

# 11+ Test Tips & Techniques Checklist



## General Tips:

- Practise! Practise! Practise! (and be organised about it)
- Read as much as you can – fiction and non-fiction (from as many different sources as you can find: books, magazines, newspapers, instructions, internet etc etc...)
- Learn the alphabet
- Learn the times-tables off by heart
- Keep a ‘new word journal’ – with definitions (and then memorise). Every time you come across a new word, add it to your journal, along with its meaning (you will have to look this up). Soon you will know so many new words!
- Make sure you can tell the time on both an analogue clock and a digital clock

## On the Test day itself:

- Wear a watch (so you can quickly see how much time you have had in a test and how much time is remaining – there will also be a clock in the room too, the adult in the room will give regular time checks and you can also ask how much time is left)**
- Get up, have a bath or a shower, dress smartly and have a good breakfast**
- Take snacks and some water – these are not provided on the day (don't take a mobile phone)**
- Go to the toilet before the tests begin and then go to the toilet in between each test – going to the toilet during one of the tests wastes valuable time that could have been used to answer questions and therefore, gain more marks**
- Be sensible and focused – you will be creating a first impression at the school you hope to attend**
- In between the tests, try not to think too much about the test that you just did or the test you are about to take – relax and clear your mind... you can't do anything about the test you just took and it's important to stay fresh for the test you are about to take – the test morning is long and tough – don't waste brain energy!**

## In the Tests

- Manage and be aware of your time – make sure you are on target to finish the paper e.g. If you are half-way through the Maths papers (question 25 out of 50) after 25 minutes (half-way through), you are roughly on target to complete the paper.
- Do working out on the plain paper provided and on the question paper – generally, in our Mock Tests, the children who do the most working out usually score the highest.
- Don't spend too long on a single question or section of questions – if a question is taking you a long time, mark in a guessed answer and star the question... you can always re-attempt it at the end of the test, if you have time.
- Never ever leave an answer blank – even if you can't answer a question, always fill in an answer, even if it's a guess – this gives you a 20% chance of getting the right answer and it also ensures that you don't get out of sync as you progress through the rest of the test (and don't then put the right answers in the wrong boxes)
- If you run out of time in a test, make sure you don't leave the remaining answer boxes blank – with a couple of minutes left, guess the remaining questions, to ensure that you have the chance of some lucky extra marks.

- In the VR papers, the single questions (usually with lots of text/info') can take a long time but are worth just one mark! Don't spend too long on them! If you spent 7 minutes on one of these types of questions, that could have been 7 minutes when you could have been answering another 10 questions (and gaining a possible 10 extra marks!).
- Over the years in our Mock Tests, some children in the English tests have tackled the spelling, punctuation and grammar first, before tackling the comprehension text and questions. This can work well for them. However, it's important to practise this first and it's essential to ensure that you are marking your spelling, punctuation and grammar answers in the spelling, punctuation and grammar answer boxes.
- Whilst undertaking the Maths, English & VR test, it's super-important to be resilient, determined and to maintain your composure. For example, don't let a very tough question delay or upset you.

Franny's top tip....

Breathe!

Take a few, big deep and slow breathes, in through your nose and out through your mouth before each paper and if you feel flustered during the tests.

Oxygen gives our brains a boost of energy to help them think clearer and to help you feel less nervous!