

Selecting the appropriate pupil book

First Mental Arithmetic makes it easy for you to provide work for different abilities, using two Entry Tests to help you select the right book for each child or class (available as a separate download). Children working significantly above or below age-related expectations may work on the book best suited to their needs.

Two **First Mental Arithmetic Entry Tests** are provided:

- Entry Test A is suitable for Year 1 and covers **First Mental Arithmetic 1 to 3**.
- Entry Test B is suitable for Year 2 and covers **First Mental Arithmetic 4 to 6**.

Both Entry Tests are designed to help you to establish the starting point for each child. You may wish to test all the class, or, if you are already using the series, only those pupils whose competency in mathematics you are unsure of.

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 child.

Explain to the child 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 the children to start.

Marking the Entry Tests

Use the Entry Test marking key 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 Group Record Sheet. The table below indicates which book will be most suitable for each child, based on their Entry Test score.

Entry Test	Entry Test total score	Schofield & Sims First Mental Arithmetic book
Entry Test A	0–15	First Mental Arithmetic 1
	16–30	First Mental Arithmetic 2
	31–45	First Mental Arithmetic 3
Entry Test B	0–15	First Mental Arithmetic 4
	16–30	First Mental Arithmetic 5
	31–45	First Mental Arithmetic 6