

Subtraction facts

Approach: Independent

Level: Year 4 and year 8

Resources: None

Questions/instructions	% responses		
	y4	y8	
1. $\begin{array}{r} 17 \\ - 9 \\ \hline \end{array}$	✓8	67	87
2. $\begin{array}{r} 74 \\ - 21 \\ \hline \end{array}$	✓53	73	94
3. $\begin{array}{r} 52 \\ - 37 \\ \hline \end{array}$	✓15	34	80
4. $\begin{array}{r} 775 \\ - 432 \\ \hline \end{array}$	✓343	69	92

Questions/instructions	% responses		
	y4	y8	
5. $\begin{array}{r} 536 \\ - 277 \\ \hline \end{array}$	✓259	18	70
6. $\begin{array}{r} 400 \\ - 126 \\ \hline \end{array}$	341	24	6
7. $\begin{array}{r} 7146 \\ - 5438 \\ \hline \end{array}$	✓1708	21	65
	2312	21	6

Commentary

On the questions which did not involve re-naming (carrying), about 70 percent of year 4 students and 90 percent of year 8 students were successful. Where re-naming was required, success rates dropped substantially for year 8 students and dramatically for year 4 students (whose incorrect answers are revealing). It is noteworthy that the 447 year 8 students produced 60 different answers to question 7.