

An abstract graphic of a circuit board pattern, featuring black lines, dots, and colored squares (orange, red, green, blue) on a light gray background, covering the top and left portions of the cover.

youth Digital Skills Indicator

Questionnaire

Ellen J. Helsper
Luc Schneider
Alexander J.A.M. van Deursen
Ester van Laar



Please cite this report as:

Helsper, E.J., Schneider, L., van Deursen, A.J.A.M. & van Laar, E. (2021). youth Digital Skills Indicator questionnaire. Developed for ySKILLS project. Available at: <https://yskills.eu> and <https://www.lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications/research/research-projects/disto/surveys>.

DISCLAIMER

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research & Innovation programme under Grant Agreement no. 870612. The information in this deliverable reflects only the authors' views and the European Union is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



The youth Digital Skills Indicator was developed as part of the ‘[Youth Skills \(ySKILLS\)](#)’ project and added to the ‘[From Digital Skills to Tangible Outcomes](#)’ digital skills measurement toolkit.

Please read the accompanying document on the underlying rationale for these scales and on how to create and use composite scales in the following document: Helsper, E.J., Schneider, L., van Deursen, A.J.A.M., van Laar, E. (2021). [The youth Digital Skills Indicator: Report on the conceptualisation and development of the ySKILLS digital skills measure](#). KU Leuven, Leuven: ySKILLS. Available at: <https://yskills.eu>.

This questionnaire is licensed under the following creative commons license:

Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

You are free to:

- **Share** — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
- **Adapt** — remix, transform, and build upon the material
- The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms.

Under the following terms:

- **Attribution** — You must give [appropriate credit](#), provide a link to the license, and [indicate if changes were made](#). You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.
- **NonCommercial** — You may not use the material for [commercial purposes](#).
- **ShareAlike** — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the [same license](#) as the original.
- **No additional restrictions** — You may not apply legal terms or [technological measures](#) that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

Notices:

- You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable [exception or limitation](#).
- No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as [publicity, privacy, or moral rights](#) may limit how you use the material.



youth Digital Skills Indicator (yDSI)

NOTE: Items marked with * are part of the long version of the questionnaire only. For researchers that are limited in the number of items that they can include in their study, these items should be deleted first. See full report for a discussion of how the short scale was selected.

Digital Skills Items

Q1 = Technical and operational skills

Q2 = Information navigation and processing skills

Q3 = Communication and interaction skills

Q4 = Content creation and production skills

Digital knowledge items

Q5 = Test for knowledge about digital information processing, interaction and content production



Q1 Please indicate **how true the following statements are of you** when thinking about how you use the internet and technologies such as mobile phones or computers.

Reply thinking about how true this would be of you if you had to do it **now, on your own**. If you **do not understand** what the question is asking, tick the box “I do not understand what you mean by this”.

	Not at all true of me	Not very true of me	Neither true nor untrue of me	Mostly true of me	Very true of me	I do not understand what you mean by this	Don't want to answer
I know how to adjust privacy settings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to turn off the location settings on mobile devices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to recognise whether a WIFI network is safe and secure *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to connect devices to each other using Bluetooth or wireless connections *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to have the same documents, contacts and apps on all devices that I use *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to protect a device (e.g. with a PIN, a screen pattern, a finger print, facial recognition)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to store photos, documents, contacts or other files in the cloud (e.g. Google Drive, iCloud)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to delete the record of sites which I have visited before *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to use private browsing (e.g. incognito mode)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to block unwanted pop-up messages or ads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to use programming language (e.g. XML, Python)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Q2 Please indicate **how true the following statements are of you** when thinking about how you use the internet and technologies such as mobile phones or computers.

Reply thinking about how true this would be of you if you had to do it **now, on your own**. If you **do not understand** what the question is asking, tick the box “I do not understand what you mean by this”.

	Not at all true of me	Not very true of me	Neither true nor untrue of me	Mostly true of me	Very true of me	I do not understand what you mean by this	Don't want to answer
I know how to choose the best keywords for online searches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to change how I search for things online, for example, if I do not obtain the result I want *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to find a website I have visited before	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to find information on a website no matter how it is designed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand what different icons (📁, 📷, ↻, 🔗) in an app or website mean *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
When I have a question, I am able to find information online that is relevant to answering it *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to use advanced search functions in search engines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to check if the information I find online is true	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to figure out if a website can be trusted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Q3 Please indicate **how true the following statements are of you** when thinking about how you use the internet and technologies such as mobile phones or computers.

Reply thinking about how true this would be of you if you had to do it **now, on your own**. If you **do not understand** what the question is asking, tick the box “I do not understand what you mean by this”.

Sometimes there are **various examples** given; only select “Very true of me” if all of the examples apply to what you do or know.

	Not at all true of me	Not very true of me	Neither true nor untrue of me	Mostly true of me	Very true of me	I do not understand what you mean by this	Don't want to answer
Depending on the situation, I know which medium/tool to use to communicate with someone (make a call, send a WhatsApp message, send an email, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know when I should mute myself or disable video in online interactions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to block messages from someone I don't want to hear from *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know which images and information of me it is OK to share online	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know when I should not post pictures or videos of others online *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to change who I share content with (e.g. just friends, friends of friends or make it public) *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know when it is appropriate and when it is not appropriate to use emoticons (e.g. smileys, emojis), text speak (e.g. LOL, OMG) and capital letters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to make my comments and behaviours appropriate to the online situation *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to report negative content relating to me or a group to which I belong	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to recognise when someone is being bullied online	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Q4 Please indicate **how true the following statements are of you** when thinking about how you use the internet and technologies such as mobile phones or computers.

Reply thinking about how true this would be of you if you had to do it **now, on your own**. If you **do not understand** what the question is asking, tick the box “I do not understand what you mean by this”.

Sometimes there are **various examples** given; only select “Very true of me” if all of the examples apply to what you do or know.

	Not at all true of me	Not very true of me	Neither true nor untrue of me	Mostly true of me	Very true of me	I do not understand what you mean by this	Don't want to answer
I know how to create something which combines different digital media (photo, music, video, gif)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to edit existing digital images, music and video	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to use different types of content (e.g. images, videos, music, text) to reach specific groups of people *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to ensure that many people will see what I put online	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to use filters and other tools to make a photo or video look more attractive *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to change the things I put online depending on how other people react to it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to distinguish sponsored and non-sponsored content online (e.g. in a video or social media post)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to reference and use content covered by copyright	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know which different types of licenses apply to online content *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Q5 To what extent are the following statements about technologies such as the internet and mobile phones **true or not true**?

If you are **not sure** please let us know.

	Definitely true	Definitely not true	Not sure	I don't understand what you mean by this	I do not want to answer
The first search result is always the best information source	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Everyone gets the same information when they search for things online	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
When information is backed up on the cloud, it is always encrypted *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The first post I see on social media is the last thing that was posted by one of my contacts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether I like or share a post can have a negative impact on others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A post that a friend shared with you is more trustworthy than other posts *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Before sharing a picture that clearly shows a friend, I should always ask them for permission first *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
If someone has posted something online without making it private, it is okay to share or forward it without asking *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Negative comments you make online about people are less hurtful than saying them face-to-face *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using hashtags (#) increases the visibility of a post	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Companies pay ordinary people to use their products in videos and content they create	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Companies use the information you post on your social media profile to market their products and services *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

