

# Selecting the appropriate pupil book

## Mental Arithmetic and the National Curriculum

The table below indicates which **Mental Arithmetic** book may be most suitable for your pupil or class, based on end of year expectations in the National Curriculum. The **First Mental Arithmetic** series is available for younger children.

	Pupils at risk of not meeting end of year expectations	Pupils on target to meet end of year expectations	Pupils on target to exceed end of year expectations
Year 3	Mental Arithmetic Introductory Book	Mental Arithmetic 1	Mental Arithmetic 2
Year 4	Mental Arithmetic 1	Mental Arithmetic 2	Mental Arithmetic 3
Year 5	Mental Arithmetic 3	Mental Arithmetic 4	Mental Arithmetic 5
Year 6	Mental Arithmetic 4	Mental Arithmetic 5	Mental Arithmetic 6

## Entry Tests

To further assist you in choosing the right book, two Entry Tests are provided (available as a separate download). You can either test the entire class or use the tests to establish the abilities of particular pupils.

- Entry Test A is suitable for lower Key Stage 2 and covers **Mental Arithmetic 1 to 3**
- Entry Test B is suitable for upper Key Stage 2 and covers **Mental Arithmetic 4 to 6**

## Administering the Entry Tests

Before administering the Entry Tests, ensure that you have a sharp pencil, a photocopy of the appropriate test and some spare paper for each pupil.

Explain to the pupil or class the following points:

- the purpose of the test is to make sure the maths work they do is at a suitable level
- the test is not timed but is likely to take up to one hour
- the questions are arranged to become increasingly difficult as they work through the test
- only the individual and the teacher will know the results of the test
- there will come a point when they are unable to answer any more questions – and at this point they may read quietly so as not to disturb others who are still working
- they should try to do their best.

You may then distribute the Entry Test and tell pupils to start.

## Marking the Entry Tests

Use the Entry Test marking keys to mark the test (available as a separate download). One mark is given for each correct answer. Where a question has two parts, give half a mark for each part.

When everyone's test is marked, note the results on a copy of the Entry Test Group Record Sheet (available as a separate download). The table below indicates which book will be most suitable for each child, based on their Entry Test score.

Entry Test	Entry Test score	Next step
Entry Test A	0–8	Begin with the Mental Arithmetic Introductory Book.
	9–13	Begin with Mental Arithmetic 1.
	14–18	Would benefit from working on Mental Arithmetic 1 for consolidation but, if confident, could start Mental Arithmetic 2.
	19–28	Begin with Mental Arithmetic 2.
	29–33	Would benefit from working on Mental Arithmetic 2 for consolidation but, if confident, could start Mental Arithmetic 3.
	34–40	Begin with Mental Arithmetic 3.
	41–45	Would benefit from working on Mental Arithmetic 3 for consolidation but, if confident, could start Mental Arithmetic 4.
	46–50	Begin with Mental Arithmetic 4.
Entry Test B	0–15	Take Entry Test A for more information or begin with Mental Arithmetic 3.
	16–20	Begin with Mental Arithmetic 4.
	21–25	Would benefit from working on Mental Arithmetic 4 for consolidation but, if confident, could start Mental Arithmetic 5.
	26–29	Begin with Mental Arithmetic 5.
	30–33	Would benefit from working on Mental Arithmetic 5 for consolidation but, if confident, could start Mental Arithmetic 6.
	34–40	Begin with Mental Arithmetic 6.
	41–50	Achieving well but, for consolidation, work on Mental Arithmetic 6.