

A Guide to Sitting Our GL ASSESSMENT-style Mock 11+ Papers at Home

Here are a few Q&As to make sure your child has the best exam experience possible. Please read this guide before your child completes our mock exam papers.

When should my child sit 11+ mock exam papers?

The answer to this differs depending on each child. If your child is working above their expected level in Year 5, they can start with practice papers from September of Year 5 onward (although we would recommend waiting until January). However, please ensure that you set your expectations accordingly in this case. Your child is unlikely pass a mock exam with flying colours before they have done much preparation, and it will likely take some practice for them to improve. Confidence is important, so it's often best to wait until your child feels more prepared to tackle a full paper.

As a rule, we suggest that full mock exams are best left until the spring or summer of Year 5. This will ensure they've covered the topics at school and in their FSL 11+ Online preparation work.

Before then, you can of course give your child practice papers to complete untimed, as this will familiarise them with the exam without doing too much too soon. You could also encourage them to complete the papers earlier in the school year, then again later in the school year as a way to gauge improvement.

What is the format of the exam?

Each mock exam consists of two papers (Paper 1 and Paper 2). Paper 1 contains English and Verbal Reasoning, and Paper 2 contains Maths and Non-Verbal Reasoning. Once both papers have been completed, your child's marks will be added together to make their final score.

Is it multiple choice?

Yes, GL Assessment exams almost always use the multiple choice format. Your child should use the multiple choice answer sheets provided with our mock exams to ensure that they're familiar with the format by the time they sit the real exam.

Should my child sit both exam papers on the same day?

If possible, yes. In most regions, children will sit both papers on the same day with a short break (no more than half an hour) in between. If your schedule doesn't allow for your child to sit both mock papers in one day, however, don't worry. Sitting them on different days is unlikely to alter your child's final score by too much.

How does the timing work?

There are two options for timing the papers. The one you should choose is the one that most closely reflects the real 11+ exam that your child will take. Check the admission section of your county council's website if you're not sure (or the school's website for independent school entrance exams).

Timing Option One: Your child should complete Paper 1 first, under a strict time limit of 45 minutes. You should give them a few minutes to read the instructions at the top of the paper and fill in their name first. When completing the paper, your child should ignore any written instructions to stop at the end of each section, and you should not use the audio track provided. You should give your child a warning when they are halfway through their time, and when they have five minutes left. After a short break, repeat these steps for the second paper.

Timing Option 2: In some regions, the 11+ exam is split up into different sections that are individually timed. If this applies to you, you should use the audio instruction guide provided to help you. Make sure the audio track you have corresponds to the correct paper, then press play when your child is ready to begin. The audio track will guide them through, and will offer time at the beginning to fill in their name and read the instructions on the front of the paper. The audio guide will tell them when to start each section, and will give halfway warnings where appropriate. Instructions for each section are also clearly marked on the question paper.

What Does My Child Need to Complete the Mocks?

1. A quiet environment. Try to make sure you have at least a couple of hours set aside where your child is unlikely to be disturbed.
2. The question paper (make sure the child has the correct one in front of them).
3. The multiple choice answer sheet (make sure this is the correct one to go with the question paper - they are clearly labelled at the top).
4. The audio guide (if you want to time the exam in separate sections).
5. A couple of sharp pencils, an eraser, and a drink if you feel they'll need it.

How do I mark my child's papers?

Your child should have filled out all their answers on the multiple choice answer sheet, so you should mark this using the answers provided for each paper. Once you've done so, consult the score guide provided to help you work out their percentage scores. The score guide provides guidance on performance, average scores, and how your child can improve for next time.