FREE SAMPLE

# Grammar Schools with Their Own Test: Revision Handbook: revision handbook

A revision handbook for the Grammar Schools with Their Own Test: 95 lessons teaching the methods for maths, English, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning, with worked examples, practice questions, must-know lists and a 12-week plan.

**In this sample**

- The contents and how to use the handbook
- About the test, with the schools that use it
- The 12-week revision plan
- The first lessons of a subject chapter
- The first page of the answers

**In the full handbook**

- A lesson for every topic and question type in the test, with methods, worked examples and practice
- Test skills: timing, answer sheets, checking and test day
- Must-know lists, a 12-week plan and answers with explanations

Original practice material, written for NITU. Not an official paper and not produced by any school, council, consortium or test provider. Where the real test's details are not published, the papers say so and label our choice as an assumption. Practice cannot predict a result and does not guarantee a place.

You may print this sample for use in your own household.

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# How to use this handbook

Each lesson teaches one topic or question type on one or two pages:

- **How to do it**: the method, step by step.
- **Worked example**: the method used on a real question, with every step shown.
- **Watch out**: the mistakes that cost the most marks.
- **Practice**: short questions to try, from easier to harder. Answers and explanations are at the back.

Follow the 12-week plan, or dip into the lessons your child finds hardest. Little and often works better than long sessions.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **S1–S7** | Test skills | 7 lessons |
| **M1–M26** | Maths | 26 lessons |
| **E1–E25** | English | 25 lessons |
| **V1–V22** | Verbal reasoning | 22 lessons |
| **N1–N15** | Non-verbal reasoning | 15 lessons |

Every question in this handbook is original. Answers were checked, but if you find a mistake please tell us and we will correct it.


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# About the test

This handbook covers the skills tested in the **Grammar Schools with Their Own Test**, based on the published format where details are published. Each row below says how sure we are: **Published** means the organisers publish it; **Reported** means it comes from other sources and should be checked; **Our assumption** means it is not published and we made a sensible choice.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Reported** | These schools set their own entrance test rather than an area-wide one. Most are reported to use multiple-choice papers with a separate answer sheet, sat in September of Year 6; each school chooses its own subjects, timings and qualifying score. |
| **Reported** | Subjects vary by school: Kendrick, Bishop Wordsworth's and Ripon are reported to test all four of English, verbal reasoning, maths and non-verbal reasoning, Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet English and maths, and Newstead Wood verbal and non-verbal reasoning. |
| **Reported** | St Michael's Catholic Grammar School's English paper is reported to be written rather than multiple choice. These details were collected from third-party sources in November 2026; schools' own pages could not be checked. |
| **Our assumption** | The number of questions and the time for each subject (English about 30 minutes, verbal reasoning 25, maths 30, non-verbal 20) and five answer options. These are not published for each school. |

**Writing:** Most of these tests have no writing task (Kendrick is reported to have no creative writing), but St Michael's Catholic Grammar School's English paper is reported to be written, so its applicants should also practise comprehension and writing.

**Always check** dates, registration and the latest format with your school's own admissions page. Formats and providers change.

### Schools that use this test

Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School, Rossendale
Bishop Wordsworth's Church of England Grammar School, Salisbury
Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, Clitheroe
Kendrick School, Reading
Lancaster Royal Grammar School, Lancaster
Loreto Grammar School, Altrincham
Newstead Wood School, Orpington
Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet, Barnet
St Ambrose College, Hale Barns
Ripon Grammar School, Ripon
South Wilts Grammar School, Salisbury
St Joseph's College, Stoke-on-Trent
St Michael's Catholic Grammar School, London (Barnet)
Upton Hall School FCJ, Wirral

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# Your 12-week revision plan

Aim for four or five short sessions a week of 20–30 minutes. In each session, read one lesson, do its worked examples together, then try the practice questions and mark them with the answers at the back. Tick the week off when it is done. Move faster or slower to suit your child; start with the test skills chapter in week 1.

