

Year 4 Times Tables Test - what's involved and what it means for my child.

First announced by the Department for Education (DfE) in September 2017, the details of how the times tables test will be laid out was announced on Tuesday 13th November 2018. Since then a selection of schools trialled the test in June 2019 and the full roll out was due, before the arrival of Covid-19, to take place in June 2020.

At A Glance FAQs on the Year 4 Times Tables Test

What is the Year 4 Times Tables Test

The Multiplication Tables Check is a newly introduced annual check on the times tables knowledge of Year 4s in England and Wales.

When will Year 4 take the Times Tables Test

The test will be taken in June 2022. There is no set date on which all schools have to sit it, just a period of time – the 3-week check window – when it must be completed.

What is the pass mark for the Year 4 Times Tables Test?

There is no pass mark, fail, nor expected standard threshold. It is intended that schools use their own judgement as to any actions needed after the results.

What times tables do year 4 have to know

By the end of Year 3 children should be fluent in the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 times tables, and then by the end of Year 4 children should know all their times tables up to 12 ie the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 times tables.

What is the Year 4 Times Tables Test? The Year 4 Times Tables Test, known by the government and schools as the Year 4 [Multiplication Tables Check](#), is an annual check that Year 4s in England and Wales have a good level of times tables knowledge. Each child's results will be known to the school and the government will have a national picture. However there will be no publication of a

school's times table tests results and they will not be one of a school's accountability measures. The Year 4 Times Tables Test is an online test with 25 questions; children must answer each question within a 6 seconds time limit so the whole test will take less than 5 minutes.

Why is the government introducing this Multiplication Tables

Check? All primary school-aged children are expected to know their times tables up to 12 x 12 by heart. In fact, they are expected to have mastered their times tables by the end of Year 4. Until now, there had been no formal measure to judge whether children in England had learnt their times tables or not so the purpose of the MTC is quite simply to check whether they know their tables well before their Year 6 SATs performance. The Multiplication Tables Check is to be taken towards the end of Year 4 to make sure children are meeting the benchmark of memorising their times tables up to 12 x 12 before moving up to Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and Year 6).

Who will take the times tables test? The Multiplication Tables Check is only being rolled-out to schools in England. Schools have a three-week window in the month of June to have their Year 4 children sit the test, but will be free to choose which day within that three-week period they choose to sit it. All state schools in England, including maintained schools, special schools, academies and free schools will be required to enter their children for the Multiplication Tables Check.

What is the Year 4 times tables test's format? The Multiplication Tables Check has been described by gov.uk as "[an online, on-screen digital assessment](#)" – meaning the children will take the test on a desktop computer, laptop or tablet (such as an iPad) at school.

The times tables test will be timed, with the entire assessment lasting approximately 5 minutes in total. The children will be set a handful of practice questions to begin with – mostly from the one times table.

Following the practice questions, the test itself will comprise of 25 questions, all formatted, for example, as $2 \times 5 =$ with the child required to input the product or result, which in the example we've provided would mean inputting the answer 10.

$$n1 \times n2 = \boxed{}$$

This example is taken from the Government document detailing information about the Times Tables Tests.

Children will be given six seconds to answer each of the questions, with a three second blank gap between each question. According to the MTC assessment framework, children will only be tested on their multiplication facts; there will be no testing of division facts.

How will the times table test questions be selected? The questions will be randomly selected by the testing programme from 121 different options, ranging from $2 \times 2 =$ up to 12×12 . The test's software has been programmed to show children more questions from the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables, as these are trickier

Multiplication Table	Minimum number of items in each form	Maximum number of items in each form
1	Not applicable	Not applicable
2	0	2
3	1	3
4	1	3
5	1	3
6	2	4
7	2	4
8	2	4
9	2	4
10	0	2
11	1	3
12	2	4

times tables focused on more in Years 3 and 4. (The 2s, 5s and 10s are more of a focus in Years 1 and 2.). Another point to note is that if children are

shown a multiplication one way round, for example, 6×7 , they will not be later tested on the multiplication inverted – so, with the example provided the child **would not** be asked 7×6 later on in their set of 25 questions.

How will the Year 4 times tables test scores be reported? Each child's result will be passed on to their school, and the DfE will create a report on overall results across all schools in England to measure whether national times tables results improve over the coming years.

It is understood that most schools will not tell children their results or that parents will be informed either (but the DfE have yet to issue any advice to date).

One thing is for sure though – a school's results will not be published in any public way, nor will they be used in informing any type of league or performance table.

What if my child does badly in their multiplication tables check? No child will fail the times tables test as no pass mark has been set. It is also important to note that all children will be tested on is their times tables knowledge – with no problem solving skills being assessed and not even a single division question being asked!

Children in Year 4 will only be asked times tables questions, like $3 \times 3 = 9$. The DfE state that the motivation behind the multiplication tables check is purely to allow teachers a chance to identify children who need some more help with their times tables to stop them from falling further behind their peers as they move up to Year 5 (and then Year 6).

What can you do to help your child prepare for their times tables test? Even though many schools have chosen to streamline their homework policies, times tables (along with home reading) are seen as an area for parents to support their children in their learning. And this is one numeracy skill that is definitely used by adults in everyday life.

We recommend lots of strategies to support your child in the run-up to the times tables test. Many of these are taken from our article on the [best way to learn times](#)

tables, and we have several [year 4 maths worksheets](#) and [times tables tests](#) free to download.

- Times tables chanting: “6, 12, 18, 24...”
- Times tables chanting in reverse order: “108, 99, 90, 81...”
- Using times tables songs, like Schoolhouse Rock’s ‘[3 is A Magic Number](#)’;
- Using apps such as [Times Tables Rock Stars](#)
- Asking your child multiplication calculations out of order, like: “What is 4 x 7? What is 9 x 5? What is 6 x 11?”
- Using pasta pieces or pebbles to show groups of numbers representing times tables, e.g. four groups of three pasta shells to show $3 \times 4 = 12$;



- Asking your child related short division questions, like “What is 12 divided by 4? What is 55 divided by 11?”
- Asking your child word problems based on times tables, like: “If five friends have £3 each, how much money do they have in total?”

Read more

- [Government guidance on the multiplication tables check for parents](#)
- [How to help with with maths at home \(parents guide\)](#)
- [Teaching times table at school for instant recall in KS1 and KS2](#)

What does this all mean for you as a parent?

The sooner you can help your child achieve mastery of their multiplication tables, the better!

Of course, children will develop at their own pace, so if you have a multiplications maestro at home who has mastered their 7, 9 and 12 times tables by the end of Year 2, you're probably going to want to find extra challenge for them in Maths.

If your child is still getting to grips with their 2s, 5s and 10s in Year 5 or Year 6 – that's OK too, remember Einstein flunked his Maths at Primary school!