

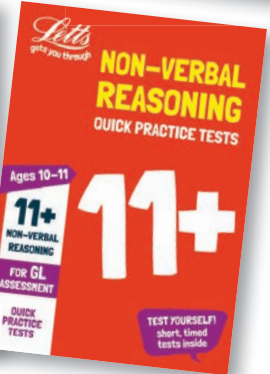
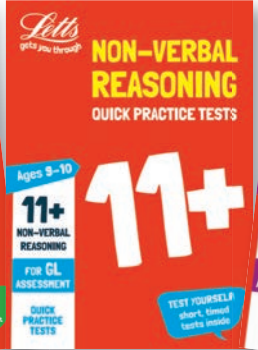
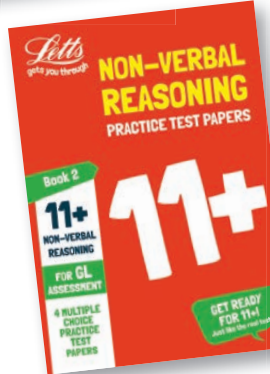
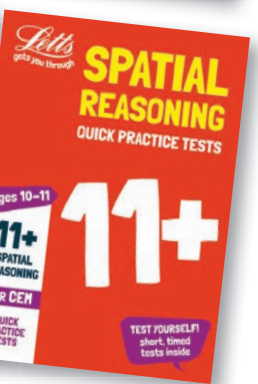
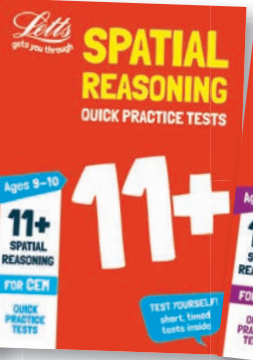
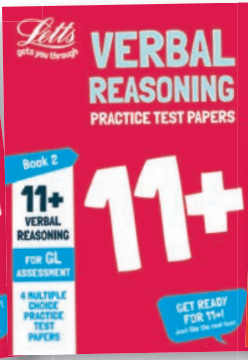
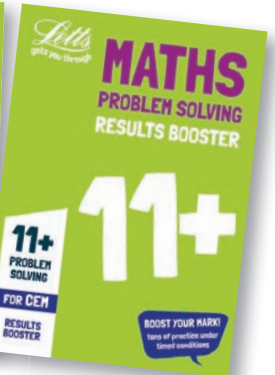
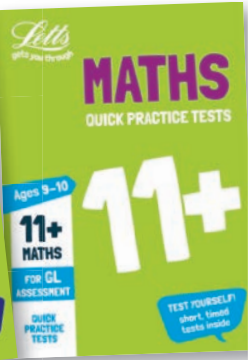
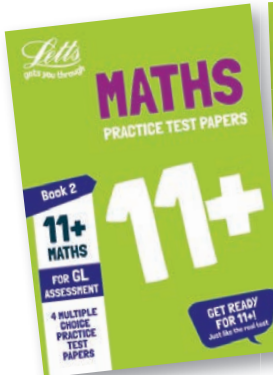
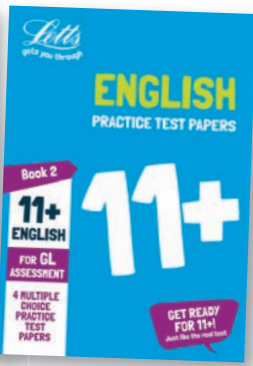
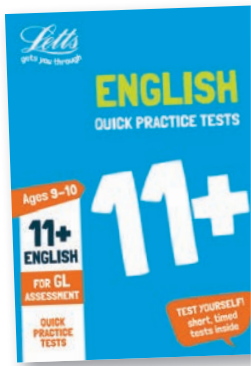
Letts
gets you through

Parent Guide to the

11+

Practical advice
to help you
prepare!

letts-revision.co.uk/11+



About the 11+

Dear parent,

If you are unfamiliar with the 11+ testing process this guide provides information about the different types of test and the process itself.

The 11+ ('11 Plus') exams are used by selective state secondary schools to admit students based on academic criteria.

Students are only permitted one attempt at the exams. It is possible – and indeed advised – for a student to apply to both comprehensive schools and grammar schools, as the exams are often extremely competitive and some schools have a large number of applicants per place.

Taking the 11+ can be stressful, but detailed planning and practice can help minimise this.

For more help and advice visit letts-revision.co.uk/11+

The 11+ process

The tests

Children will sit various academic tests and some selective schools also conduct interviews or different variations of the exams to allocate their places to the most-able candidates.

Each individual school's website will clarify this and Local Authorities will provide further detail, particularly in counties with many grammar or bilateral schools.

Timings

The timing of the 11+ varies by school, but most are in the first term of Year 6.

Schools often have a 10-16 week marking turnaround for results. Individual schools and Local Authorities will clarify results dates.

Results

The pass mark depends on each year and school: some areas have very few grammar schools and a huge number of applicants, whereas others have far more grammar school places available, so competition is substantially lower.

Scores are standardised by age, so that children are not disadvantaged by their date of birth relative to other children sitting the exam.

Content of the tests

Individual schools vary in what is required for entrance. Usually, it is a combination of English, maths, verbal and non-verbal reasoning tests, but candidates will not necessarily have to complete all of these.

It is important to check for all tests whether students will be given multiple choice or 'standard' papers: multiple choice uses a separate answer sheet whereas 'standard' requires candidates to write on the exam paper directly. Some schools use computerised tests.

English

There is no universal English grammar school test, but comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, spelling and punctuation can all be included. Creative writing is less commonly tested.

Maths

Often combines numerical reasoning with logic and arithmetic. Some schools set mental maths tests, in which questions are read aloud to candidates rather than being written down.

Verbal Reasoning

This tests childrens' ability to complete sequences and patterns of words, as well as look for relationships between different words.

Non-Verbal Reasoning

Requires children to complete groups of shapes and draw comparisons between shapes by selecting figures from answer options.

Preparing for the tests

These timings suggest a realistic timeframe to make preparation effective and manageable.

For even more information and ideas visit letts-revision.co.uk/11+

1 Year to go

- Confirm which schools you are applying for and check on application closing dates.
- Speak to your child's class teacher about their educational strengths and weaknesses – including expected SATs results, and reading and spelling ages.

1 Year - 9 Months to go

- Plan practice sessions to fit in with family routines.
- Decide whether you want to employ a tutor.
- Begin to prepare for interviews by planning days out that can provide suitable discussion topics.

3 - 1 Months to go

- Try conducting a practice interview.
- Build in some games and activities to build relevant skills.
- Rehearse basic maths and spelling at speed, to promote fast recall of information.
- Go over key skills in your child's known areas of weakness.

1 Month to go

- Try practice test papers to familiarise your child with the format and limited time-period of the tests.
- Assess progress and target areas that need further practice.

1 Week to go

- Give your child a rest from revision! Plan an educational visit that could act as a talking point in an interview.
- Check what equipment is needed on the day (it will need to be taken in a see-through pencil case). An analogue watch is helpful for your child to see how much time they have left in a test.

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