgia, as well as individuals who want to provide material/immaterial support to undergraduate students who are citizens of Georgia within the

framework of their social responsibility, have the opportunity to register on the web platform. The funder is connected to the authorized university(s) in Georgia using the same platform.

The idea of the project belongs to the associate professor of Oxford University, Maya Chankselian, and the head of the National Assessment and Examination Center, Sophia Gorgodze. The idea of the project was supported by the Ministry of Education and Science, and its implementation was made possible with the help of the Oxford Policy Engagement Network, which receives funding from the Research England's Policy Support Fund of the English Higher Education Funding Agency.

Project target group

The target group of the project is represented by: students of bachelor's degree, integrated bachelor-master's degree in teacher training, integrated master's degree in veterinary medicine, medical doctor/dentist (hereinafter bachelor) students who were enrolled in an authorized higher education institution on the basis of unified national exams and who are citizens of Georgia.

The registered funder has the opportunity to apply for the number of student(s) to be funded ac-

cording to the university(s) of priority. The funder has the opportunity to select the student(s) for funding based on a combination of several criteria, for example, taking into account the study program, the student's region of residence, the student's economic status, the student's scaled score on the unified national exams and other results.


The criteria selected by the funder are automatically sent to the representative of the selected university, which is also registered on the platform.

The representative of the university(s) will inform the funder about the availability of such stu-


other university(s).



საქართველოს
განათლებისა და
მეცნიერების
სამინისტრო


[წიგნის მუშაობა](#)
[ხელის შეწყობის პროგრამები](#)

[შეძახე](#)
[კონკრეტული](#)



სტუდენტების დაფინანსების პლატფორმა

ფორმის	დაფინანსების წილი	დაფინანსებული რაოდენობა
ფორმის	საბა	11 სტუდენტი
ფორმის	პროგრამა	10 სტუდენტი
ფორმის	საბა/საპროგრამო დაფინანსება	10 სტუდენტი
ფორმის	საპროგრამო	3 სტუდენტი
ფორმის	სტუდენტის	3 სტუდენტი

“PUTTING PIRLS TO USE IN CLASSROOMS ACROSS THE GLOBE”

On Wednesday, the 25th of January, a presentation of an e-book was held at the NAEC. The book “Putting PIRLS to Use in Classrooms Across the Globe” was prepared based on the materials of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA).

IEA is an international cooperative of national research institutions, governmental research agencies, scholars, and analysts working to research, understand, and improve education worldwide. PIRLS, the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study, is one of the core studies of IEA. PIRLS provides internationally comparative data on how well children read and offers educators and policymakers key insights for improving learning and teaching. NAEC has been conducting PIRLS since 2006.

Dr. Gorgodze, along with her colleagues, and the IEA representatives Andrea Netten, Paulína Koršňáková and Laura Cheeseman presented important insights from the book. Primary level

teachers attended the presentation which was followed by engaging discussions in two parallel sessions.

In the book, which is dedicated to reading strategies, the example of five countries, including Georgia (Bolnisi Municipality Vill Darbazi Public School & Public School # 2 in Akhalkalaki), is given. The book includes the best practices from schools internationally and we are pleased that two schools from Georgia and their practices are among them.

This new resource will help teachers put the latest scientific approaches to reading comprehension into practice. The book is the first in the IEA series which aims to highlight and translate practical information derived from the association’s studies, using the data in a suitable way to give back to teachers.

Information about the translation of this important guide into Georgian was also published in the annual magazine of the IEA - "Insider".





INTERNATIONAL EXAMS AND ASSESSMENT

PIRLS 2021 International Results in Reading



On the 16th of May the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) published the results of PIRLS 2021 (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study).

In 2021, the number of countries participating in the study increased to 57. A total of 346,992 students worldwide took part in the international study. 5,637 students from 190 schools participated in PIRLS 2021 from Georgia.

The PIRLS 2021 study was conducted under different circumstances compared to previous cycles due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. A large number of students were switched to distance learning mode, therefore, the number of students in the classrooms of the schools selected for testing was less than the acceptable percentage of the reliability of the study. This is why, according to the

decision of the IEA, in 14 countries (United States of America, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Ireland, Qatar, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Northern Ireland, Croatia, Georgia), students wrote the test in the fall instead of the spring of 2021, and in 6 countries the test was conducted one year later. Therefore, a new stream of fourth-graders took part in the test in these countries.

Considering the mentioned circumstances, the IEA highly recommended not to compare the results of the countries that wrote the test in the fall with the results of the countries that completed the test in the spring.

During the testing period, the average age of students in Georgia was 5 months higher than the average age of students in most countries. A similar situation existed in 13 other countries, where, due to the age difference, it was difficult to compare with the previous cycles. PIRLS data indicated a substantial deterioration in achievement in the vast majority of participating countries.

It should be noted that Georgia is not in the list of countries where the average literacy score has decreased.

Along with the evaluation of the student's achievements in literacy, the task of the research is to study the impact of school, teacher and family factors on the student's literacy achievements and the formation of literacy skills.

At this stage, some general findings can be introduced:

Out of the 57 countries participated in the study, only in 6 countries are boys able to have similar achievements in literacy as girls. In the remaining 51 countries, including Georgia, girls have better literacy achievements than boys. In none of the countries included in the study do boys have

an advantage over girls. In Georgia, the difference between the achievements of students by gender is statistically significant and is maintained throughout the entire research cycle;

According to recent studies, a comparative analysis of urban and rural schools in Georgia shows the advantage of urban schools in the literacy achievement of students, although the 2021 study shows a reduction in the gap between rural and urban schools due to the improvement of rural school achievement. Improvements in rural school student outcomes were also seen in the 2019 Math and Science Achievement Scores (TIMSS 2019);

In the 2021 study, a statistically significant difference between the achievement of students in private and public schools remained. Private school students do better on literacy tasks.

PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) is an international literacy study of fourth-grade students conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) since 2001.

Georgia participated in the last four cycles (2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021). The research group of the National Assessment and Examinations Center is leading the PIRLS in Georgia. The research aims to evaluate the reading skills of 9-10-year-old (fourth-grade) students and determine the impact of such contextual factors as the learning environment, parental involvement, school management, teacher qualifications, information and communication technologies, etc., on the student's learning process.

PIRLS focuses on the reading goals and comprehension processes of fiction and informational texts. Half of the PIRLS assessment focuses on acquiring literary expertise, and the other half focuses on acquiring and using information.

Results of the International Student Assessment PISA 2022

On the 5th of December, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) published the results of the PISA 2022.

The International Student Assessment PISA assesses the knowledge and skills of 15-year-old students in mathematics, reading and science. PISA tests assess how well students can solve complex problems, think critically, and communicate effectively.

Based on the results of the PISA assessment, it is possible to analyze how well education systems prepare 15-year-old students for real challenges and contribute to future success.

The PISA study in Georgia was administered by the National Assessment and Examinations Center. Georgia participated in the assessment for the first time in 2009, and the following assessments were conducted in 2015, 2018 and 2022.



Approximately 690,000 students from 81 countries participated in PISA 2022, representing approximately 29 million 15 year olds. In Georgia, the pilot study of the PISA 2022 cycle was conducted in March and April 2021, during which new tasks and

questionnaires in the cognitive field of mathematics were tested.

Between April and May 2022, the main study was carried out. Despite the pandemic, Georgia secured one of the highest participation rates compared to OECD and partner countries at 98% (covering 95% of 15-year-old students).

6,583 students from 267 schools from Georgia participated in the test. The school principals' questionnaire was filled out by 267 school principals, the teacher's questionnaire by 3,202 teachers, and the parent questionnaire by 6,252 parents/guardians. During the PISA 2022 testing, 76% of 15 year old students in Georgia were in the 10th grade.

TIMSS 2023

On the 9th of June Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study 2023 was completed in Georgia. 10 000 fourth and eighth grade students from 166 public and private schools took part in the research.

Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study is conducted in more than 70 countries worldwide. It is organized by International Association for the Evaluation of

Educational Achievement (IEA). This year TIMSS marked the eighth cycle of the assessment since the inauguration of the study in 1995. Providing over 20 years of trend data, TIMSS has been a valuable tool for monitoring international trends in mathematics and science achievement at the fourth and eighth grades. Georgia has been participating in TIMSS from 2007 and the NAEC has been conducting the study ever since.





Like the previous TIMSS assessments, TIMSS 2023 will collect detailed information about curriculum and curriculum implementation, instructional practices, and school resources.

Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study 2023 was conducted in a fully electronic format. Like in other developed countries, for the first time in Georgia, students were tested using the online administration method. Together with the students, their parents, teachers and school principals participated in the research.

TIMSS achievement data are accompanied by a rich array of contextual questionnaire data about how countries around the world deliver and improve learning in mathematics and science. Trend results across study cycles permit countries to monitor the effectiveness of their educational systems in a global context.

In order to ensure highly efficient administration of the survey, the National Assessment and Examinations Center conducted nationwide trainings for survey proctors and administrators. 242 representatives of 166 schools participated in the trainings.

It is important that in the current cycle the participation rate of students, teachers, principals and parents were particularly high in Georgia. The research was conducted across the country in full compliance with international recommendations and standards. The research process was monitored and evaluated by international quality control monitors.

The results of the study will be available in 2024.

SHARING EXPERIENCE

Visit of the Tajik delegation to the National Assessment and Examinations Center

In 2023, the National Assessment and Examinations Center hosted the delegation from Tajikistan. The delegation included the Deputy Minister of Education and Science - Abdulzada Ziyadullah Nazar as well as educational experts and managers.

The purpose of the visit was to learn more about educational reforms in Georgia. The representatives of the center introduced Georgian exam models. The members of the delegation, in turn, talked about the exam model that currently operates in Tajikistan.

The Tajik delegation also visited other educational institutions in Georgia. The delegation was interested in receiving information in the following directions: pre-school and general education; higher education; authorization and accreditation issues; professional development of teachers, certification; competency-based education; Use of ICT in education.



GEORGIA TO HOST THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EVALUATION OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (IEA) IN 2024

The 64th General Assembly meeting of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement was held in Versailles, France. 120 representatives from 60 countries gathered to review IEA projects, share their experiences with

Since 1958 IEA has measured students’ mastery of subjects such as mathematics, science, and reading; conducted assessments on civic and citizenship education; investigated students’ computer and information literacy; and researched early childhood



disseminating IEA study results, and discuss critical topics in the field of International Large-scale Assessments.

On Thursday, the 28th Dr. Sophia Gorgodze the director of the National Assessment and Examinations Center presented Georgia as the future host country.

The General Assembly organized by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) is one of the outstanding events in the field of education. It involves outstanding educational experts and policy makers who aim to foster educational progress.

and teacher education. The association aims to help members understand effective practices in education and develop evidence-based policies to improve education.

Dr. Sophia Gorgodze, the director of the National Assessment and Examinations Center, is a member of the Standing Committee of the association. The Standing Committee serves as the IEA decision-making authority, and works with the IEA chair and executive director to implement General Assembly resolutions. The committee is also responsible for recommending committee members and new studies to the General Assembly.

2023 Exams Gallery











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