Table C1. PISA 2022 Creative Thinking proficiency levels

Level	Lower Score Limit	Characteristics of Tasks
6	48	At Level 6, students can productively engage in creative idea generation, generating both original and diverse ideas for a wide range of expressive and problem-solving tasks including those in more complex, abstract and unfamiliar contexts. With respect to students at Level 5, students at this level can identify weaknesses in existing solutions to social or scientific problems, including those that are in less familiar contexts, and build on this understanding to suggest original and innovative ways to improve solutions. They can also generate several appropriate solution ideas for complex social and scientific problems that require more specific knowledge of the domain context and that have a more restricted solution space.
		For expressive tasks, students at Level 6 can create and improve more abstract visual designs, combining visual elements and representations in unexpected ways and conveying an original interpretation or iteration of an existing representation.
5	41	At Level 5, students can productively engage in creative idea generation, generating both original and diverse ideas for a range of expressive and problem-solving tasks. Students at Level 5 can think of several qualitatively different ways to express their imagination and to address familiar social and scientific problems. They can make several different idea associations, considering different interpretations and perspectives on the same issue or stimulus. For both simple and more abstract written expression tasks, they can use their imagination to create original written artefacts that make unconventional associations between ideas or that add atypical details to elaborate creatively on common themes.
		With respect to students at Level 4, students can create original visual artefacts that combine elements in an unusual or unexpected way for open visual design tasks. Students at this level can also generate unconventional solution ideas that integrate innovative approaches in familiar social, and sometimes scientific, problem contexts. This includes when tasked to iterate on and improve an existing solution idea in more open, familiar problem contexts.
4	32	At Level 4, students can productively engage in idea generation across a range of expressive and problem-solving tasks. Students at Level 4 can also generate original and diverse ideas for simple tasks in more familiar domain contexts. With respect to students at Level 3, students at this level can generate an appropriate idea

for most types of idea generation task, including more complex or unfamiliar problem-solving tasks and tasks in a scientific context. They can also build on others' ideas for solutions in social and scientific contexts, although they tend to provide an obvious or common iteration with respect to their peers.

Students at Level 4 can generate their own original ideas in written expression tasks and sometimes when iterating on others' ideas. They can express their imagination in unexpected ways, making unconventional idea associations between elements of the stimulus and their written artefact, or they can add atypical details to elaborate creatively on more common ideas. Students at this level can often suggest two or three qualitatively different ideas in open written expression and social problem contexts but are less successful in more complex or constrained social and scientific problem contexts.

At Level 3, students can generate one or several appropriate ideas for simple to moderately complex expressive and problem-solving tasks, including extended written ideas that require them to engage and express their imagination and coherently build upon others' ideas. Students at this level thus show a greater level of engagement with creative tasks than students at Level 1 or 2.

3 23

Students at Level 3 still typically suggest ideas that rely on obvious idea associations or common themes with respect to their peers, but they begin to demonstrate the ability to generate original solutions for familiar, everyday problems with a social focus. They may suggest solution ideas that not many other students think of or add an innovative or different twist to more conventional solution ideas.

At Level 2, students can generate appropriate ideas for simple visual and written expression tasks as well as those that focus on solving familiar, everyday social problems. With respect to students at Level 1, students in Level 2 can develop simple written ideas in the form of longer captions or short dialogues.

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Students at Level 2 typically suggest ideas that rely on obvious idea associations for expressive tasks or that refer to existing solutions for problems in social problem-solving tasks. Students can generate more than one appropriate idea for some written expression and social problem-solving tasks, but these ideas are not qualitatively different to one another.

1 6

At Level 1, students can generate very simple visual designs using isolated shapes or existing visual elements, and in some cases very short written artefacts (e.g. a few words), that require them to engage their imagination. In general, students at this level rely on obvious themes or idea associations as the basis for their response and struggle to generate more than one appropriate idea even for open and simple imagination tasks. These students

		typically generate simple visual or written artefacts with few
		details that reflect a minimal level of engagement with the task.
Below 1	0	-