

Parent Guide to Entrance Exams

**7+, 11+, 13+
& Pre-tests**

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you through**

Dear parent,

This booklet will talk you through the 11+ testing process and the differences between GL Assessment and CEM. It will also explain the ins and outs of Independent Entrance Exams.

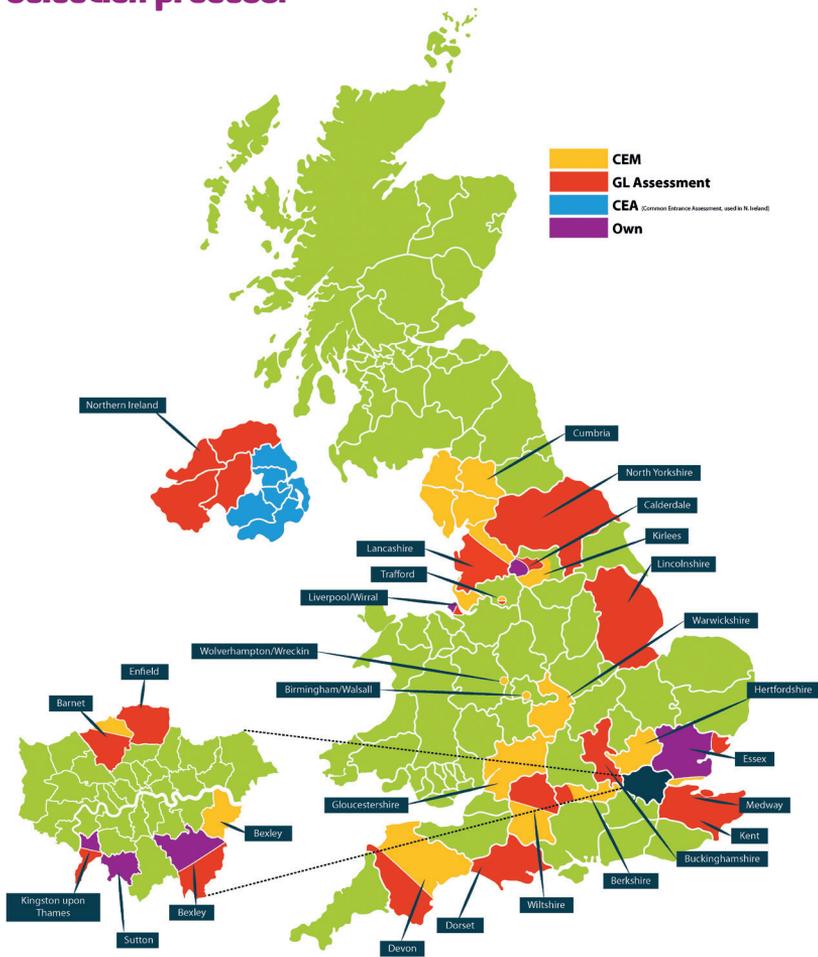
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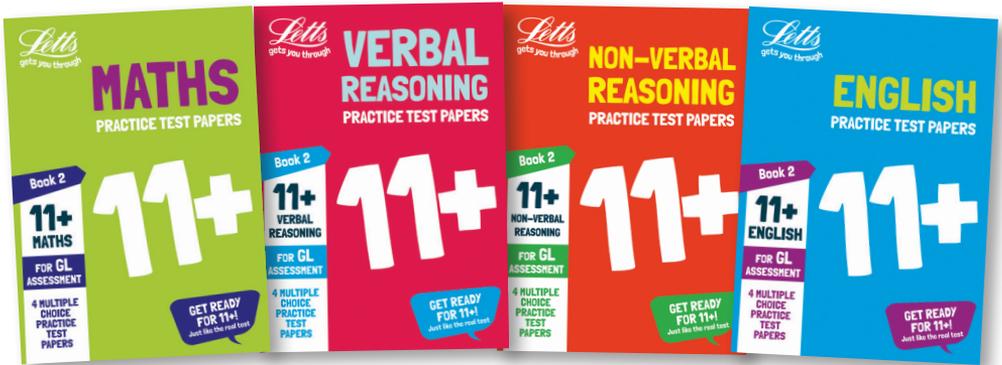
11+ GL Assessment and CEM

Depending on where you live, your child will sit either the GL Assessment or CEM 11+ test. This map shows which tests each region is using in the forthcoming selection process.



