

The 11+



**Naphill and
Walters Ash School**

What is the 11+?

- Selection test – Bucks is a selective authority
- Grammar Schools seek to take top of the top group of pupils from primary schools
- Local Authority schools cannot tutor for the 11+
- 30% of children from each school ‘pass’ the test – myth!
- 30% of children who take test – that number is in the thousands.



Test Format

GL Assessment provide tests – they do vary each year

- Tests – 2 papers
- English – including spelling and grammar, verbal reasoning and reading comprehension
- Mathematical skills and Non-verbal and spatial reasoning skills



2023 Intake - Process

- Summer term Yr 5 – take home a familiarisation booklet to do at home – this is not hard.
- Sept 2022 – test are taken first full week back in school, Tuesday and Thursday
- Practice Test – this is not looked at in school at all. It does not get used in an appeal (another myth)
- Actual Test - Thursday
- Paper 1 – English reading comprehension, SPAG, verbal skills – antonyms, synonyms, word codes
- Paper 2 Mathematical and Non-verbal skills
- HT's recommendation form completed - ranking
- A Friday – before half term October results out
- Appeals?



Tests

- Children sit tests in school hall under exam conditions
- Each section of the test paper is timed e.g. 20 minutes for section 1 which could include comprehension and grammar work
- Follow instructions on CD and on papers – they have to be aware of time and follow the written instructions
- Tests are not for most children with SEND
- Tests are challenging – excellent reader with above average comprehension skills, spelling and knowledge of grammar and maths



English and Verbal Reasoning Skills

- Reading Comprehension – example Secret Garden, Swiss Family Robinson
- SPAG – Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

In these sentences there are some spelling mistakes. On each numbered line there is either one mistake or no mistake. Find the group of words with the mistake in it and mark its letter on your answer sheet. If there is no mistake, mark N.

30

I recieved an elaborate invitation to an exclusive party next week.

A B C D



Verbal Reasoning

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

The alphabet is here to help you with these questions. You need to work out a different code for each question. Choose the correct answer and mark it on the answer sheet.

Example

If the code for FOOT is ENNS, what is the code for TOE?

Answer a. VPF b. DNS c. SNE d. SND e. FNE






Mathematical Skills



stands for 12 ships.

Look at this table.

Dock	Number of Ships
A	
B	
C	

How many more ships are in dock A than dock C?

