

Secondary School Admissions and Kent Test Information Evening

September 2026



Tuesday 20th May 2025



Local Secondary Schools

- Brockhill Park Performing Arts Academy
- Folkestone Academy
- Turner Free School
- Marsh Academy
- The Harvey Grammar School for Boys – **selective**
- The Folkestone Grammar School for Girls – **selective**
- Ashford schools – (including selective schools)
- Dover schools – (including selective schools)
- Canterbury schools – (including selective schools)

Entry into Secondary School

- Different process for children with EHCPs
- Applications: Monday 1st September 2025– Friday 31st October 2025
- Registration can be completed either:
 - Online - www.kent.gov.uk/ola
 - or by other methods (see website for details)
- National Offer Day: Monday 2nd March 2026
 - Email sent out after 4pm
- Deadline for lodging an appeal – Monday 30th March 2026

The secondary school application process

- Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF)
- The SCAF is used to express your specific school preferences (up to 4 schools) for your child
- The schools you list need to be ranked in order of your preference
- The SCAF allows you to give reasons for each preference (siblings, etc)

SCAF tips and advice...

- List as many schools as possible – 4 is the aim!
- Do not list the same school 4 times!
- Do not just list a single school!
- Check each school's admissions criteria before applying
- You can only appeal for a place at a school that you have listed on your SCAF form – (so ensure all the schools you might want are on the form – including a selective school if you want one!)
- Accept the place your child is offered even if you wish to lodge an appeal at a different school on your list
- If you place a selective school in preference 1 on your SCAF and your child did not pass or even sit the selective test (Kent Test), the preference is not considered
- If your child took the selective test (Kent Test) but did not pass and you are considering appealing for a selective school (grammar school) place, ensure the grammar school you wish to apply to is listed on your preference list - (just not as preference 1)
- You can place a selective school on your SCAF form even if your child did not sit the Kent Test – you will then be able to appeal for a place at that school (your child will need to take a test at a later date)

The selective route...

Why choose a grammar education?

What is a grammar school?

- Grammar schools exist in about 1/4 of areas in England
- state run
- achievement/excellence
- traditional teaching methods - strict discipline
- select pupils on the basis of ability – generally aim for top 25%
(unlike non-selective, all-ability comprehensive schools)
- GCSE curriculum in grammar schools is similar to that in comprehensive schools, with the same core subjects
(However, grammar schools tend to give more weight to academic subjects, whereas comprehensives may offer more vocational courses)

- If you intend to, or are thinking about sending your child to a selective school (a grammar school) then you will need to register your child for:

- The Kent Test (also known as the 11+)

and/or...

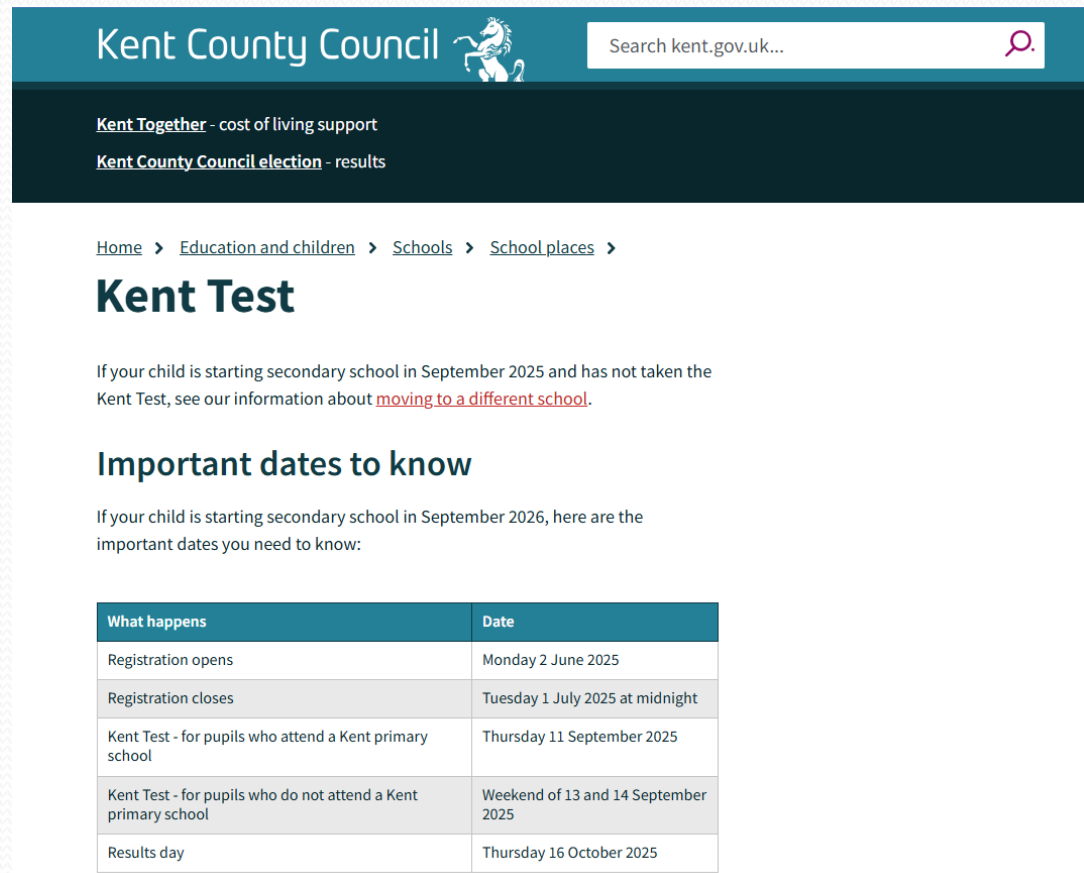
- The Folkestone and Hythe Test (also known as the Shepway Test) or other area test if applicable