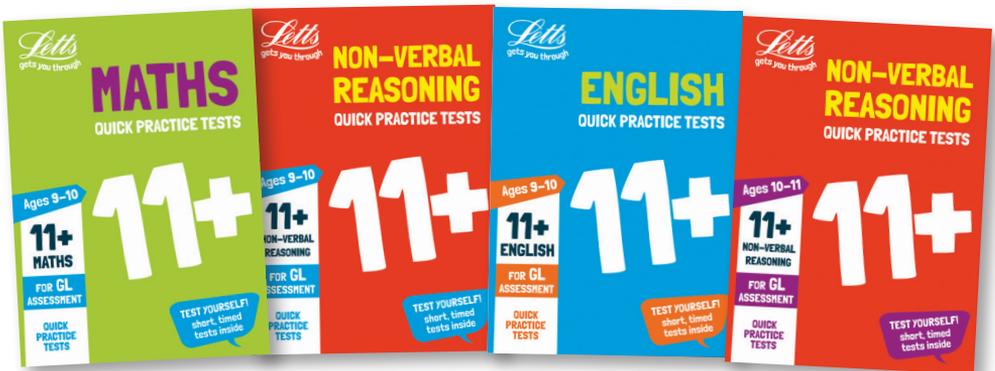
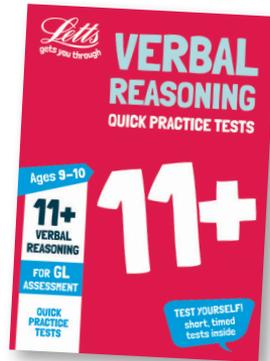
Letts GL Assessment Practice Tests

Tons of questions, just like the real thing



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Short timed tests for realistic practice



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The 11+ process

Children are only given one attempt at the test. It is advisable to apply to both comprehensive and grammar schools as the tests are very competitive and some schools have a large number of applicants per place.

The tests

Children will sit various academic tests and some selective schools also conduct interviews or different variations of the tests, 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 tests vary 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 specify results dates.

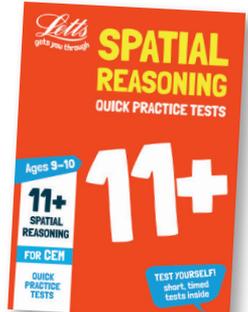
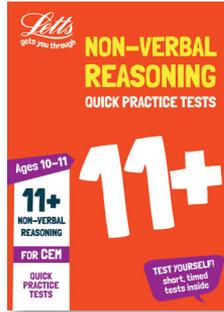
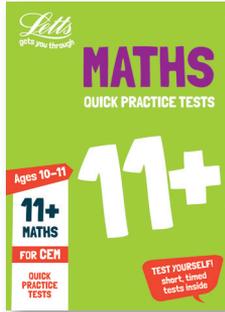
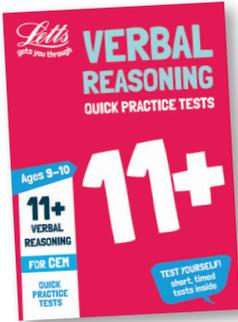
Results

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 test.

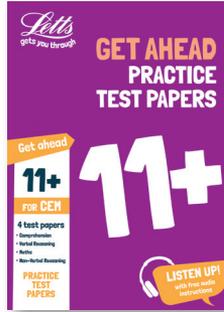
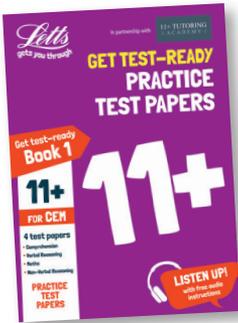
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Short timed tests for realistic practice



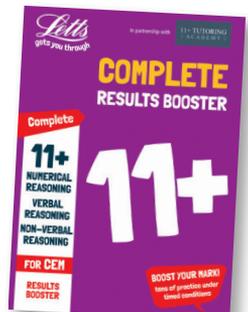
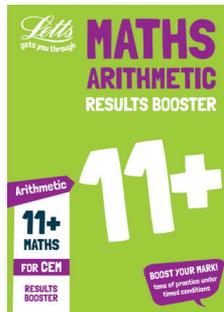
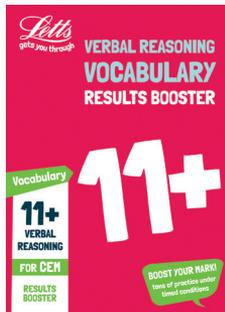
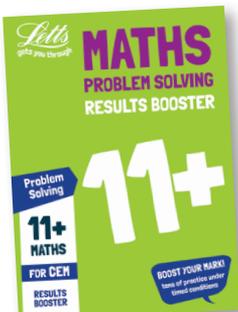
Letts CEM Practice Test Papers

Tons of questions, just like the real thing



Letts CEM Result Boosters

Get tips and advice on doing that bit better



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.

