

Bexley Selection Tests – Specimen Questions

Introduction

These sets of specimen questions were produced so that parents and children can see what sort of questions will be included in the Bexley selection tests.

The specimen questions try and give an idea of the *range* and *presentation* of questions that will be used but they should not be viewed as a complete sample paper. The design of the Bexley tests will not be limited to question types shown in the specimen questions.

In the real tests there will be 50 questions in the mathematics tests and 75 questions in the VR test.

The specimen questions do not attempt to reproduce the balance of easy and difficult questions that will appear in the full papers. Some of the real questions will be quite difficult in order to differentiate between children of different abilities. Getting the specimen questions right should not be used as an indication of how well a child might do in the real tests.

All the questions in both the mathematics and the verbal reasoning tests are multiple-choice in format. Most questions have 5 answer options (A - E); children have to choose the correct answer. Some questions in the VR paper may need two letter answers (AX). Only one answer is correct.

The tests will have a special answer sheet that pupils will mark with a pencil. These sheets will be read by computer when they are marked. Some of the answers will be shown just by the letters like these specimen questions:

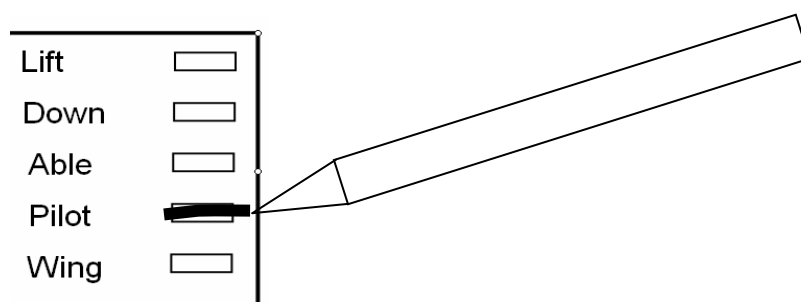
| | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|
| 15 | A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | B | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | C | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | E | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Some answers may have the answer options repeated from the question paper to reduce errors in transposing answers to the sheet.

| | | |
|----|-----|--------------------------|
| 45 | 6.5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 6.3 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 7.2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 6.6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | |
|----|------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 65 | Frog | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lift | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Road | <input type="checkbox"/> | Down | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | West | <input type="checkbox"/> | Able | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Tape | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pilot | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Sing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wing | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Pupils will have to complete the answer sheets by marking the appropriate answer box with a pencil line like this:



The specimen questions relate only to the tests used in Bexley. In other areas the tests may be different and may be designed to cover a different range of topics and question difficulty.

How to use the Specimen Questions.

There are a number of ways that these tests could be used. Parents or children could print them out and use them to answer each of the question types or just to see the range. However, they do not form a complete balanced paper so anyone using them should guard against attaching too much importance to the number of questions that a child gets right.

Parents and children may just like to see which questions they can do easily and which ones they find difficult. Making up similar questions and finding the answer is one way of making sure you know how a question type works. Try making up easy ones and ones that are more difficult.

No time limit has been suggested for completing these specimen questions - they are not intended to be a whole paper. Children will need to be able to complete the real test in a limited time, under pressure, keeping their concentration and not being distracted. This may sometimes be difficult for parents to achieve at home.

Parents should be aware that where pupil's performance in the tests is increased as a result of coaching, he/she may not be able to maintain this level of achievement without continuing help.

Verbal Reasoning (VR) Questions.

Verbal reasoning questions try and test the ability to deal with 'wordy' questions and to answer the question while keeping a lot of information in your head. **In just 22 specimen questions it is not possible to cover every type of question type that may occur in the test.**

The following may help:

- ✓ Although many are based on English words, some questions do not depend on knowing what the words mean.
- ✓ In the real test children will have scrap paper for them to use to 'jot' while they answer a question. This makes some question types easier to answer.
- ✓ In the real test do not get 'stuck' on a question. They are all worth the same marks so wasting time getting one correct while time is ticking away does not really make sense.
- ✓ The real test paper will have a part of the test that is designed for children to have a short practice and get in the right frame of mind to do the rest of the test. Generally each new question type will have an example at the top of the page.
- ✓ In the real test children will be put under time pressure to get a lot of questions finished.
- ✓ Word games like Scrabble may be helpful as well as crosswords, word searches, word games and some electronic games.
- ✓ For some questions instant recall of the alphabet is useful.
- ✓ If you can't work out the answer then the best advice is often to choose the answer you think is best. Often you will be able to see easily that some of the answer options are plainly not correct and ignore these.
- ✓ You might be able to do some of the VR questions by testing each of the answer options. As there is only one correct answer you can stop when you have found the first answer that works.

Mathematics Questions

The specimen maths questions have been chosen to cover many of the topics that a pupil starting in Year 6 will be expected to be able to attempt. They are nearly all based in a problem-solving context of the real world and few will be a simple 'sum'. **In just 20 specimen questions it is not possible to cover every part of the maths curriculum.**

- ✓ In the real test, children will have scrap paper for them to use to 'jot' while they answer a question. This makes most questions easier to answer. However, in the real test children will not get any credit for this working as they would in a national curriculum test. The scrap paper is not marked.

- ✓ The specimen questions do not attempt to cover questions from all parts of the mathematics curriculum that Year 6 pupils will need to know.
- ✓ In the real test do not get 'stuck' on a question. They are all worth the same marks so wasting time getting one correct while time is ticking away does not make sense. You can always go back and finish any question towards the end of the test if you have time.
- ✓ The real test paper will have a part of the test that is designed for children to have a short practice and get in the right frame of mind before doing the rest of the test.
- ✓ In the real test children, will be put under time pressure to get a lot of questions finished.
- ✓ Parents need to be aware that children may be using different methods in maths to calculate, say, long multiplication. Try to help your child to use the methods they have learned in school.
- ✓ A child's ability to do the basic things like multiplication tables (from 1 to 10) and knowing all the addition facts really are important.
- ✓ As well as knowing tables the associated number families need to be instantly recalled e.g. $2 \times 3 = 6$, $3 \times 2 = 6$, $6 \div 2 = 3$, $6 \div 3 = 2$.
- ✓ There is just not enough time to try and work out 7×8 by adding 7 eight times!
- ✓ Children should not try and time themselves while doing the test. That technique may be useful if you have to attempt say 4 essay type questions, but in these multiple choice tests working as quickly as you can and not getting stuck, is the best advice.
- ✓ There are warnings given about the time left given towards the end of the each test.
- ✓ Practice with real problems - shopping, planning holidays and trips, do-it-yourself and cooking are all useful for children as they see maths in action and understand why things like recall of tables is important.
- ✓ If you can't work out the answer then the best advice is often to choose the answer you think is best. Often you will be able to see easily that some of the answer options are plainly not correct and ignore these.