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Multiplication Tables Check: a parents' guide

All Y4 children will have their multiplication skills formally tested from 2020. We explain what parents need to know.



P rimary-school children are expected to know all their times tables up to 12x12. Under the current National Curriculum, children are supposed to know their times tables by the end of Y4, but they are not formally tested on them other than through multiplication questions in the Year 6 maths SATs.

In June 2020 it will become compulsory for all English schools.

Who will sit the times tables check?

The check will be introduced in English schools only. It will be taken by children in Year 4.

Year 5 children are expected to be confident in all multiplication tables up to 12x12

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How will the test work?

Children will answer multiplication questions against the clock on a computer or tablet, with 6 seconds to answer each one-mark question in a series of 25. The test will last no longer than 5 minutes and will be marked instantly. Each question will be presented in this format: $n1 \times n2 = \underline{\quad}$

Questions will be selected from the 121 number facts that make up the multiplication tables from 2 to 12, with a particular focus on the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables as they are considered to be the most challenging. Each question will only appear once in any 25-question series, and children won't be asked to answer question reversals (so if they've answered 3×4 they won't be asked 4×3).

Multiplication facts will be the only things tested (there will be no problem solving or division facts check).

Times tables learning in primary school

Year 1 children are taught counting up in 2s, 5s and 10s (the simplest form of multiplication).

Year 2 children are introduced to multiplication, division facts and repeated addition for numbers 2, 5 and 10.

Year 3 is a crucial year for times tables learning. Children learn multiplication facts for the 3, 4 and 8 times tables.

Year 4 is a 'completing' year for all multiplication facts up to 12 x 12.

Children are expected to be really confident in all their times tables (up to the 12 times table) by the start of Y5.



