

Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4)

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The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) is the most widely used assessment of reasoning abilities—numerical, non-verbal, and verbal reasoning—in the UK.

CAT4 measures the three principal forms of reasoning: verbal, non-verbal, and numerical, as well as an element of spatial ability.

Kent Test Papers

Children who have been registered for the test by their parents will sit a Reasoning Paper (consisting of verbal, non-verbal, and spatial reasoning questions), an English Paper, and a Mathematics Paper. They will also complete a writing exercise. The tests are multiple-choice, with a separate answer sheet.

The first test will be an English and Maths Paper and will take one hour. Each section will involve a five-minute practice exercise, followed by a 25-minute test. The English section will include a comprehension exercise, as well as some additional questions drawn from a set designed to assess literacy and spelling skills.

The second test will be a Reasoning Paper. It will take approximately one hour, including the practice sections and questions. It will contain a verbal reasoning section and a non-verbal reasoning section of roughly the same length. The non-verbal reasoning will be split into short sections, administered and timed individually. There will also be a section on spatial reasoning.

How is the Kent Test Marked?

Your child's multiple-choice test papers are marked by an automated marking machine. The pass mark can vary each year. Kent sets the threshold based on the range of results obtained by children. If many children score very highly on the test, the threshold mark will be higher. Conversely, if many children receive exceptionally low scores, it will be lower.

The threshold is adjusted slightly to account for a child's age at the time of the test. This adjustment is carried out through a statistical process called standardisation, ensuring that a child's results are compared with the performance of other children of the same age. To be automatically assessed as suitable for grammar school in the 2024 Kent 11+

process, a child needed to score a total of 332 or more in the tests, with no single score lower than 106.

To assist you in making informed decisions about which school may be suitable for your child, the Year 5 children took a CAT (Cognitive Abilities Test), and the results are attached. A Standardised Age Score (SAS) between 89 and 111 is considered average, while scores over 112 are regarded as above average.

These scores can be used, along with your own understanding of your child's learning and any information you have received from parent consultations or previous end-of-year reports, to help you decide on which type of school may be more suitable for your child. At this point, it is important to consider what type of school environment would best support your child, as every child is different.

Grammar Schools traditionally select children who are in the top 20% academically. The expectation is that children will be working towards achieving grades 7-9 (A/A*) at GCSE. If your child has not been consistently achieving above the expected level for reading, writing, and mathematics, then it is possible that they may struggle in a Grammar School environment.

If your child wants to take the Kent Test in September, you must register for the test during the June registration window. The window closes Tuesday 1st July 2025 at midnight

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test#tab-1> In the meantime, if you would like to start familiarising your child with the types of questions encountered in the Kent Test, there are several resources that you can purchase from local bookshops or find online.

[More information on the Kent Test](#)

Kind regards,

Mr. Adkins

Key Stage Two Lead