If you do not register your child for these tests they will not be able to sit them!

A useful website...

- <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test>

- Or simply just google
'Kent Test'
(other search engines do exist!)



The screenshot shows the Kent County Council website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the council's name and logo, and a search bar. Below this is a dark blue banner with links for 'Kent Together - cost of living support' and 'Kent County Council election - results'. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Education and children > Schools > School places > Kent Test'. The 'Kent Test' heading is followed by a paragraph explaining that if a child is starting secondary school in September 2025 and has not taken the test, they should see information about moving to a different school. Below this is a section titled 'Important dates to know' for September 2026, which includes a table of key dates.

What happens	Date
Registration opens	Monday 2 June 2025
Registration closes	Tuesday 1 July 2025 at midnight
Kent Test - for pupils who attend a Kent primary school	Thursday 11 September 2025
Kent Test - for pupils who do not attend a Kent primary school	Weekend of 13 and 14 September 2025
Results day	Thursday 16 October 2025

The Kent Test

September 2026 admissions...

- The Kent Test takes place:
 - Within the first few weeks of starting school in September for children who go to a school in Kent (held at and administered by our school)
 - **Thursday 11th September 2025**
 - The Saturday/Sunday following the week of the Kent Test for children who go to school outside of Kent (held at a central location)
- If KCC need to make any changes to the Kent Test process they will contact everyone who has registered a child to take part

Registering for the Kent Test

- You can register for the Kent Test between:
 - Monday 2nd June 2025 and Tuesday 1st July 2025
- Registration can be completed either:
 - Online - www.kent.gov.uk/ola

(Keep your log in details as they will be useful later in the year for your SCAF)

 - by other methods (see website for details)
 - **Keep all confirmation emails!**

The Folkestone and Hythe Test

A second chance to shine...

- The Folkestone and Hythe Test (Shepway Test) effectively gives your child a second chance to show that they are of selective ability
- The Folkestone and Hythe Test (Shepway Test) usually takes place on the Saturday following the Kent Test - (held and administered by the local school you have chosen to apply to)
- Other local selective school tests (such as the Dover Test) often take place on the same Saturday

Registering for the Folkestone and Hythe Test (Shepway Test)

- Registration is done directly through the school you wish your child to attend
- Time frame for registration is similar to the Kent Test
- **Keep all confirmation emails!**

The testing process...

The Kent Test

The Kent Test morning comprises of two tests covering three separate subjects...

Test 1 – English and Maths

Test 2 – Reasoning (Verbal, Non-Verbal and Spatial)

The afternoon comprises of a writing task

- Both morning tests are multiple-choice
- Each test has a question booklet (black and white) and a separate answer sheet (red)
- The tests are marked by an automated marking machine



'... large, distinctive, black patches around its eyes.' (line 2)

Which of the following is closest in meaning to 'distinctive'?

