

Secondary Schools

September 2026 entry

Important Dates

- ▶ Now-check open evenings/open days
- ▶ June 2nd and July 1st Register your child for the Kent Test (don't forget to click on submit at the end!)
- ▶ For Dover/Shepway test register directly at the school (e.g. Dover Grammar, Folkestone Girls, Harvey Grammar)
- ▶ September 11th Kent test in school
- ▶ September 13th Dover/Shepway test
- ▶ October 16th Kent test results (by email)
- ▶ September 1st to October 31st Complete Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF)
- ▶ National offer day is 2nd March 2026 (emails after 4pm)
- ▶ Deadline for lodging appeals is 30th March 2026

CHOOSING A SECONDARY SCHOOL

- ▶ Look at websites
- ▶ Look around schools' open days and open evenings
- ▶ Look at results over last few years
- ▶ Check Ofsted parent view & talk to parents
- ▶ Check transport from home to school

THE SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS

- ▶ Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) is used to express your specific school preferences (up to 4 schools) for your child
- ▶ Complete the SCAF form online:
- ▶ <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education> and children/schools/school places/secondary school places

SCAF

- ▶ 4 preferences (A child who gets a grammar school assessment is not guaranteed a grammar school place. Schools set their own oversubscription criteria - look at school website).
- ▶ It is better to use all the preferences as naming fewer than 4 schools will not improve a child's eligibility for admission to any of them. You may be offered a school by default.
- ▶ The schools you list need to be ranked in order of your preference
- ▶ The SCAF allows you to give reasons for each preference (siblings etc)

DON'T FORGET ...

- ▶ Check you have completed any supplementary forms for the school (e.g. St Anselm's) or application for banding tests (e.g. Canterbury Academy)
- ▶ Information about these will be on the school's website.

FINDING OUT WHICH SCHOOL MY CHILD HAS BEEN ALLOCATED

- ▶ National Offer Day March 2nd 2026
- ▶ Deadline for lodging a parental appeal March 30th 2026
- ▶ Instructions on how to appeal is sent out with letter of offer.

THE KENT TEST

THE KENT TEST

- ▶ You must register your child if you would like them to sit the Kent test
- ▶ Kent Test date is Thursday 11th September 2025
- ▶ Register online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola
- ▶ Register between June 2nd and July 1st 2025
- ▶ Results day 16th October 2025

WHAT DOES THE KENT TEST LOOK LIKE?

- ▶ English & Maths Test (60 minutes Multiple choice)
- ▶ Reasoning Test (60 minutes Multiple choice)
- ▶ Writing (40 mins) *

ENGLISH AND MATHS TEST

- ▶ Takes 1 hour to complete. Each subject has a 5 minute practice exercise followed by a 25 minute test
- ▶ The English section involves a reading comprehension exercise as well as some additional questions to test literacy skills (such as spelling and grammar)
- ▶ The maths section includes questions from a range of mathematical areas and generally increases in complexity and difficulty as the paper progresses

The English & Maths Test

What will I be tested on?

The English & Maths test looks at your skill in these subjects (sometimes also called literacy and numeracy), drawing on what you have been taught in lessons.

How long does the test last?

The whole test takes around 1 hour, with 25 minutes for the English section (plus 5 minutes practice) and 25 minutes for the Maths section (plus 5 minutes practice).

What kind of questions will be asked?

In the English test some questions will show you a sentence with a word or words missing and let you pick the best word to complete it. Other questions will ask you to spot the mistake in a sentence. You will also be asked to read a passage and then answer a series of questions based on the passage.

The maths test contains a series of multiple-choice questions covering a variety of topics taught in most schools up to the start of Year 6. A small number of questions are based on things you will have been taught but may be more difficult than you are used to. This is so you can show how you use the maths skills you already have to solve new kinds of problem.

Reasoning test

The verbal reasoning section of the test has a timed practice section of 10 minutes.

The test itself takes 20 minutes.

The non-verbal and spatial reasoning tests are divided into subtests - smaller sections, each of which starts with an untimed practice section.

The questions themselves are timed, with each of the subtests taking 4-5 minutes to complete.

Verbal Reasoning

In these questions, the same letter must fit into both sets of brackets, to complete the word in front of the brackets and begin the word after the brackets.

1

Example

dis [?] urt

muc [?] ole

A p B h C e D s E k

The answer is **h** (the four new words are **dish**, **hurt**, **much** and **hole**) and this has been marked on the answer sheet on page 15. Now try the practice question below:

1

Practice

rea [?] ace

fee [?] ost

A f B r C p D m E l

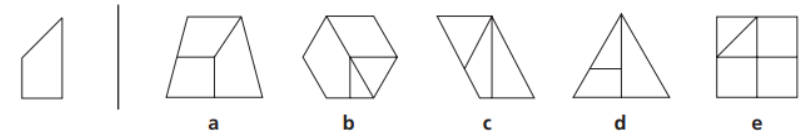
Work out the correct answer and mark it on the answer sheet.

Spatial Reasoning

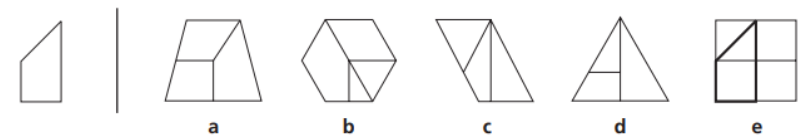
These questions contain hidden shapes. The shape on the left is the target. The target is hidden in one of the five shapes to the right of the line. **It is exactly the same size and same way round where it is hidden.** All of the sides of the target must be visible in the shape where it is hiding. Choose which of the five shapes contains the hidden target and **mark its letter on your answer sheet.**

3

Example



The answer is **e**. The hidden target is shown in bold below so that you can clearly see this, and the answer **e** has been marked on the answer sheet on page 15.

