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**GL ASSESSMENT TRANSFORMS READING ASSESSMENT WITH
THE LEXILE FRAMEWORK FOR READING**

Today, GL Assessment announced a partnership with U.S.-based educational measurement company MetaMetrics™ Inc. to transform the way schools measure and monitor children's reading abilities. GL Assessment's popular *Progress in English* (PIE) tests for 5–14 year olds are to be linked with MetaMetrics' Lexile Framework™ for Reading, enabling children's reading scores from PIE Online to be reported as a Lexile™ measure. This will allow teachers to create personalised reading lists matched to each learner's ability and interests to drive their development of literacy skills.

The most widely adopted reading measure in the U.S., where about 28 million Lexile measures are reported each year, the Lexile Framework provides a common, developmental scale for matching reader ability and text difficulty. Lexile measures support progress in literacy by enabling teachers, parents and children to select ability-appropriate reading materials from a huge range of authors and subjects. The Lexile Framework also makes it easier for schools to monitor the development of learner's literacy skills to ensure that no child is falling behind.

“Lexile measures give teachers and parents a powerful tool for developing children's literacy skills and raising individual achievement,” said Graham Taylor, GL Assessment's head of online assessment. “Beginning, appropriately, in the National Year of Reading, Lexile measures will help teachers to personalise the learning of every child, by matching readers with materials that meet their unique abilities, interests and learning goals. The measures also enable teachers and parents to work more closely together to encourage the ongoing development of children's reading abilities within and beyond the classroom.”



From September 2008, learners taking PIE Online will receive a Lexile measure with their individual and group profiles and year-on-year progress reports. Lexile measures provide teachers with valuable insights into children's literacy development without any additional testing or changes to schools' existing monitoring programmes.

Teachers use Lexile measures to create tailored reading lists across the curriculum and to provide parents and learners with actionable advice for improving literacy skills at school and at home. Currently, the Lexile Book Database includes over 115,000 fiction and non-fiction titles at various Lexile levels, and the number grows by the day. As part of GL Assessment's adoption of Lexile measures, books for the UK from authors such as Jacqueline Wilson, Anthony Horowitz, James Patterson, Malorie Blackman and Eoin Colfer to name but a very few, are being chosen to augment the wealth of titles in the Lexile Book Database.

"We are excited to partner with GL Assessment to introduce The Lexile Framework for Reading to British schools," said Malbert Smith III, Ph.D., president, MetaMetrics. "With Lexile measures, teachers can select materials that best meet learners' unique reading abilities, helping them to improve their achievement and understanding across the curriculum while developing important literacy skills. In addition, during the school year and over holidays, parents and children can use Lexile measures to select leisure reading that matches their interests and builds the reading skills necessary for success in school and in life."

"If you are disadvantaged as a reader, you are disadvantaged as a learner," concludes Taylor. "Giving children accessible books that will engage and inspire them is a powerful way to spark interest in reading. Once ignited, a passion for reading will last a lifetime."

Interested schools will have an opportunity to participate in pilots in the summer term. For more information, visit www.gl-assessment.co.uk/Lexile.



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Notes to the Editor

The partnership between GL Assessment and MetaMetrics is a truly collaborative exchange. In addition to linking the Lexile Framework with PIE, MetaMetrics is conducting a study to link GL Assessment's *Progress in Maths* (PIM) tests with The Quantile Framework™ for Mathematics, a common, developmental scale for measuring student mathematical achievement. The companies are also working to customise the PIE and PIM tests for release in the U.S. education market in autumn 2008.

About GL Assessment (formerly nferNelson)

GL Assessment is the UK's leading independent provider of tests and assessment services for education. It publishes across the 4 -19 age range, with the majority of its assessments designed for 5-14 year-olds.

GL Assessment has an extensive portfolio of print-based tests for education which assess children's progress in literacy, ability and numeracy and identify a broad spectrum of special educational needs. It offers tests and programmes that support the development of emotional literacy and thinking skills. GL Assessment also provides assessments for use in the Health and Psychology service by clinical psychologists, speech and language therapists and paediatricians.

To increase the scope and flexibility of its educational list, GL Assessment has developed Testwise, a powerful e-assessment portal. Testwise is designed to take the work out of administering, scoring and analysing tests. Learners complete assessments online, and instant scoring gives teachers comprehensive results and analysis at the touch of a button. Many of GL Assessment's most popular tests are now available online including the *Cognitive Abilities Test*, *Group Reading Test*, *Suffolk Reading Scale*, *Progress in Maths* and *Progress in English*.

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About MetaMetrics Inc.

MetaMetrics Inc., a privately held, U.S.-based educational measurement company, develops scientifically based measures of student achievement that link assessment with instruction, foster better educational practices and improve learning by matching students with materials that meet and challenge their abilities. The company's team of psychometricians developed the widely adopted Lexile Framework for Reading (www.Lexile.com); El Sistema Lexile para Leer, the Spanish-language version of the Lexile Framework; The Quantile Framework for Mathematics (www.Quantiles.com); and The Lexile Framework for Writing. In addition to licensing Lexile and Quantile™ measures to state departments of education, testing and instructional companies, and publishers, MetaMetrics delivers professional development, resource measurement and customised consulting services. For more information, visit www.MetaMetricsInc.com.

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