A coloured
 B unusual
 C circular
 D protective
 E spectacular

Work out the correct answer and mark it on the answer sheet.

1 EXAMPLE	1 PRACTICE	2 EXAMPLE	2 PRACTICE
p <input type="checkbox"/> h <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> e <input type="checkbox"/> s <input type="checkbox"/> k <input type="checkbox"/>	f <input type="checkbox"/> r <input type="checkbox"/> p <input type="checkbox"/> m <input type="checkbox"/> l <input type="checkbox"/>	holiday <input type="checkbox"/> travel <input type="checkbox"/> drop <input type="checkbox"/> trip <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> trap <input type="checkbox"/>	kind <input type="checkbox"/> tidy <input type="checkbox"/> deal <input type="checkbox"/> sort <input type="checkbox"/> style <input type="checkbox"/>

SAMPLE ANSWER SHEET GL Assessment

Pupil's Name: _____ Date: _____
 School Name: _____
 Date: _____
 PUPILS REG. NUMBER: _____
 DATE OF BIRTH: _____
 Please mark boxes with a thin horizontal line like this .

VERBAL REASONING

EXAMPLE	PRACTICE	EXAMPLE	PRACTICE
p <input type="checkbox"/> h <input type="checkbox"/> e <input type="checkbox"/> s <input type="checkbox"/> k <input type="checkbox"/>	f <input type="checkbox"/> r <input type="checkbox"/> p <input type="checkbox"/> m <input type="checkbox"/> l <input type="checkbox"/>	holiday <input type="checkbox"/> travel <input type="checkbox"/> drop <input type="checkbox"/> trip <input type="checkbox"/> trap <input type="checkbox"/>	kind <input type="checkbox"/> tidy <input type="checkbox"/> deal <input type="checkbox"/> sort <input type="checkbox"/> style <input type="checkbox"/>

SPATIAL REASONING

EXAMPLE	PRACTICE
a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/> d <input type="checkbox"/> e <input type="checkbox"/>	a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/> d <input type="checkbox"/> e <input type="checkbox"/>

NON-VERBAL REASONING

EXAMPLE	PRACTICE	EXAMPLE	PRACTICE
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ENGLISH

EXAMPLE	PRACTICE	PRACTICE	PRACTICE
a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/> d <input type="checkbox"/> e <input type="checkbox"/>	p <input type="checkbox"/> q <input type="checkbox"/> r <input type="checkbox"/> s <input type="checkbox"/> t <input type="checkbox"/>	a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/> d <input type="checkbox"/> e <input type="checkbox"/>	a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/> d <input type="checkbox"/> e <input type="checkbox"/>

MATHS

PRACTICE	PRACTICE
16 <input type="checkbox"/> 22 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 40 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/>

English and Maths Test

- Takes 1 hour to complete
- Each subject has a 5 minute practice exercise followed by a 25 minute test
 - (around 25 questions in each subject = 1 minute per question!)
- The English section involves a comprehension exercise as well as some additional questions to test literacy skills (such as spelling and grammar)
- The maths section includes questions from a range of mathematical areas



- Reasoning Test

- Takes about an hour to administer (inclusive of all the practice drills and explanations)
- Split into four or five short sections
- Sections on verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning and spatial reasoning (which can incorporate 3D reasoning)
- **General timing = 2 questions per minute**

The written task...

- A short writing exercise takes place in the afternoon
- 40 minutes in total, which includes planning time
- A number of broad titles are presented and your child must choose only one of them to compose a piece of writing
- This written task will not be marked but may be taken into consideration in borderline cases

Scoring the Kent Test

- Scores will be age standardised, using a national standardisation
- The school does not mark or keep your child's test scripts
- The school does not receive your child's answers – just the age standardised score
- Your child will receive an individual score for each test - English, maths and reasoning (3 separate scores in total)
- The score range for each test is 69 to 141 – (highest possible score = 423)
- Scores can be available on request – if you have registered online, scores are available once logged in
- To pass the Kent Test and be deemed 'eligible for a grammar school' all three tests (Maths, English and Reasoning) need to be above a specific 'age standardised' score **AND** also your child's total combined score for all three tests needs to be above a specific threshold (the threshold for this varies from year to year – for example... in 2023 the total threshold score was 332 with no single score below 107)

If your child has SEND...

