

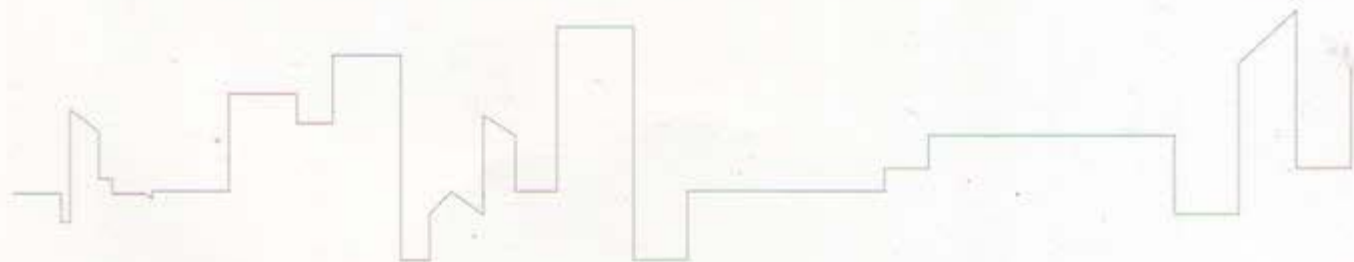


NIETS

The National Institute of Educational Testing Service (Public Organization)



The National Institute of Educational Testing Service
(Public Organization), Thailand





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The National Institute of Educational Testing Service (Public Organization)

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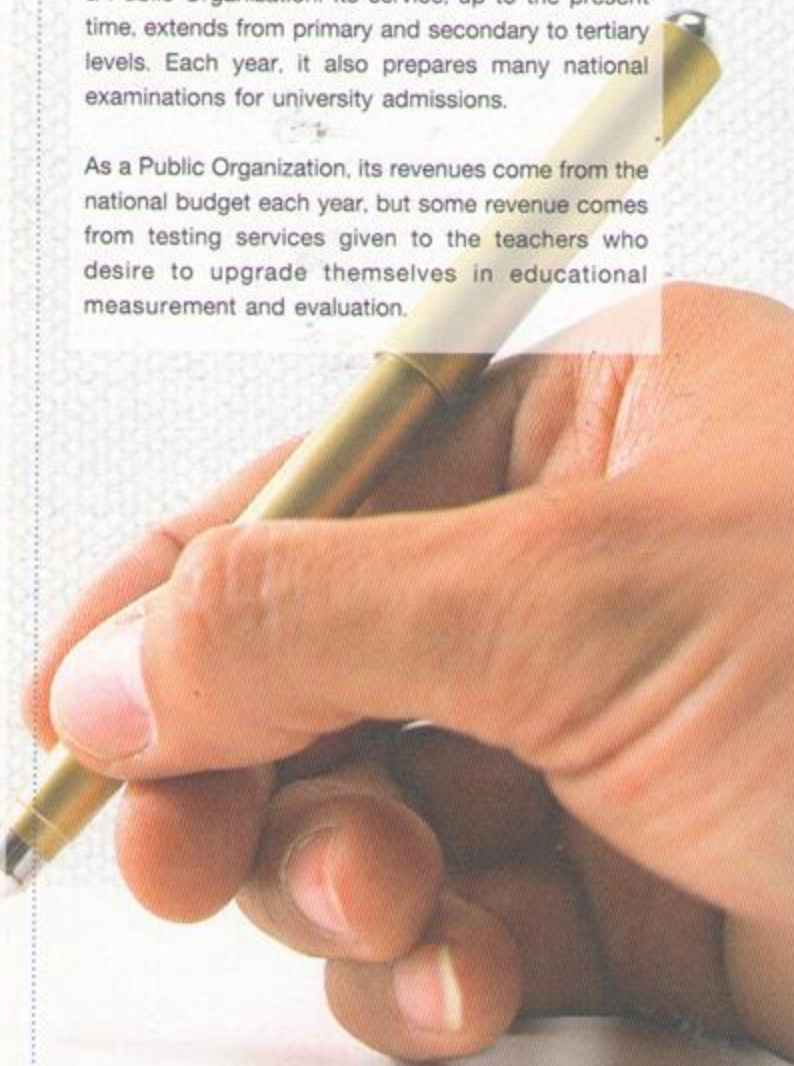
NIETS in Brief

