

New Year 4 Times Table Test

It will be mandatory for all children starting Year 4 in September 2019. Schools have a three-week window in the month of June to have their Year 4 children sit the test, but will be free to choose which day within that three-week period they choose to sit it.

What is the test's format?

The Multiplication Tables Check has been described as "an online, on-screen digital assessment" - meaning the children will take the test on a desktop computer, laptop or tablet (such as an iPad) at school.

The times tables test will be timed, with the entire assessment lasting approximately 5 minutes in total. The children will be set a handful of practice questions to begin with - mostly from the one times table. Following the practice questions, the test itself will comprise of 25 questions, all formatted, for example, as $2 \times 5 =$ with the child required to input the product or result.

Children will be given six seconds to answer each of the questions, with a three second blank gap between each question. The questions will be randomly selected by the testing program from 121 different options, ranging from $2 \times 2 =$ up to 12×12 . The test's software has been programmed to show children more questions from the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables, as these are trickier times tables focused on more in Years 3 and 4. (The 2s, 5s and 10s are more of a focus in Years 1 and 2.)

Multiplication Table	Minimum number of items in each form	Maximum number of items in each form
1	Not applicable	Not applicable
2	0	2
3	1	3
4	1	3
5	1	3
6	2	4
7	2	4
8	2	4
9	2	4
10	0	2
11	1	3
12	2	4

If children are shown a multiplication one way round, for example, 6×7 the child **would not** be asked 7×6 later on in their set of 25 questions. Children will be given six seconds to answer each of the questions, with a three second blank gap between each question. The questions will be randomly selected by the testing program from 121 different options, ranging from $2 \times 2 =$ up to 12×12 .

What can you do to help your child?

- Times tables chanting: "6, 12, 18, 24...";
- Times tables chanting in reverse order: "108, 99, 90, 81...";

- Using times tables songs
- Using free online games like Hit the Button
- Asking your child multiplication calculations out of order, like: "What is 4×7 ? What is 9×5 ? What is 6×11 ?";
- Using pasta pieces or pebbles to show groups of numbers representing times tables, e.g. four groups of three pasta shells to show $3 \times 4 = 12$;



- Asking your child related short division questions, like "What is 12 divided by 4? What is 55 divided by 11?";
- Asking your child word problems based on times tables, like: "If five friends have £3 each, how much money do they have in total?";

The sooner you can help your child achieve mastery of their multiplication tables, the better!