

Guidelines for Writing INQUIRY Items

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AT INDICATED GRADE LEVELS	6	9	11
Identify the type of graph shown below the data table.	X		
What label should be used for the horizontal or x-axis?	X	X	X*
What label should be used for the vertical or y-axis?	X	X	X*
What should the title of the graph be?	X	X	X
In which period did the variable (e.g., population) increase (decrease) the most?	X		
What is the trend shown in the graph?	X	X	X**
What BEST explains the trend shown in these data?			X
Why would you NOT show numbers for both groups on the same graph?		X	X
What is the BEST label for the unnamed symbol in the key?		X	X
What relationship is shown in the data table?	X	X	X
Given the trend, what is the best estimate of... (The student chooses the missing data.)		X	X***
Which of the following conclusions can be made from the information?			X
What other kind of graph would be appropriately used to represent the data?		X	X
Which of the following questions would most likely be posed to investigate the trend?			X
Predict the likely effect of a trend.			X

* For grade 11, ask only the most difficult of these two questions.

** This question should be progressively more complex as you go up the grades.

*** For grade 9 use this type of question only when the trend is linear.

OTHER GUIDELINES:

1. For grades 6 and 9, number entries in tables should be written out (i.e., NOT presented in multiples).
2. For grade 6 only, the scales should be provided for both the x- and y-axis.
3. For grades 9 and 11 scales should be provided for only one axis.
4. Each graph outline should clearly indicated the x- and y-axis and provide placeholders for labels and titles.
5. Do not use variables that can only be measured with nominal scales.
6. Since all grade 6 items will display single line or bar graphs, a key will never be needed.
7. Students in Grade 6 are expected to know line graphs, bar graphs and pie charts.
8. Students in Grade 9 are expected to know the 3 graphs listed above plus double line graphs and double bar graphs.
9. Students in Grade 11 are expected to know the same graphs as Grades 6 and 9, but multiple line or bar graphs are also acceptable. Scattergraphs are not acceptable at any level.