- If your child has special educational needs or a disability that may affect the way they can access the test, you need to discuss this with our school's special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) **BEFORE** completing your Kent Test application
 - It is for able children whose access to testing is compromised by a disability or SEND to give access to the test. It is not to maximise their test score.
 - The access arrangement must be part of standard classroom practice.
- When you register your child for the Kent Test online, you will need to confirm if you have discussed a request for access arrangements with your child's school
- Any proposal for alternative access requirements must be made by the school by around July – **this is not done by the school automatically!**

The Folkestone and Hythe Test

(or other regional test)

- This is a test developed by CEM (Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring) at Durham University
- The tests are primarily computer based and much shorter in length - approximately 45 minutes (with no ending to the number of questions)
- These tests assess the same skills as the Kent Test (English, Maths and Reasoning)
- There is also a short writing task
- Each selective school will have their own admissions criteria, marking thresholds and their own deadline dates
- Scores from the test are aggregated so if your child does better in one discipline than another your child may be offered a selective place even if they do not meet the threshold in every test
- If your child achieves the required scores in the Folkestone Test but not the Kent Test your child will be eligible to apply to that particular grammar school only
- If your child has SEND or a disability, please ensure you liaise with the school directly for any changes to access arrangements

Test familiarisation

- It can be really useful to help familiarise your child with some of the features of these tests. Such as...
 - Multiple choice
 - Strategies to help eliminate answers
 - Educated guess work
 - Content
 - Not taught in school
 - Layout of the tests
 - Question booklets and answer sheet
 - Using a computer keyboard and mouse
 - Timing
 - Managing stress levels and emotions
 - Practice
 - Little and often
 - Time devoted to going through the bits your child doesn't yet know



Examples of products to guide and support familiarisation...

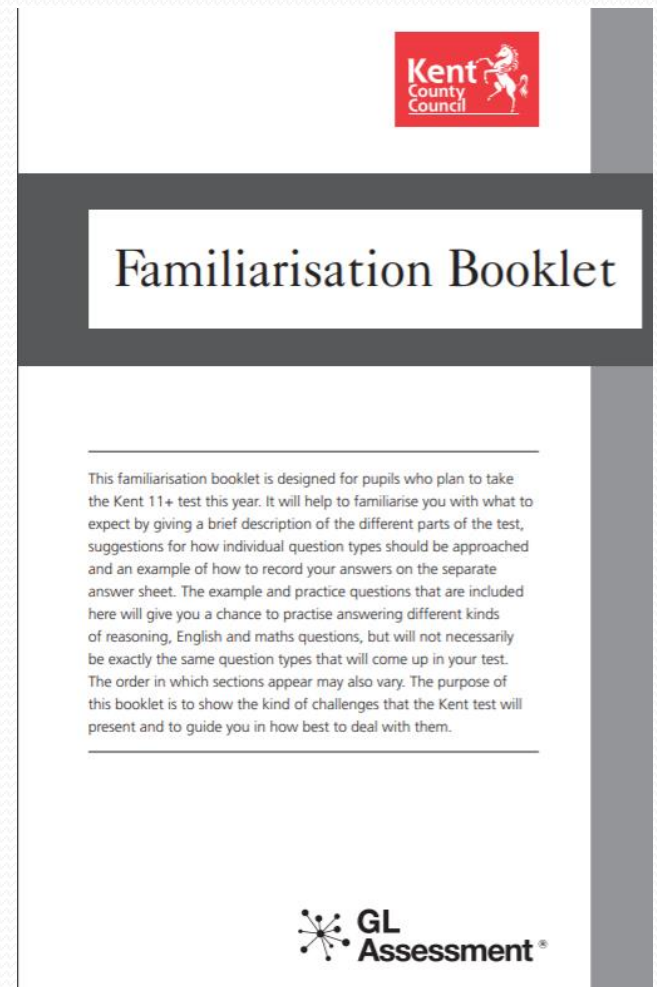
- Kent County Council (KCC) offer their own familiarisation booklet...
(18 pages long)

Other very useful resources:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test>

