

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Contribution

The student chose the interesting topic of the relationship between students and teachers, in particular in the search of an optimal/more efficient educational system.

She exploited a relatively old database, from 2007, regarding the international performances of students, with a focus on scientific courses (maths, biology, chemistry, physics and earth sciences).

She makes an interesting contribution on the factors influencing kids' performance at school, despite the limited impacts estimated. Future research would be interesting by digging into additional dimensions such as:

- Control for the students' initial knowledge/skills in a given topic, i.e. measure the progress done by the student rather than absolute performance, which can be the consequence of having a good teacher the previous year. For that reason, exploiting the different years of the studies would be interesting (before and after 2007).
- Working also on the 4th grade students. By having only 1 teacher, it could also be interesting to see how the gender of that unique teacher can influence, or not, the performances of students.
- There may be a bias in the results due to the fact that the 5 different topics tested are all scientific. As correctly stressed by the student, there is gender specific determinism in terms of topics. The student, as alluded to, must bear in mind that there might be a bias due to cultural aspect of such performances: depending on the countries, scientific and literature topics (languages, philosophy, history) will be more or less prestigious and the boys will tend to go more frequently to these topics, while girls will be conditioned to less prestigious ones. For example, in the UK, the literary subjects are the most prestigious, and the men stand there for the majority. Studying philosophy in Cambridge will open you the doors of the most prestigious banks in the UK. Conversely, in France or in CZ Rep., scientific topics are the most prestigious and are mostly attended by men. Studying philosophy is highly unlikely to open you the doors of any bank, except if you are lucky as a librarian in a big bank. For that reason, it would be extremely interesting to conduct an international study on the TIMSS results. All in all, for the next steps, a comparison for several years (TIMSS since 1995) and cross-countries would be valuable.

Methods

All the hypothesis are well explained. The results are challenged intelligently by using different approaches.

Regarding age, I fully agree that experience is a factor which can play a role at the beginning of a career but some teachers will remain bad through the years, whatever their experience (or even become worse).

Given the size of the sample, why not dropping the missing data, instead of replacing by averages (teachers' experience in years, class size, minutes taught weekly)?

Literature

The student went through an extensive literature review. Its presentation is very detailed, up to date, well written and interesting literature review.

One improvement could be to specify more the geographies of the articles mentioned, due to country-specific features.

Manuscript form

All the requirements from this point of view are satisfied. The thesis is very well written, in a professional English, with a clear and direct style. It is very agreeable to read.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	90
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Laure de BATZ*

DATE OF EVALUATION: *02/06/2017*

Laure de Batz