| Week | Lessons | Done |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **M1** Place value and rounding; **M2** Negative numbers; **M3** Adding and subtracting; **E1** How to read a passage in a test; **E2** Finding information (retrieval); **E3** Inference: reading between the lines; **V1** Closest meaning; **V2** Opposite meaning; **V3** Closest pair; **N1** The NVR checklist; **N2** Series | |
| 2 | **M4** Multiplying and dividing; **M5** Order of operations (BIDMAS); **M6** Factors, multiples, primes, squares and cubes; **E4** Vocabulary in context: word meanings; **E5** Figurative language and sound effects; **V4** Odd ones out; **V5** Word relationships; **N3** Arrow series | |
| 3 | **M7** Fractions; **M8** Decimals; **E6** Author's purpose, viewpoint and structure; **E7** Answering questions on a poem; **E8** Spelling rules and tricky words; **V6** Make a new word; **V7** Missing three letters; **N4** Odd one out; **N5** Odd arrow out | |
| 4 | **M9** Percentages; **M10** Fractions, decimals and percentages; **M11** Ratio and proportion; **E9** Prefixes; **E10** Suffixes and spelling changes; **V8** Hidden words; **V9** Move a letter; **N6** Reflections (upright mirror) | |
| 5 | **M12** Money; **M13** Time and timetables; **E11** Apostrophes; **E12** Capital letters and commas in lists; **E13** End punctuation and speech marks; **V10** Missing letter; **V11** Alphabet tools; **N7** Reflections (flat mirror); **N8** Pairs | |
| 6 | **M14** Measures and unit conversion; **M15** Perimeter and area; **M16** Volume and capacity; **E14** Verb tenses, irregular verbs and plurals; **E15** Word classes; **V12** Alphabet positions; **V13** Letter series; **V14** Letter pairs; **N9** Most like these two | |
| 7 | **M17** Angles; **M18** Properties of 2D and 3D shapes; **M19** Coordinates, reflection and translation; **E16** Conjunctions and clauses; **E17** Homophones and confusing words; **E18** Building vocabulary and working out new words; **V15** Letter relationships; **V16** Word codes; **N10** Hidden shapes; **N11** Grids | |
| 8 | **M20** Sequences; **M21** Algebra: missing numbers, formulas and equations; **E19** Cloze: filling gaps in a passage; **E20** Written answers: full sentences and evidence; **V17** Number codes; **V18** Number series; **N12** Same shape, turned | |
| 9 | **M22** Averages: mean, median, mode and range; **M23** Tables, bar charts, line graphs and pie charts; **M24** Roman numerals; **E21** Planning a story in 5 minutes; **E22** Strong openings and endings; **E23** Describing settings and characters (show, don't tell); **V19** Missing numbers; **V20** Balance the sum; **N13** Codes; **N14** Cube nets | |
| 10 | **M25** Multi-step word problems; **M26** Showing your working; **E24** Non-fiction and persuasive writing; **E25** Checking and improving your writing; **V21** Letter sums; **V22** Reasoning; **N15** 3D and spatial thinking | |
| 11 | Mixed practice: redo every practice question you got wrong. Sit a full timed mock test. | |
| 12 | Second timed mock test. Revisit the lessons for the question types that still cost marks. Read the test skills chapter again. | |

For weeks 11 and 12 you need full mock tests set out like the real test, such as a Grammar Schools with Their Own Test four-test pack. Use raw mock scores to see progress over time; they cannot be converted into the standardised scores used in the real test.


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# Maths

26 lessons: **M1** Place value and rounding; **M2** Negative numbers; **M3** Adding and subtracting; **M4** Multiplying and dividing; **M5** Order of operations (BIDMAS); **M6** Factors, multiples, primes, squares and cubes; **M7** Fractions; **M8** Decimals; **M9** Percentages; **M10** Fractions, decimals and percentages; **M11** Ratio and proportion; **M12** Money; **M13** Time and timetables; **M14** Measures and unit conversion; **M15** Perimeter and area; **M16** Volume and capacity; **M17** Angles; **M18** Properties of 2D and 3D shapes; **M19** Coordinates, reflection and translation; **M20** Sequences; **M21** Algebra: missing numbers, formulas and equations; **M22** Averages: mean, median, mode and range; **M23** Tables, bar charts, line graphs and pie charts; **M24** Roman numerals; **M25** Multi-step word problems; **M26** Showing your working.

## M1 Place value and rounding

Every digit in a number has a value that depends on its column. 11+ questions ask what a digit is worth and ask you to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100, 1,000 or to one decimal place.

### HOW TO DO IT

1. Write the column headings above the number if it helps: hundred thousands, ten thousands, thousands, hundreds, tens, ones, then tenths and hundredths after the decimal point.
2. The value of a digit is the digit times its column, so the 4 in 34,170 is worth 4,000.
3. To round, find the column you are rounding to, then look only at the digit just to its right.
4. If that digit is 5 or more, round up. If it is 4 or less, round down and keep the column digit the same.
5. Everything to the right of the rounding column becomes zero (or disappears after a decimal point).