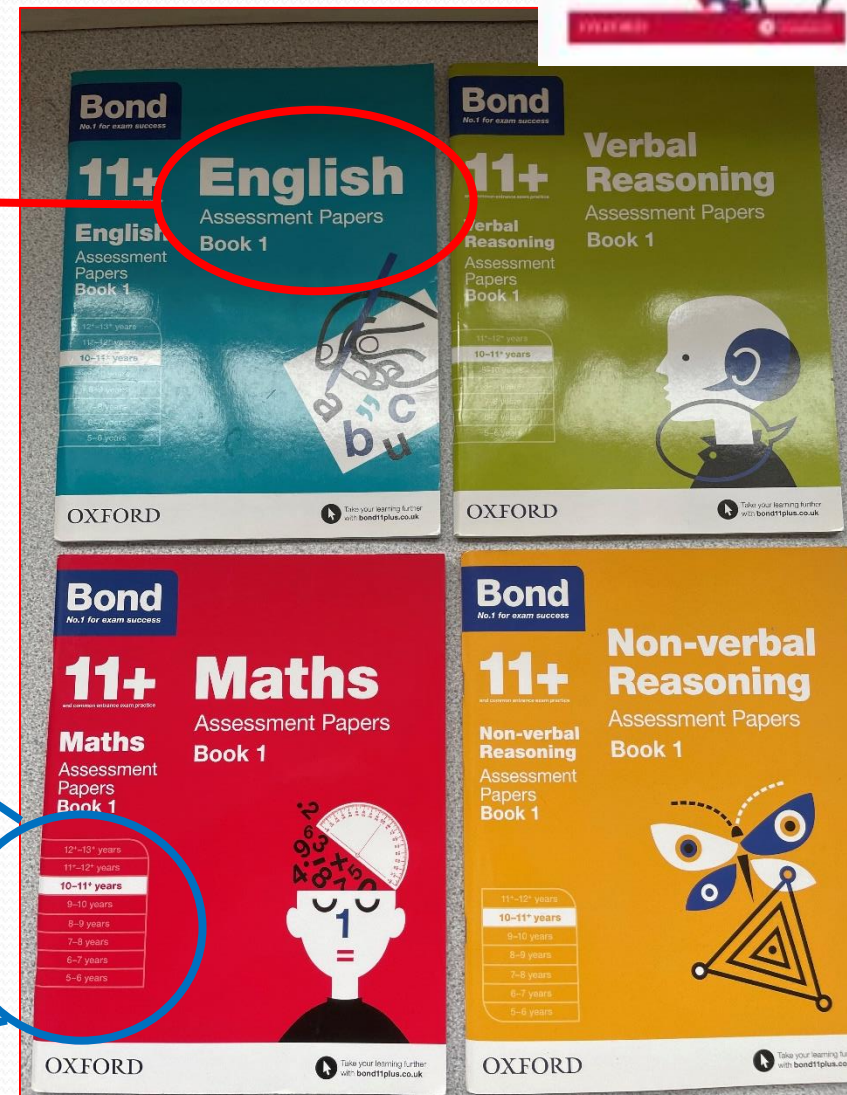
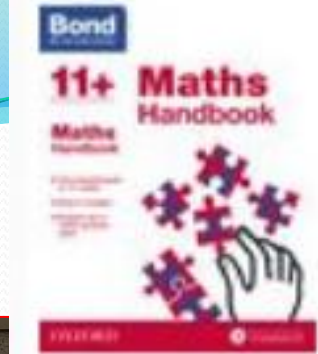