The CEM test includes an audio element that often catches children out. You can prepare for this aspect of the test using our FREE audio downloads at lettsrevision.co.uk/11+

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.

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 strengths and weakness

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
- 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 the test

About Independent Entrance Exams

Your child may have started to prepare for their Independent School Entrance Exams, in which case you may be familiar with them already. If you are new to the process, here is a quick overview of the exams your child may sit.

7+

For many independent prep schools – those that typically admit children at the beginning of Year 3 – children who are applying for a place take assessments known informally as the 7+.

7+ entrance exams usually take place between November and January of Year 2. Your child may then be offered a firm place, a place on the waiting list, or be told that they were unsuccessful.

Pre-tests

These age-standardised tests are used to assess childrens' attainment and potential when they are in Year 6 or Year 7, before going on to senior school. If your child is offered a place after completing these tests, they will normally still be required to sit the 13+ Common Entrance exam in Year 8.

11+

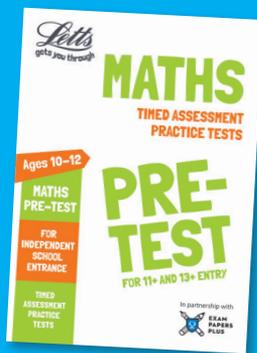
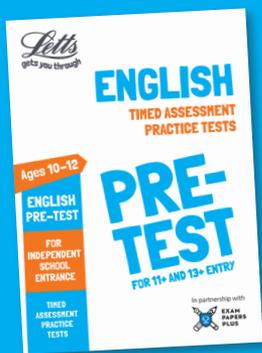
11+ Independent School exams usually take place mid-way through Year 6. Children sit papers in Maths and English. The Maths exam may include questions on arithmetic, factual knowledge and problem solving. English exams usually include comprehension and composition sections. The comprehension can sometimes be based on a poem.

13+

Children sit the Common Entrance exam at 13+ when they are in Year 8. The exams take place in May/June.

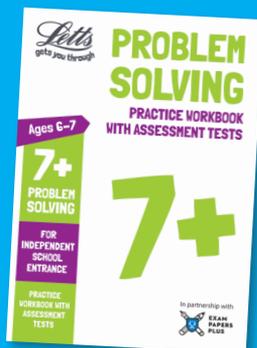
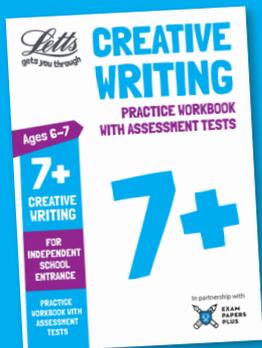
Letts Pre-test Timed Assessment Practice Tests

Try these timed tests, that increase in duration to reflect the timed sections often used in the Common Entrance 11+ and 13+ Pre-tests.



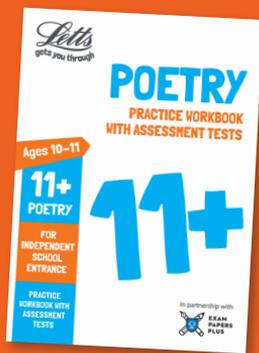
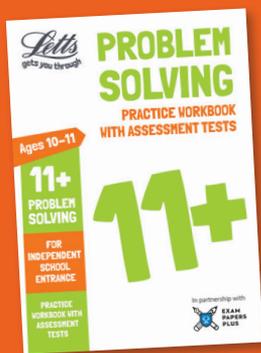
Letts 7+ Practice Workbooks with Assessment Tests

Get practising for the 7+ using test-style questions and worked examples, plus lots of tips along the way.



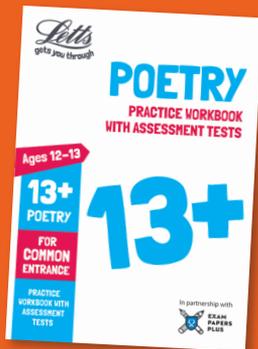
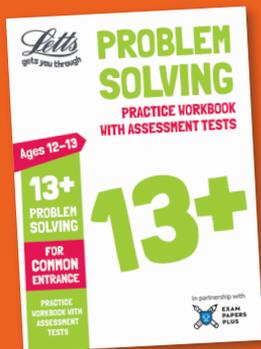
Letts 11+ Practice Workbooks with Assessment Tests

Get practising for the 11+ using test-style questions and worked examples, plus lots of tips along the way.



Letts 13+ Practice Workbooks with Assessment Tests

Get practising for the 13+ using test-style questions and worked examples, plus lots of tips along the way.



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