### WORKED EXAMPLE

**What is the value of the digit 7 in 372,815?**

**Answer: 70,000.** The 7 is in the ten thousands column, so it is worth 7 × 10,000 = 70,000.

### WORKED EXAMPLE

**Round 46,382 to the nearest thousand.**

**Answer: 46,000.** The thousands digit is 6. The digit to its right is 3, which is less than 5, so round down to 46,000.

### WATCH OUT

- Look at only one digit to decide which way to round, the one just right of the rounding column.
- Keep the size of the number when rounding: 46,382 rounds to 46,000, not to 46.
- When rounding 3.97 to one decimal place, carry the 1 over: the answer is 4.0, not 3.10.

**Quick tip:** Underline the rounding digit and circle its right-hand neighbour before you decide.

### PRACTICE (6 QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AT THE BACK)

**1.** Round 3,251 to the nearest hundred. Answer: _____

**2.** Round 7,519 to the nearest hundred. Answer: _____

**3.** Round 527,163 to the nearest thousand. Answer: _____

**4.** Round 680,904 to the nearest thousand. Answer: _____

**5.** Round 85.64 to one decimal place. Answer: _____

**6.** Round 60.66 to one decimal place. Answer: _____


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# M2 Negative numbers

Negative numbers are numbers below zero. In 11+ tests they usually appear as temperatures, or as sums that cross zero.

**HOW TO DO IT**

1. Picture a number line, or a thermometer standing upright, with zero in the middle.
2. Adding moves you up (to the right). Taking away moves you down (to the left).
3. To cross zero, split the jump into two parts: down to zero, then on past it.
4. To find the difference between a negative and a positive number, add the distance to zero on each side.

**WORKED EXAMPLE**

**The temperature is −6°C. It rises by 9 degrees. What is the new temperature?**

**Answer: 3°C.** Count up 6 to reach 0, then 3 more to reach 3°C.

**WORKED EXAMPLE**

**At night it was −4°C. By midday it was 7°C. How many degrees warmer was it at midday?**

**Answer: 11 degrees.** From −4 up to 0 is 4. From 0 up to 7 is 7. 4 + 7 = 11.

**WATCH OUT**

- Remember that −8 is colder (smaller) than −3, even though 8 is bigger than 3.
- When finding a difference across zero, add the two distances; do not take one number from the other.
- Write the minus sign clearly in your answer so −5 is not marked as 5.

**Quick tip:** Draw a quick number line in the margin. It takes five seconds and stops sign slips.

**PRACTICE (6 QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AT THE BACK)**

**1.** The temperature is −8°C. It rises by 12 degrees. What is the new temperature? Answer: _____

**2.** The temperature is −2°C. It rises by 11 degrees. What is the new temperature? Answer: _____

**3.** At night it was −7°C. By midday it was 5°C. How many degrees warmer was it at midday? Answer: _____

**4.** At night it was −4°C. By midday it was 4°C. How many degrees warmer was it at midday? Answer: _____

**5.** −3 + 4 − 12 = ___ Answer: _____

**6.** −12 + 6 − 2 = ___ Answer: _____


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# M3 Adding and subtracting

You need to add and subtract whole numbers and decimals quickly and accurately, both in your head and with a written column method. Many 11+ questions also have a missing number to find.

### HOW TO DO IT

1. For mental sums, use friendly numbers: 498 + 365 is 500 + 365 − 2.
2. For written sums, line up the digits in their columns, and line up the decimal points for decimals.
3. Work from the right-hand column. Carry when a column adds to 10 or more; exchange when the top digit is too small.
4. To find a missing number in ___ + 2,365 = 5,000, take away: 5,000 − 2,365. Or count on from 2,365.
5. Check every answer with the inverse: if 6,005 − 2,768 = 3,237, then 3,237 + 2,768 should give 6,005.

### WORKED EXAMPLE

**6,005 − 2,768 = ___**

**Answer: 3,237.** Exchange across the zeros: 6,005 becomes 5 thousands, 9 hundreds, 9 tens and 15 ones. Then 15 − 8 = 7, 9 − 6 = 3, 9 − 7 = 2 and 5 − 2 = 3.

### WORKED EXAMPLE

**12.4 + 3.75 = ___**

**Answer: 16.15.** Write 12.4 as 12.40 so both numbers have two decimal places, line up the points and add: 16.15.

### WATCH OUT

- Fill empty decimal places with zeros (12.4 = 12.40) so the columns line up.
- When exchanging across a zero, keep going left until you find a digit you can exchange from.
- Read the question again at the end: ‘how many more’ means subtract, not add.