<https://11plus.gl-assessment.co.uk/free-materials/>



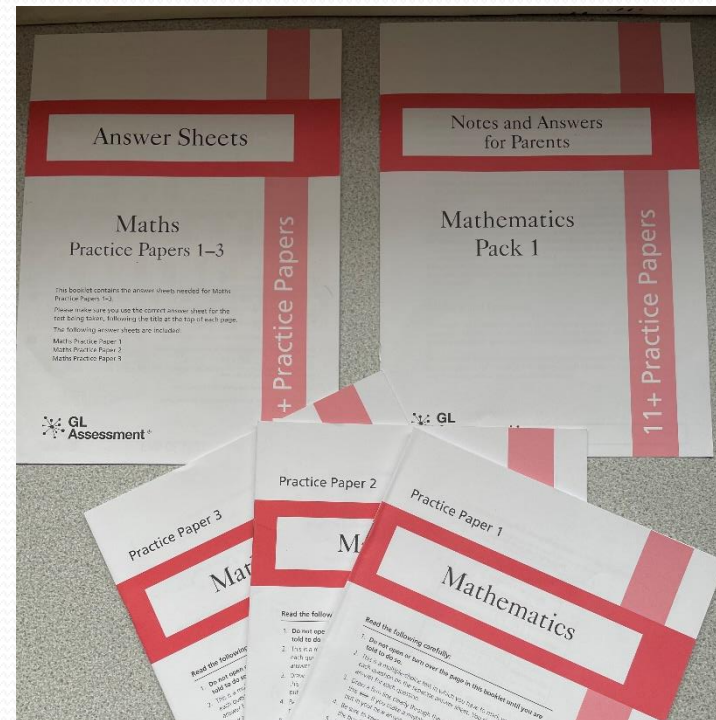
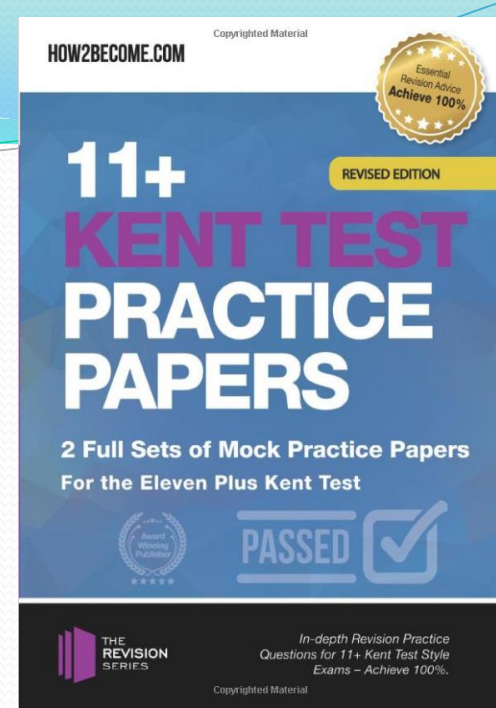
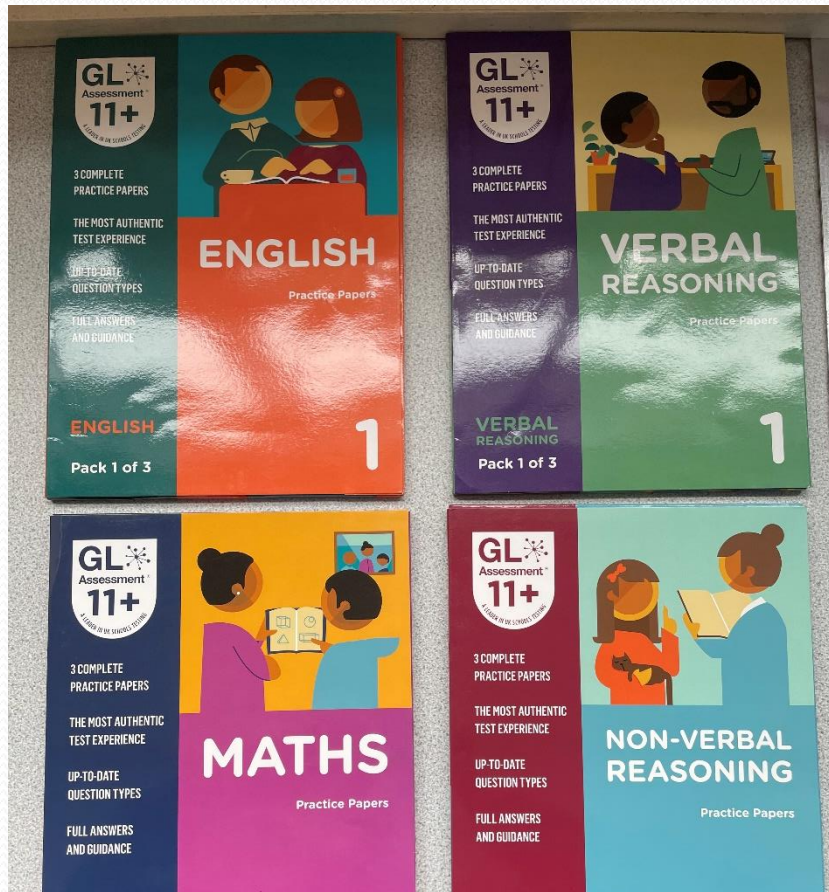
Examples of products to guide and support familiarisation...

- Bond practice booklets
 - Many different options



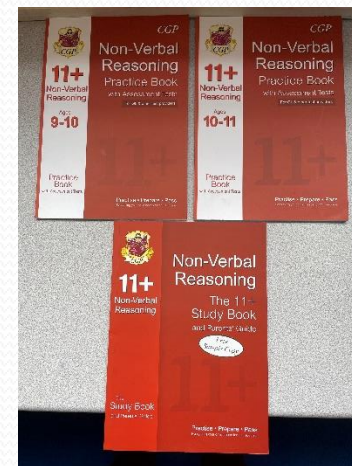
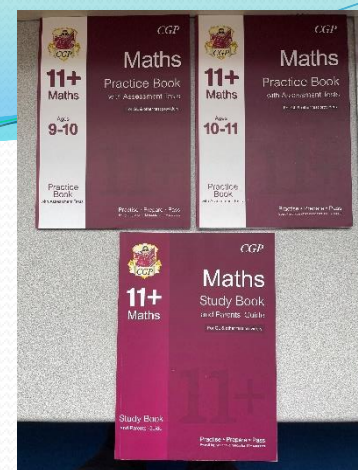
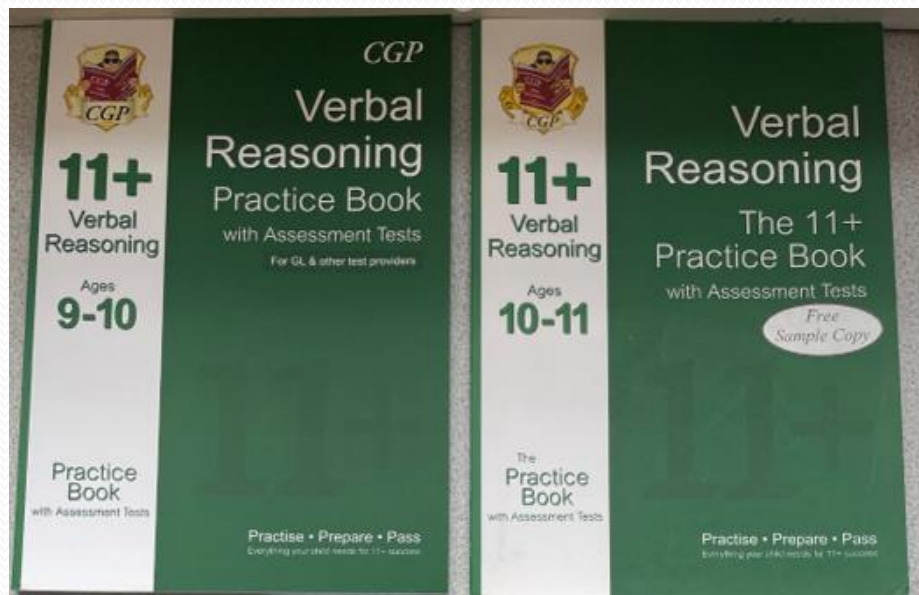
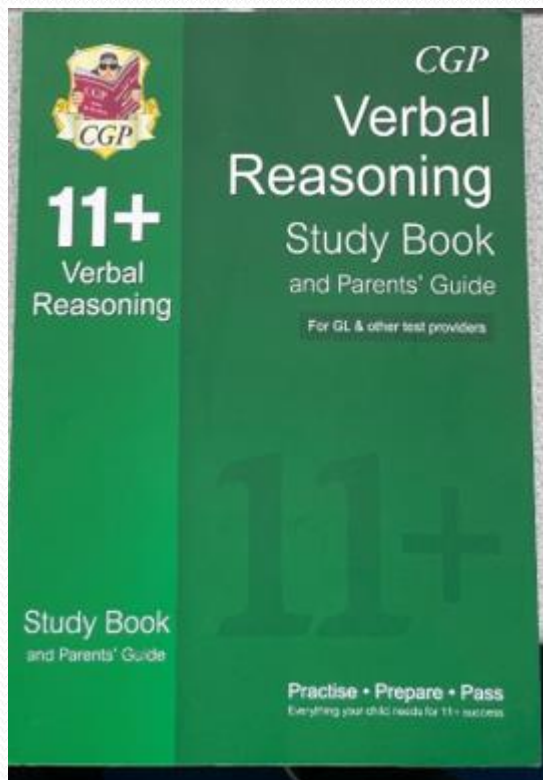
Examples of products to guide and support familiarisation...