A 0.5

B 1

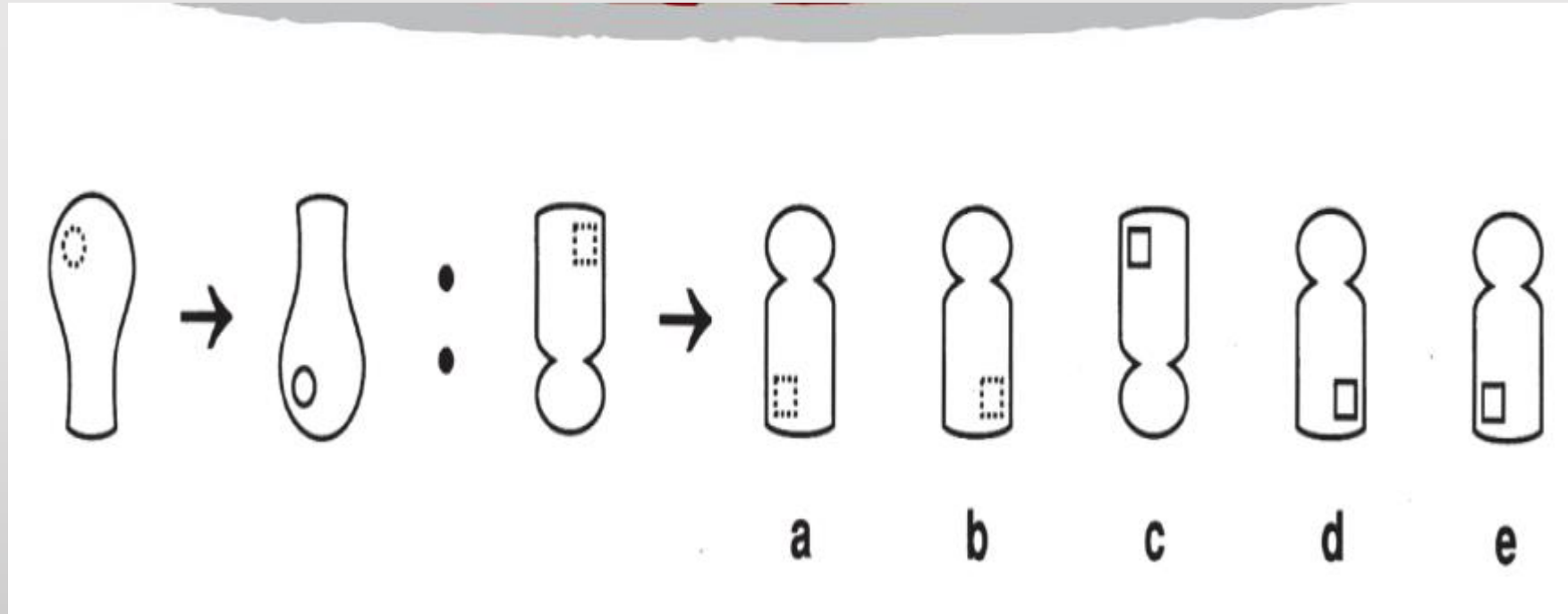
C 3

D 4

E 6



Non – Verbal Skills, including spatial reasoning



Marking

- One mark per answer
- 3 raw scores – English and verbal, mathematical, non-verbal
- Each raw score is age standardised
- Each weighted and then combined to give Secondary Transfer Test Score (STTS)
- Weighting – 50% English and verbal, 25% maths, 25% non-verbal
- Scores range from 0-200+
- 121 is qualifying score



What can you do to help you child?

- Read, read, read – ask them about meanings of words, check reading books with challenging vocabulary, talk to them about the story line, the information – David Walliams, Dogman, books on fluffy animals – not good enough.
- Widen their general knowledge – read wide range of books
- Practise tables, division facts, number bonds
- Be realistic
- Life does exist beyond the 11+
- Tutoring?



Tutoring

Primary schools that undertake testing on behalf of the grammar schools are asked not to tutor or coach for the children in their school prior to the test over and above enabling the children to follow the national curriculum relevant for their age.

The Secondary Transfer Test is designed to enable all children to demonstrate their academic potential. Free familiarisation materials will be provided for children to use at home. Tutoring is not required or recommended.

- GL Assessment provide free familiarisation on their website:
- <https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/free-familiarisation>
- Link only can be put onto schools' websites



Tutoring

If I had £1.00 for every time I hear... ‘The tutor said they would pass and has said I should appeal.’ ‘The tutor said they passed every practice paper.’

- If you talk to your child’s tutor do it away from your child
- They cannot guarantee your child will pass
- School results do guide you – ask class teacher or me if unsure
- Find a tutor who is really honest about your child’s chances
- Passing 11+ is more than learning how to solve codes and spatial awareness problems



Why does your child's whole education count?

- HT's recommendation form – ranking
- I consult Yr 5 and Yr 6 teachers – how does your child work?
- Attitude to learning – self starter, independent, actively seek greater challenge, want to edit own work and improve without being told to do so, homework not just done but done well – done more than asked,
- They would do their ranking, I check, I look back at all results to see if I agree
- I will change/alter if I feel the need to – but staff here very good
- I send off the final rankings – my responsibility
- I do not consult parents
- If you have you child's reports you can work out if ranked or not.



Appeals

- I will support appeals of the children who I have ranked.
- Parents meet me, I say yes I will – parents submit form, I submit mine.
- If I do not support appeal parents can still go ahead.
- But on that appeal form I put down every test score your child has got from the end of Yr 2!
- That is why every year is important.



Extra Information

- More information can be found on Bucks Grammar Schools' web site <https://www.thebucksgrammarschools.org/>

I would recommend you keep an eye out for secondary school open day events so that you get a complete picture of what is available. It may help if you have a Year 4 child to go this summer just to see what schools are like.

Go with an open mind

Dates and times are often out on the secondary schools' websites or can be found on the Bucks County Admissions Page.



On Line Materials

- <https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/free-familiarisation>

