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## TEACHER'S NOTES

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### Introduction

Schofield & Sims **Mental Arithmetic** provides differentiated practice tests in key areas of maths, to be administered regularly. The series consists of seven pupil books – all of them conforming to a standard layout. This ensures that children are not presented with too many variables at once.

The **Mental Arithmetic Introductory Book** contains:

- 36 one-page tests, each comprising three parts – Parts A, B and C
- three Achievement Charts for recording children's results (see pupil book pages 16, 30 and 44)
- nine short Just Facts tests, which feature the addition and subtraction facts for number bonds 1 to 10.

### Parts A, B and C

Each of the 36 tests mentioned above appears on a single page and is divided into three parts (A, B and C). Parts A and B use pictures, symbols and simple language wherever possible so that children with reading difficulties will not be disadvantaged. It is suggested that one test is taken each week and that Parts A, B and C are set on separate days. Since speed with accuracy is important, a time limit of 10 minutes per part is recommended.

### Answering the test questions

The material in each section is graded so that, before any test question is attempted, the work will usually have been covered in class; for more details see the Notes on Content (pages 3, 17 and 31). The term 'mental arithmetic' implies that answers only are required; therefore the books are presented in a one-per-child format, so that answers can be written in the blanks. If the children are allowed spare paper for workings out, remember that their responses will be slower.

**Please note:** You should explain to the children that  indicates a missing number.

### Marking

A book of answers, like this one, is available to accompany each pupil book. When the children have completed a test, read out the answers as the children mark their own work, or give them the answer books to refer to themselves. Then ask the children to complete the Achievement Charts appearing at the end of each section in the pupil book – or you may yourself complete the Diagnostic Charts on pages 16, 30 and 44 of this book.