According to the 1999 Educational Act (Amended 2nd time in 2002), it requires that education management must be done to develop a Thai citizen to be a complete person physically, mentally intellectually and ethically. He must have ethics and culture to lead his life and can live with others happily. Structural organization system and educational management process are based on a unity of policies and a variety of practices. It states that there must be a decentralization of power to educational service areas, educational institutes and local administrative organizations. There must be educational standard settings and an educational quality assurance management process at all educational levels and types. Since it is necessary for the government to inspect and evaluate whether the quality of educational management to give services to the public for all reaches expected standards and fair or not, the National Institute of Educational Testing Services (Public Organization) was then established.

The National Institute of Educational Testing Services or NIETS was set up as a public organization to make it work effectively, to maximize the use of resources and personnel and to make it independent from any educational management organizations. Therefore, this institute can remain neutral. It can set its own principles, policies, measures and targets of administration structures and works cooperatively with the government and related organizations, personnel, finances, and auditory. It has an effective and systematic evaluation process to make it achieve its goals, to administer, manage and conduct in the areas of education, research and services on educational testing, measurement and evaluation continuously. It also works as a center for national and international cooperation on educational testing services.

The National Institute of Educational Testing Service (NIETS) was established on September 3, 2005, as a Public Organization. Its service, up to the present time, extends from primary and secondary to tertiary levels. Each year, it also prepares many national examinations for university admissions.

As a Public Organization, its revenues come from the national budget each year, but some revenue comes from testing services given to the teachers who desire to upgrade themselves in educational measurement and evaluation.



Our Vision

NIETS is an academic and professional institute serving as a referenced organization at both national and international levels in the field of educational measurement and evaluation to make Thai citizens at all levels and types have educational quality reaching at an international standard. In the near future, it shall be a world-class educational testing service center.

Our Missions

1. To establish the systems and methods of testing and develop tools for measuring and testing in accordance with educational standards.
2. To evaluate the results of educational management and national educational testing as well as to offer cooperation and support testing in the levels of educational areas and educational institutes.
3. To manage educational testing services, services to measure and evaluate of knowledge and ability, and the testing of technical and vocational standards, the results of which are to be used as one part in the comparison of levels and transfer of educational results in education in the same or different systems
4. To conduct educational research and disseminate innovations in educational testing as well as techniques for educational measurement and evaluation.
5. To serve as a center for educational testing information as well as support and provide testing services to various organizations both domestic and international.
6. To develop and promote academics regarding educational measurement and evaluation, to train the personnel in the field of measurement, to evaluate the following-up and evaluating the quality of graduates, and to certify the standards of the system, methods and tools of the organizations for educational measurement and evaluation.
7. To serve as a center of cooperation in educational measurement and evaluation at national and international levels.

Principal Values of NIETS

Since NIETS has the vision and missions mentioned previously, to make them possible, it has a strong determination to set its principal values as follows:

N = Networking

(To establish educational measurement and evaluation networks and make use of the test results)

I = Innovation and Integrity

(To develop modern innovations and hold on integrity)

E = Efficiency & Excellence

(To aim at efficiency and excellence)

T = Transparency & Trust

(To make things transparent, reliable and trustworthy)

S = Standard & Service Mind

(To maintain the standards with service mind)

NIETS Administrative Policies

In order to make the vision and missions possible, NIETS has its administrative policies as follows:

