



# VIAT

VALLEY INVICTA  
PRIMARY SCHOOL AT  
HOLBOROUGH LAKES

## **Kent Test Information for Parents**

Section 1 – English

Section 2 – Maths

This paper follows a similar format to the previous 11+. The difference is that students are now assessed on their literary abilities, as well as their numerical skills. The English test involves comprehension: reading part of a text and answering questions. The last three sections include: spelling, punctuation and grammar tasks such as picking the right or missing word or words that fit with the sentence and spotting spelling and punctuation mistakes in a sentence.

To be considered of selective eligibility, must be confident in the following areas:

### **Reading and comprehension**

#### **Punctuation**

- Lower-level punctuation: full stops, question marks; exclamation marks, commas
- Higher-level punctuation: semicolons, colons, brackets
- Speech marks and dialogue
- Apostrophes (possession and contraction)

***Top Tip: know the two main uses of an apostrophe: 1. possession e.g. girl's toy and 2. contraction (replaces missing letter) e.g. you're = you are. It's = it is or it has.***

#### **Spelling**

- Spelling rules
- Common spelling words (a glossary is provided) Key terminology
- Word classes (types nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs)
- Literary devices (simile, metaphor, alliteration, onomatopoeia, personification)
- Types of genres (poetry, narrative, proverb)

#### **Grammar**

- For example, knowing it is should have not should of, was or were
- Capital letters (seasons do not have capital letters)

The Maths test contains a series of multiple-choice questions covering the topics listed:

### Number

- Place value
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Multi-step problems and problem solving
- Factors and multiples
- Special numbers such as prime, square and triangular
- Sequences o Equations and algebra
- Function machines

### Shape and Space o 2D shapes: circles, angles and bearings

- 2D shapes: triangles
- 2D shapes: quadrilaterals and polygons
- Perimeter and area
- 3D shapes
- Volume and capacity
- Transformations: coordinates, reflection, rotation and translation
- Symmetry

### Fractions, decimals and percentages

- Fractions
- Decimal fractions
- Percentages
- Ratio and proportion

### Measurement

- Metric and imperial units
- Reading scales
- Time and timetables

### Handling Data

- Mean, median, mode and range
- