



11+ Parent Guide

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This guide is for parents, carers and tutors. It is original JDScience advice. It does not reproduce any exam board's copyrighted materials. Use it alongside the free practice PDFs in this 11+ library.

Suggested time: 15–20 minute read · **Questions:** Guide

1. What the 11+ is

The 11+ is a set of entrance tests used by many grammar schools and some independent schools in England, usually taken in Year 6. Papers commonly cover English, Maths, Verbal Reasoning (VR) and Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR). Exact mix, timing and question style vary by area and by school. Always check the school or local consortium website for the current test provider and dates.

2. Different styles you may hear about

Families often hear names such as GL Assessment, CEM, CSSE (Essex) and independent-school papers. Those organisations own their own questions. JDScience does **not** host or retype those PDFs.

- **GL-style practice** often uses separately timed papers in English, Maths, VR and NVR, with a mix of multiple-choice and standard-format questions.
- **CEM-style familiarisation** is typically mixed, time-pressured and vocabulary-heavy. Our mixed papers give a gentle version of switching skills in one sitting.
- **Independent schools** write their own papers. Comprehension, creative writing and problem-solving maths are common.

Use JDScience papers to build skill, speed and confidence — then use any official familiarisation booklet the school sends you.

3. What is in this JDScience library

- **Maths:** arithmetic, word problems, fractions/decimals/percentages, geometry and measures, data handling.
- **English:** an original comprehension, grammar and punctuation, vocabulary and spelling, creative writing prompts.
- **Verbal Reasoning:** two original papers (codes, sequences, analogies, hidden words, odd one out).
- **Non-Verbal Reasoning:** two original figure papers (series, odd one out, analogies, 2×2 matrices).
- **Mixed practice:** two shorter mocks that switch between skills.

Every question, passage and diagram is newly written for JDScience. Third-party free samples were used only as a check on level and topic coverage — never copied.

4. How to use the papers

1. Start with one topic paper (for example Arithmetic) untimed, so your child can show working.
2. Mark together using the answer section. Read the short “Why” notes, not only the final number.
3. Keep a small error log: one line per mistake (for example “forgot units” or “read half-ebb as a time”).
4. Repeat a similar paper a week later, this time with the suggested time.
5. Use a mixed paper once a fortnight as a mini mock, not every evening.

Little and often beats a three-hour Saturday grind. Two or three sessions of 20–30 minutes a week is plenty for most Year 5 pupils.

5. Suggested timings

- Maths topic papers: about 25–30 minutes.
- English comprehension: about 30 minutes (including reading).
- Grammar / vocabulary: about 20 minutes.
- Creative writing: 5 minutes plan, 30–35 minutes write, 5 minutes check.
- VR or NVR practice: about 20–25 minutes.
- Mixed papers: about 45 minutes.

If your child finishes very early, they should check. If they are still on the first half when time is up, stop, mark what they did, and practise that skill untimed before trying a clock again.

6. Marking without tears

Sit on the same side of the table. Ask “talk me through this one” before saying “wrong”. Award the mark if the method is right and a slip is tiny — then still correct the slip. Celebrate a better explanation, not only a higher score.

A useful family phrase: “What would you try differently next time?” Write one action, not ten.

7. Wellbeing and balance

Sleep, reading for pleasure, sport and unstructured play all support 11+ performance. Avoid ranking your child against classmates. Scores on these papers are for learning, not for predicting a school place.

If practice causes tears, stop for that day. Go back to a paper they can succeed on. JDScience tutoring can help if you want a calm adult outside the family to take the pressure.

8. When to add extra support

Consider a tutor if your child is stuck on the same skill after several tries, if English is an additional language and vocabulary is the main barrier, or if you want structured mocks closer to the test date. Book through www.jdscience.co.uk or email info@jdscience.co.uk.

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