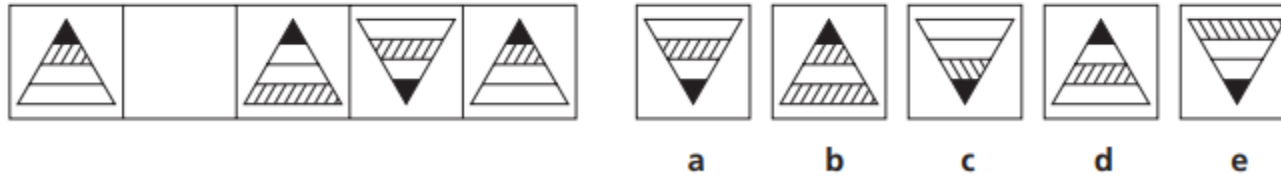


Non-Verbal Reasoning

To the left in the row of shapes below there are five squares arranged in order. One of these squares has been left empty. Find which one of the five squares on the right should **take the place** of the empty square and **mark its letter on your answer sheet**.

4

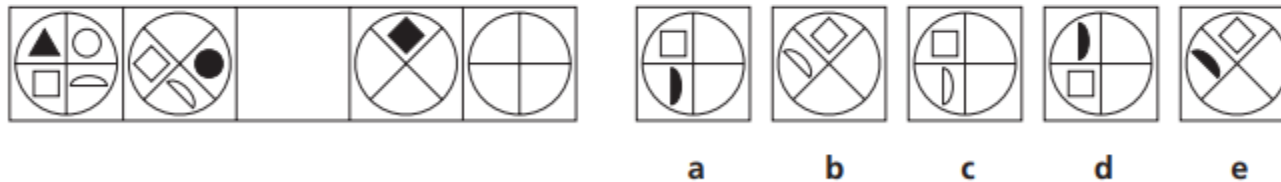
Example: Complete the series



The answer is **a**. This series has two rules. Firstly, the triangle flips over to point up, then down, then up etc. Secondly, the striped bar moves down a row each time until it gets to the bottom of the triangle when it moves up again. Therefore the missing shape must be a triangle pointing down with the striped bar two rows down. The answer **a** has been marked on the answer sheet on page 15. Now try the practice question below:

4

Practice



Work out the correct answer and mark it on the answer sheet.

CHILDREN RECORD THEIR ANSWERS IN A BOOKLET

4	
EXAMPLE	
a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b	<input type="checkbox"/>
c	<input type="checkbox"/>
d	<input type="checkbox"/>
e	<input type="checkbox"/>

4	
PRACTICE	
a	<input type="checkbox"/>
b	<input type="checkbox"/>
c	<input type="checkbox"/>
d	<input type="checkbox"/>
e	<input type="checkbox"/>

2	
EXAMPLE	
holiday	<input type="checkbox"/>
travel	<input type="checkbox"/>
drop	<input type="checkbox"/>
trip	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
trap	<input type="checkbox"/>

2	
PRACTICE	
kind	<input type="checkbox"/>
tidy	<input type="checkbox"/>
deal	<input type="checkbox"/>
sort	<input type="checkbox"/>
style	<input type="checkbox"/>

WRITING

40 MINUTES

- ▶ A NUMBER OF BROAD TITLES ARE PRESENTED AND YOUR CHILD MUST CHOOSE ONLY ONE OF THEM TO COMPOSE A PIECE OF WRITING
- ▶ THIS WRITTEN TASK WILL NOT BE MARKED BUT MAY BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN BORDERLINE CASES

What happens after the test?

- ▶ Test scores back to school
- ▶ If a pupil, who we feel is of grammar school ability, underperforms in the test we will prepare for Head Teacher Appeals
- ▶ For Head Teacher appeals, the writing completed in the Kent test is looked at along with the work in your child's books
- ▶ Results by email 16th October 2025
- ▶ Complete SCAF by October 31st

What your score means

- Your child will get 3 standardised scores, one for English, one for maths and one for reasoning, and a total (aggregate) score.
- Standardisation is a statistical process which compares your child's performance with the average performance of other children in each test. A slight adjustment is made to take account of each child's age so that the youngest are not at a disadvantage.

Grammar school threshold 2024

- To be given a grammar school assessment, children needed a total score of 332 or more, with no single score lower than 106. Test scores range from 69 to 141. The highest possible total score is 423.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEST

- ▶ On KCC website Click on School Places, go to The Kent Test, click on Test paper. There is a familiarization booklet to show you the type of questions in each section
- ▶ [Kent-Test-familiarisation-booklet.pdf](#)

HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH THE KENT TEST

- ▶ The test changes slightly every year but children would benefit from some familiarization, either through practice books or online resources such as BOFA11+.com and Bond Online
- ▶ GL Assessment 11+ booklets are available for all areas of the test (also Bond, CGP)

CAT4 TESTS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

- ▶ 4 sections to the test
- ▶ 1 = Verbal (words)
- ▶ 2 = Quantitative (numbers)
- ▶ 3 = Non verbal (shapes)
- ▶ 4 = spatial (shape & space)
- ▶ Each section is scored -100 is average
- ▶ 112 is above average (114+ = top 20%)

► Any questions?