1. Standardize the national examination testing administrations.
2. Develop all test items to measure all educational standards effectively.
3. Manage to make use of the test results.
4. Conduct a research and development study to establish an educational measurement system to measure all educational standards at all educational levels and types.
5. Conduct a research study on test formats and support a research and development study on computer programs for test constructions, techniques and various testing standards.
6. Publicize information and knowledge to create a good identity of the institute.
7. Review related laws, regulations and consensuses and make changes to fit best the present situations and facilitate working conditions.
8. Support and cooperate other educational institutes to have their own educational measurement and evaluation programs according to Item 26 of the National Educational Act 1999.
9. Give testing services to other persons and organizations.
10. Be a national testing center, support and give services on testing results to various organizations as well as coordinate with other institutes in the country and abroad on educational measurement and evaluation with international standards.

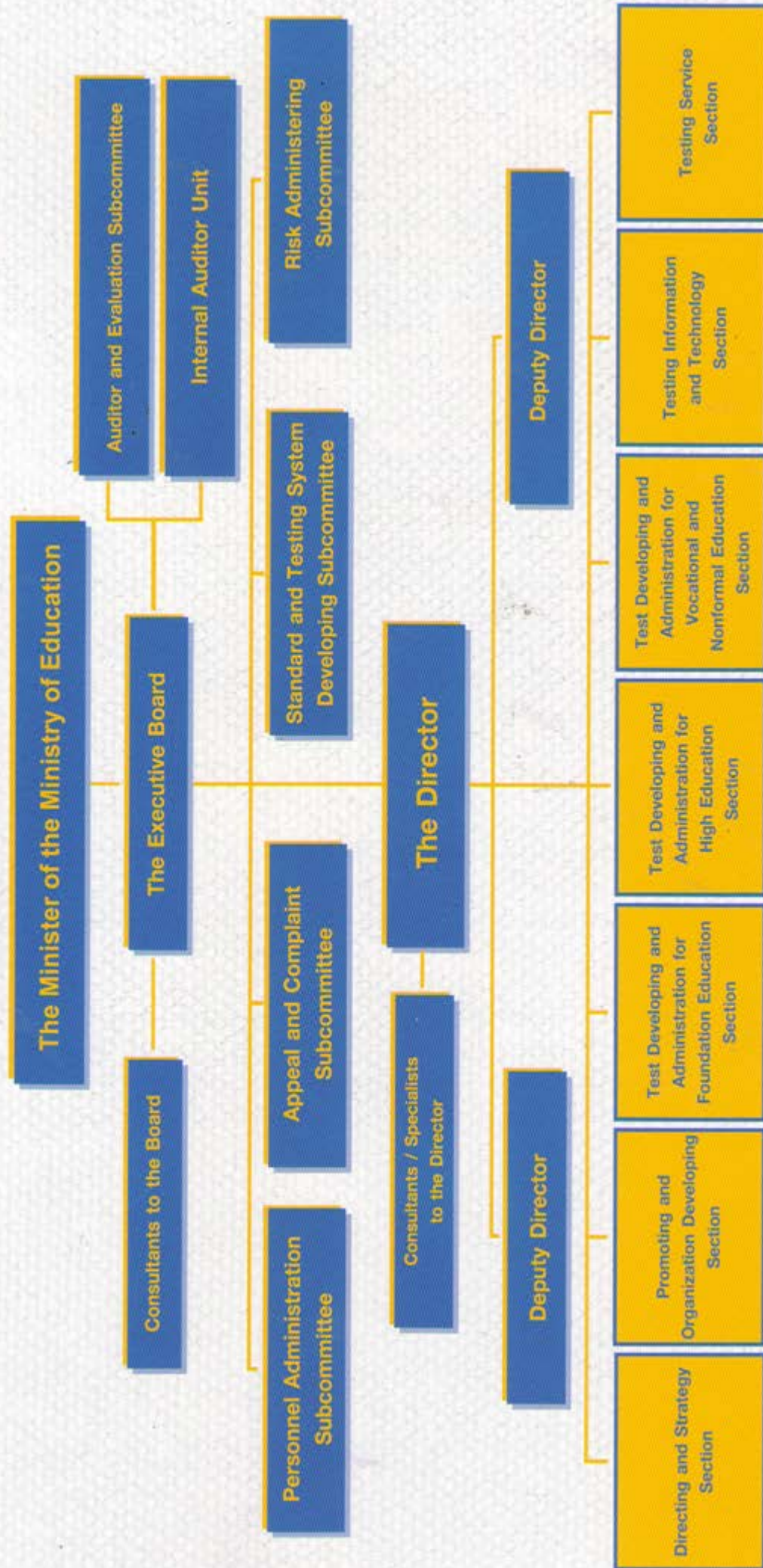
NIETS Performance Indexes

The following indexes are used to indicate the success of the institute:

1. Methods and systems for developing educational measurement and evaluation instruments basing on educational standards on the quality of learners at all educational levels and types.
2. The students in the last year of any educational curricula and whose names are submitted to the institute can take a national test.
3. There is a report of the results of national educational examinations at the levels of test-takers, schools, departments and the whole country for the improvement of teaching and learning activities, guidance, educational assurance, further study and others.
4. There is a research report which disseminates the body of knowledge on educational measurement and evaluation.
5. There is a development and support to some subjects on educational measurement and evaluation and personnel development on the mentioned aspect, testing and evaluation, following-up and graduate quality evaluation, and accreditation of a system and instruments for educational measurement and evaluation.
6. There are services for measuring test-takers' knowledge, abilities and skills basing on various educational and vocational standards.
7. There is a data and information bank on educational measurement to give services to other organizations in the country and abroad.
