

## Mental Arithmetic and Essential Mental Arithmetic

# National Curriculum levels for mathematics

The table below suggests the approximate National Curriculum level that a pupil may have reached on completion of each **Mental Arithmetic** or **Essential Mental Arithmetic** book.

However, you – the teacher – should only use this information in conjunction with your own assessment of each pupil’s knowledge and understanding and his or her ability to put this knowledge into practice. The table provides no more than an indication of the level.

You will notice that three boxes are shaded each time. In order to decide whether the pupil is at the higher or the lower level, work out his or her average score on the tests in the relevant book and then use the following guidelines.

### Introductory Book to Book 2:

- if an average of **25 to 30** questions per test are answered correctly, the pupil may be at the higher level; if the average totals **15 to 24**, the pupil may be at the intermediate level; if the average totals **14 or below**, the pupil may be at the lower level.

### Books 3 to 6:

- if an average of **30 to 36** questions per test are answered correctly, the pupil may be at the higher level; if the average totals **25 to 29**, the pupil may be at the intermediate level; if the average totals **24 or below**, the pupil may be at the lower level.

**You must use your ongoing teacher assessment to confirm this judgement.**

Average score per book	Level 2b	Level 2a	Level 3c	Level 3b	Level 3a	Level 4c	Level 4b	Level 4a	Level 5c	Level 5b	Level 5a	Level 6c	Level 6b
<b>Introductory Book</b>	0–14	15–24	25–30										
<b>Book 1</b>		0–14	15–24	25–30									
<b>Book 2</b>				0–14	15–24	25–30							
<b>Book 3</b>						0–24	25–29	30–36					
<b>Book 4</b>								0–24	25–29	30–36			
<b>Book 5</b> (for Key Stage 3)										0–24	25–29	30–36	
<b>Book 6</b> (for Key Stage 3)											0–24	25–29	30–36

The average level expected for a pupil at the end of Year 6 is Level 4b.

## Next steps

Where pupils’ average scores per test are low, use a Diagnostic check from the **Mental Arithmetic Teacher’s Guide** to pinpoint areas of weakness. As well as providing correct answers, the Diagnostic check marking keys suggest ‘activity prompts’ that you may use to help individuals with concepts that they find difficult. Once they show confidence in these concepts, they may return to the same **Mental Arithmetic** or **Essential Mental Arithmetic** book that they were using previously.

To order your copy of the **Mental Arithmetic Teacher’s Guide** (ISBN 978 07217 1211 6), e-mail [sales@schofieldandsims.co.uk](mailto:sales@schofieldandsims.co.uk) or phone 01484 607080.