Preparing for the 11+ exam

Year 4

With two years to go until the exam, start getting your child into a study routine.

Little and often is the best approach for long-term success!



Keep practice balanced

Schedule in regular practices of 20–30 minutes, a few times a week. Make sure your child is tackling different topics in English and maths every week.

Beyond formal study practice, encourage your child to read regularly and widely. This is the best way for them to expand their vocabulary.



Introduce mock tests

As your child nears completing the Year 5 curriculum in the spring and early summer term, test their knowledge and refine exam technique with one practice paper per month. Schedule time with your child after each test to review their answers and talk through any corrections to consolidate their learning.

Year 6

Most grammar school 11 plus exams take place in September, and independent school entrance exams between November and January. Build a revision plan for your child accordingly and make sure to schedule in plenty of time for rest and relaxation.

Increase mock tests

Set one mock test per week (alternating between different subjects) in the weeks leading up to the exam.





Encourage reading for enjoyment

Introduce verbal and non-verbal reasoning There's lots of reasoning content, tips and

tricks to learn, so introduce your child to reasoning questions by the end of Year 4 at the latest.

Year 5

In the year leading up to the exam, it's time to focus on steadily building knowledge and confidence in the 11+ curriculum.

Maintain the balance

Ensure your child balances learning new curriculum content while revising topics they've previously covered. This will help them maintain their skill level and stay motivated.

Increase study time

Schedule your child's study time in daily sessions of 20-30 minutes. It's also a good idea to start introducing a longer session at the weekend, if it fits around your child's extracurricular activities.



Balance testing and revision

Revising topics across the curriculum - particularly those your child finds more difficult – is key to help them feel confident ahead of the exam.



Practise self-care

Make sure your child has time for fun activities to reduce stress. This will help them keep the exam in perspective and reiterate that their life outside of exams is important too.

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