8. There is a network on educational measurement in the country and abroad.

NIETS Administrative Structure

NIETS is under the Executive Board which is composing of 10 members: the president, 4 appointed representatives from related offices, 4 specialists, and the Director of NIETS as secretary. The organization chart is demonstrated as follows.



National Educational Measurement Standards

In order to assure that the test results of any national educational examinations are accurate, reliable and trustworthy, NIETS has established its own measurement standards as follows:

1. *Test development standards.* All test items and educational tests must be constructed systematically with clear and reliable steps.
2. *Test administration standards.* All tests must be administrated with transparency, fairness, acceptability and trustworthiness at national and international levels.
3. *Test printing standards.* All test printings must be monitored, controlled and secured in all clear steps, and all tests must be kept in a very condential place with very tight security under an authority's responsibility.
4. *Test report and test result standards.* All test reports and test results must be written, checked, double check, analyzed and reviewed by groups of experts in the field of educational measurement and evaluation to make sure that they are correct, suitable, fair and reliable.
5. *Testing personnel standards.* All supporting staffs and experts involving in testing must have suitable qualifications in the field of educational measurement and evaluation.



National Examination Services

At present, each year NIETS conducts six national examinations to the students in various educational levels as follows.

1. O-NET

NIETS conducts Ordinary National Educational Test (O-NET) for Grades 6, 9 and 12 students. The main purposes are to assess their academic proficiency according to the Basic Education Curriculum of the year 2001 (for Grades 9 and 12) and the Common Basic Education Curriculum of the year 2008 (for Grade 6), to provide information to the schools to improve their teaching and learning activities, and to evaluate the quality of education at the national level. The O-NET comprises of 8 major subject areas basing on the National Education Curriculum, namely:

- 1) Thai Language
- 2) Mathematics
- 3) Science
- 4) Social Science, Religion and Culture
- 5) Health and Physical Education
- 6) Art
- 7) Career and Technology
- 8) Foreign Languages

Each year, the students can take the test only once. The details of areas and skills assessed and time allocation for each subject are provided as follows:

