

# Notes for parents and tutors

The **Practice Papers for CEM** include two practice tests, each made up of two papers (Paper A and Paper B), to prepare your child for sitting their 11+ exams. The tests have been designed to replicate the format and content of real CEM 11+ exams as closely as possible, helping to familiarise your child with the style of the papers ahead of sitting them. Each test contains a mixture of numerical reasoning, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning questions. The pack also includes this answer booklet, which includes answers to all the questions and explanations for any tricky questions, and a multiple-choice answer-sheets booklet.

## Before your child takes the tests

Remind your child that they are taking the tests so that they feel more comfortable on the day of the 11+ exams. Give your child each test at an appropriate time; it is best if they are feeling relaxed and rested. Make sure they have a suitable place to work that is well-lit and free from distractions.

Make sure your child understands how to use the multiple-choice answer sheets. Each one has an example of how answers should be marked on the answer grids. It is important that any mistakes are rubbed out carefully, not crossed out, as the real 11+ papers are marked by a computer. You should also ensure that your child has a pencil, pencil sharpener, eraser and a sheet of paper for any rough working out, and that they can see a clock or a watch. Explain to your child that they should work as quickly and as carefully as they can and that if they find a question difficult, they should move on and come back to it at the end if they have time.

Read through the instructions on the first page of each test booklet together.

## Timing the tests

For each test, allow 45 minutes for Paper A and 45 minutes for Paper B. Each full test should last 90 minutes with a 15-minute break between the two papers. Your child should sit both parts of the test (Paper A and Paper B) on one day. Each paper is split into sections. The time limits for these sections vary and are always given at the start of each one. Where there is an example question, your child should read this first. Do not time your child as they look at the example, as this is intended simply to familiarise them with the question type. Once your child has read the example, allow them the correct amount of time to work through the questions in the section. If your child finishes working through the questions in the section before the time is up, they should use the remaining time to check their answers. Once the time is up, your child should move on to the next section and you should time them again with the limit given for that section.

## Marking the tests

The answers to the tests are provided in this booklet, along with explanations for any tricky questions. Give one mark for each correct answer. Do not give half marks and do not deduct marks for incorrect answers.

Convert the total score into a percentage. Generally, children should be aiming to achieve 85% in these practice tests in the final weeks leading up to the 11+ exams. It should be noted that the pass marks for the actual tests will depend on the overall standard of the candidates, so 85% is only an indication of the score needed to pass.

Whatever the score, try to be positive and give encouragement to your child. Together, look back over the tests and go through any incorrect answers to see where your child went wrong. This is a useful method for learning ways to achieve the correct answer the next time they try a similar question.

## Next steps

Look through your child's tests and establish whether they have struggled with a particular topic or skill. You can then take steps to provide your child with relevant further practice. The **Schofield & Sims 11+** range offers complete practice for the 11+ exams.

- The **Study and Practice Books** explain all of the 11+ topics and question types in detail and are useful for revising areas children find difficult.
- The **Rapid Tests** are short tests which provide regular practice and help to get your child used to working quickly.
- The **Progress Papers** are longer tests of between 45 and 75 minutes which offer in-depth practice in all question types to consolidate learning.