DECODING DATA

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

These FAQs clarify the goals, details, and decisions that inform IREX's Decoding Data Quiz.

Who is this quiz for?

This quiz is ideal for educators or trainers who want to assess **visual literacy**, or the ability of their audience to accurately interpret data visualizations. This could be done in advance of any training that will include data visuals, or as a baseline or post-training assessment for a data visualization training. In addition, it is a great tool for any learner or aspiring data user to measure their own visual literacy.

What is "visual literacy"?

There isn't a universal definition of the term, or of similar phrases like "graph fluency" or "chart IQ". Although there is some debate about the term "literacy" in this context (read more here), this quiz assesses capabilities to **decode data and interpret information from data visualizations**. Read more about decoding data here, and read more about research into assessing visual literacy here.

What data visualizations does this quiz cover?

This quiz tests someone's ability to decode **line charts**, **pie charts**, **tables**, **chloropleth maps**, **bar charts**, **scatter plots**, **stacked area charts**, and **stacked bar charts**.

While not a comprehensive review of all chart types, these are among the world's most-Google charts. They also were identified based on their relevance to global development contexts—such as charts that appear more frequently on widely-used database interfaces like DHIS2.

What visual literacy skills does this quiz cover?

This quiz challenges users to interpret **averages**, **ratios**, **linear relationships**, **ranges**, **distributions**, **percentages**, **trends**, and **legends**.

What if I want to change or improve this quiz?

We encourage you to share and adapt this resource. A PDF version of the survey is available here to support adaptations.

This quiz is shared under a Creative Commons Sharealike, By Attribution, and Non-Commercial license (CC BY SA NC). We encourage you to share and adapt this resource, as long as you:

- Do not use the material for commercial purposes
- Share your material under this same license
- Attribute your material to "Julian Lopez and Samhir Vasdev, IREX, 2019 (www.irex.org)".

What information is stored about respondents?

Unless respondents opt-in to share their contact information, no personally identifying information, including IP addresses, is saved. This survey is administered through SurveyMonkey, so their terms of use apply.

TAKE THE QUIZ

IREX