Subject Areas:	Areas assessed:	Time Allocations		
		Grade 6	Grade 9	Grade 12
Thai Language	Reading Writing Listening, observation, and speaking Principles on language application Literature and literary outputs	50 minutes	90 minutes	2 hours
Mathematics	Numbers and numerical works Measurement Geometry Algebra Data analysis and probability Mathematic skills and procedures	50 minutes	90 minutes	2 hours
Science	Living beings and life existence processes Life and environment Properties of matter Force and mobility Energy Evaluation of earth Astronomy and space Nature of science and technology	50 minutes	90 minutes	2 hours
Social Science, Religion, and Culture	Religion, morality, and righteousness Civil responsibility, culture, and life in society Economics History Geography	50 minutes	90 minutes	2 hours
Foreign Languages	Language for communication Language and cultural Language and other subject groups relationship Language, community and work relationship	50 minutes	90 minutes	2 hours
Health and Physical Education	Human growth and development Life and family Movements, physical exercises, games, Thai and international sports Building up health capacity and sickness prevention	30 minutes	40 minutes	40 minutes
Art	Safety Visual arts Music	30 minutes	40 minutes	40 minutes
Career and Technology	Performing arts Living and family life Career Design and technology Information technology Work and career technology	30 minutes	40 minutes	40 minutes

The background of the entire page is a photograph of students in a classroom. In the top section, a male student in a white shirt is looking down at a paper. In the middle section, a female student in a white shirt is writing on a piece of paper. In the bottom section, another male student in a white shirt is looking down at a paper. The text boxes are overlaid on these images.

2. I-NET

NIETS has collaborated with the Office of Strategy Management and Educational Integration No. 12 to carry out Islamic National Education Test (I-NET). The testing has three levels of Islamic studies: Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. The main purposes of this test are to measure the proficiency

of the students according to the Islamic Studies Curriculum of the year 2003 and the Common Core Islamic Studies Curriculum of the year 2008 and to provide information to the schools to improve their teaching and learning activities. Testing is done in eight subject areas in Islamic studies sets.

3. N-NET

NIETS also give Non-formal National Education Test (N-NET) to Grades 9 and 12 non-formal education students. The main purposes are to assess their academic proficiency according to the Non-Formal Education Curriculum of the year 2008, to provide information to the schools to improve their teaching and learning activities, and to evaluate the quality

of education at the national level. Besides, it is to assess their achievement, ability and skills needed for further study after their completion of each level. The test comprises of 5 subject areas, namely Learning Skills, Foundation Knowledge, Occupational Knowledge, Life Skills and Social Development. The test is in a multiple-choice format.

4. V-NET

NIETS conducts Vocational National Educational Test (V-NET) for the 3rd year vocational and the 2nd year higher vocational students in both public and private institutes. The main purposes are to assess their academic proficiency according to the Vocational Certificate Curriculum of the year 2002 (for the former) and the Higher Vocational Certificate Curriculum of the year 2002 (for the latter), to provide information to

the schools to improve their teaching and learning activities, and to evaluate the quality of education at the national level. They are required to take 3 main subject areas, namely, Fundamental Competence and Learning, Fundamental Vocational Competence and Vocational Competence in Various Careers. The test results can be used partially for them to get into a higher vocational institute.

5. GAT/PAT

Since 2009, NIETS has conducted tests called the General Aptitude Test (GAT) and the Professional and Academic Aptitude Test (PAT) for Grade 12 students throughout the country. Their main purposes are for the students to make use of the test scores as a part of criteria for university admission, to use the scores for further study in some educational institutes, and to use them to apply for a job. They may take the tests twice each year in March and October. The details of areas and skills assessed and time allocation for each subject are provided as follows:

General Aptitude Test (GAT)	Time (Minutes)	Percentages	Points	Numbers of students
Section 1: Reading, Writing, Critical thinking skill, and Problem solving skill	90	50%	150	320,000
Section 2: Ability in English communication	90	50%	150	
Total	180	100%	300	

A lot of students took the tests each year. For example, the data about the students taking GAT in the year 2010 are shown below.