- GL assessment papers - as close to the real thing as possible. They are responsible for designing the Kent Test!



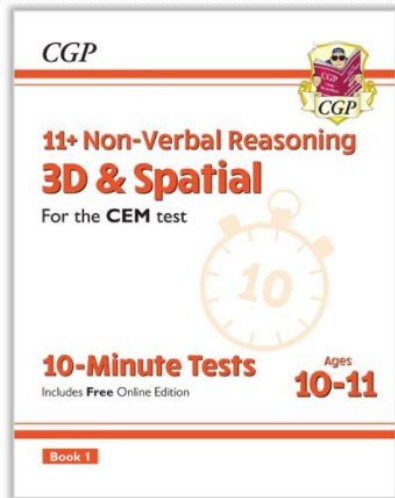
Examples of products to guide and support familiarisation...

- CGP booklets for additional specific support

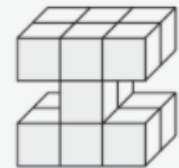


Examples of products to guide and support familiarisation...

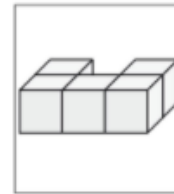
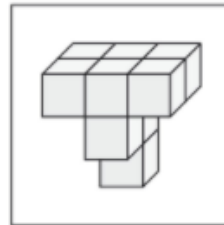
- 3D and Spatial Reasoning practice



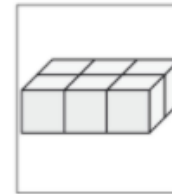
Without rotating the figure on the left, work out which option fits onto it to make the 3D shape in the grey box.



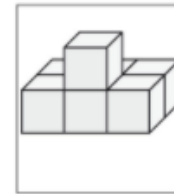
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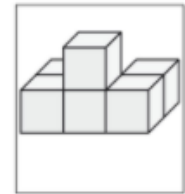
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b



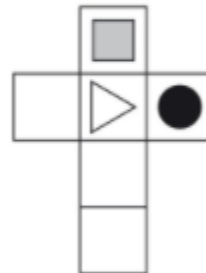
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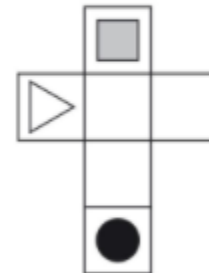
d

Work out which of the four partial nets can be folded to make the cube on the left.

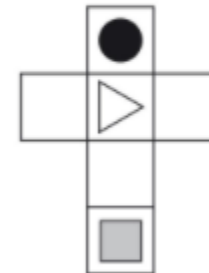
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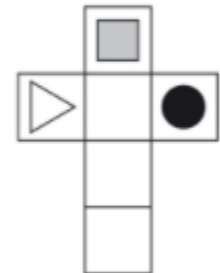
a



b



c



d

Bond online

Bond Online

- ✓ Interactive question bank - perfect for GL & CEM 11+ exams
- ✓ Unlimited access to thousands of 11+ practice questions
- ✓ Instant marking and feedback for kids and parents
- ✓ Fun and easy to use for ages 9 to 11
- ✓ Monthly subscription from £6.50 per month
Subject to a minimum monthly subscription of 3 months.
Subscriptions do not include age specific tests.



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Bond 11+

Bond Online and Bond books have helped millions of pupils pass their 11+ and entrance exams.

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Bond subjects

Books, assessment papers, mock tests and online practice questions for all your 11 plus subjects for ages 5 to 12.



English



Maths



Verbal Reasoning



Non-verbal Reasoning

Next steps...

- During this Summer Term Yr5 children will sit an example paper of a verbal and non verbal reasoning in school
- Optional consultations will take place in June if parents/carers are uncertain of whether to register their child for a selective school
- Parents/carers must notify our school SENCO of any special requirements your child might need – we can then request special consideration from KCC – this ideally needs to happen before registering your child
- Further consultations can take place in October to discuss secondary school options (help and advice on filling in the SCAF form) – including discussing the results of any selective tests your child may have sat
- Look out for open days for all local secondary schools



Any questions.....

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