**Quick tip:** Estimate first. 6,005 − 2,768 is about 6,000 − 2,800 = 3,200, so 3,237 looks right.

### PRACTICE (6 QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AT THE BACK)

**1.** 546 + 678 = ___ Answer: _____

**2.** 816 + 376 = ___ Answer: _____

**3.** 3,468 − 2,964 = ___ Answer: _____

**4.** ___ + 2,378 = 10,000 Answer: _____

**5.** 7.37 + 3.28 = ___ Answer: _____

**6.** 8.52 − 2.78 = ___ Answer: _____


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# Answers and explanations

## S1 · How to revise

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | **It is better to split it into short sessions of about 20 to 30 minutes across the week.** Little and often helps you remember for longer, and short sessions keep you fresh. |
| 2 | **Write it in her mistakes log with the correct method, then try a similar question a few days later.** Spotting a pattern in your mistakes shows you exactly what to practise next. |
| 3 | **Stop early, do something relaxing and get a good night's sleep.** Being rested helps you think clearly; last-minute cramming rarely helps. |

## S2 · Multiple-choice answer sheets

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | **Check back to find where it went wrong, rub out the marks carefully and move them to the correct rows.** One slip can push all the following answers into the wrong rows, so it is worth fixing straight away. |
| 2 | **Mark a guess for each one, crossing out any options she can quickly rule out.** In most tests there is no penalty for a wrong answer, so a blank can never score but a guess might. |
| 3 | **Rub out the line in box B completely, then mark box D with a single clear line.** A half-rubbed mark may be read as a second answer. |

## S3 · Timing

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **45 seconds** | 30 minutes is 1,800 seconds, and 1,800 ÷ 40 = 45. |
| 2 | **Question 25** | Half the time has gone, so you should be about halfway through: 50 ÷ 2 = 25. |
| 3 | **Make his best guess, mark the question to come back to, and move on.** Getting stuck costs time that could earn marks on easier questions later. | |

## S4 · Written-answer papers

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | **Make about three points, or one point explained fully with evidence from the text.** The marks are a guide to how much the marker is looking for. |
| 2 | **The units, for example 24 cm.** A length without a unit is incomplete and may lose a mark. |
| 3 | **If the answer is wrong she gets no marks; written working could still earn method marks.** Markers often give marks for the correct method even when there is a slip at the end. |

## S5 · Checking

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | **50 × 20 = 1,000, which is close to 1,029, so the answer is sensible.** Rounding both numbers gives a quick rough answer to compare with. |
| 2 | **Work out 13 × 12, which is 156, so she is right.** Multiplication undoes division. |
| 3 | **She added instead of finding the difference. The answer is 15.** "How many more" means subtract: 34 − 19 = 15. Re-reading the question would have caught this. |

## S6 · Test day and nerves

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | **Take a slow breath, read it again, and if it is still hard, guess, mark it and move on.** Later questions may be easier, and she can come back with a calmer mind. |
| 2 | **Two sharp pencils, a rubber and anything else the letter asks for, such as a ruler or a water bottle; no calculator.** Calculators are not usually allowed (check the letter), and spare pencils mean a broken one is not a problem. |
| 3 | **A good breakfast, some slow breathing and reminding himself he has prepared.** Food, calm breathing and positive thoughts help settle nerves. |

## S7 · For parents

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | **No. It is a raw score; real results are usually standardised and depend on the whole group taking the test.** Use the paper to spot weak topics and track progress over time, not to predict a result. |
| 2 | **Stop for the day, reassure them and take a short break before starting again with something easier.** Confidence matters; pushing on when upset rarely helps learning. |
| 3 | **Not necessarily. Short, regular sessions that suit your child are usually more effective.** Every child is different, and too much practice can lead to tiredness and lost confidence. |

## M1 · Place value and rounding

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **3,300** | Look at the tens digit: 5, so round up to 3,300. |
| 2 | **7,500** | Look at the tens digit: 1, so round down to 7,500. |
| 3 | **527,000** | Look at the hundreds digit: 1, so the answer is 527,000. |
| 4 | **681,000** | Look at the hundreds digit: 9, so the answer is 681,000. |
| 5 | **85.6** | Look at the hundredths digit to decide: 85.64 rounds to 85.6. |
| 6 | **60.7** | Look at the hundredths digit to decide: 60.66 rounds to 60.7. |


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