Professional and Academic Aptitude Test (PAT)

Content and Aptitude Assessed	Numbers of students took the PAT (Approximate)
Time: 3 hours each Point: 300 points each	
PAT 1: Mathematics	210,000
PAT 2: Science	190,000
PAT 3: Engineering	70,000
PAT 4: Architecture	40,000
PAT 5: Educational Profession	110,000
PAT 6: Fine and Applied Arts	39,000
PAT 7: Languages	10,000
- PAT 7.1 French	1,500
- PAT 7.2 German	9,000
- PAT 7.3 Japanese	15,000
- PAT 7.4 Chinese	600
- PAT 7.5 Arabic	900
- PAT 7.6 Pali	



6. U-DAT

U-DAT (University Direct Access Test) is a temporary and unofficial name of a brand new national test provided by NIETS in 2012. This test is for Grade 12 students. The test results are used for a direct access to a university. It is mainly for Science Stream students who want to get into a faculty of medical science or some other science-related faculties in various universities. Therefore, they are required to take 7 subject areas, namely: English, Thai, Social Science, Math, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The test for each subject is in a multiple-choice format with 5 options.



Another New Test

NIETS is planning to give a new national educational test named U-NET (University National Educational Test) to the students at Higher Education Level soon. Right now (2012) NIETS is in the process of

conducting a research study on "A System Development on How to Test according to Higher Education Standards: Standards of the Quality of Graduates" and its findings will be used for the testing.

Other Services

One of our responsibilities is in the area of professional development, NIETS is committed to ensure that Thai teachers keep up with their professions by offering examination certifications for teacher certifications. The current offering includes:

- A certification in educational measurement and evaluation; and
- A certification in IT standards

Research and Development

According to NIETS's experiences and well-trained officers, including specialists including specialists in examination administration, test development, and research, NIETS has the capacity to deliver a full range of professional reports and research studies.

Such reports and research studies have been conducted to maintain and monitor the standards of national educational measurement and evaluation. Some studies are listed below.

Test Analyses

The National Institute of Educational Testing Service. (2011). **An Analysis of Ordinary National Educational Test (O-NET)**. BKK: The National Institute of Educational. Testing Service (Public Organization).

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The National Institute of Educational Testing Service. (2008) **An Analysis of Ordinary National Educational Test (O-NET)**. BKK: The National Institute of Educational. Testing Service (Public Organization).

Annual Reports

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Others

- The National Institute of Educational Testing Service. (2009). **An Analysis of Educational Standards of Thailand**. BKK: The National Institute of Educational Testing Service (Public Organization).
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- The National Institute of Educational Testing Service. (2009). **The Causal Factors Affecting on Parthomsuksa 6 and Mathayomsuksa 6 Students' Low O-NET Scores**. BKK: The National Institute of Educational Testing Service (Public Organization).
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- The National Institute of Educational Testing Service. (2009). **A Study of O-NET Low Achievement Causes of Grade 6 Students from Nakornratchasima Educational Service Area #4**. BKK: The National Institute of Educational Testing Service (Public Organization).
- The National Institute of Educational Testing Service. (2009). **Thai Language Vocabulary Studies of Grades 6, 9 and 12 Students**. BKK: The National Institute of Educational Testing Service (Public Organization).
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- The National Institute of Educational Testing Service. (2009). **A Study of Different Test Item Formats**. BKK: The National Institute of Educational Testing Service (Public Organization).
- The National Institute of Educational Testing Service. (2008). **An Analysis of the University Admission System**. BKK: The National Institute of Educational Testing Service (Public Organization).
- Thong-In Wongsothorn et al. (2011). **National Institute of Educational Testing Service and Quality Development of National Education**. BKK: The National Educational Testing Service (Public Organization).



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