SUMMARY OF SAMPLE

The IEA Study is a cross-national investigation of achievement in mathematics. The twelve participating countries were: Australia, Belgium, England, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Scotland, Sweden and the United States. The study involved the testing of approximately 150,000 students in over 5,000 schools in the twelve countries. Representative samples of students in several selected target populations were tested. In addition, data were secured from the teachers of students tested and from the chief school official in each participating school. Almost all these data are available for study.

A description of the procedures used in the study is presented in detail in T. Husen et al. (1967). International Study of Achievement in Mathematics. A comparison of twelve countries. Volume I. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell. However, a brief summary of the target populations, the sampling and weighting procedures, and the instruments used in the study is given below. In addition, Appendix A contains a glossary of variables included in the study and the coding scheme for the variables.

TARGET POPULATIONS

Population I a:

All students who are 13.0-13.11 years old at the date of testing. (Israel and Germany did not sample this population.) This means that all types of schools with students of this age should participate and be represented according to their proportions of students from the population defined.
(These students were to be given Mathematics Tests A, B and C.)

Population I b:

All students at the grade level where the majority of students of age 13.0-13.11 are found.
(These students were to be given Mathematics Tests A, B and C.)

Intermediate Populations (Optional):

These target populations were defined by the countries testing at these levels. It was desirable, however, that, where possible, these populations should be taken at points which, if terminal, did not lead to universities or similar institutions of higher learning.
(These students were to be given Mathematics Tests 3, 4 and 5.)

Population 3 a:

Pre-university mathematics students-students in the pre-university year studying Mathematics as an integral part of their course for their future training or as part of their Pre-university studies.

Population 3 b:

Pre-university non-mathematics students - those studying mathematics as a complementary part of their studies or not studying mathematics at all. (Australia and Israel did not sample this population.)

In addition, six of the countries (England, Israel, Japan, Scotland, Sweden and the United States) tested students at one or two additional points in the secondary school program (Target population 2). Detailed description of each of these intermediate populations can be found in the full international report (see Chapter 9, Vol. I).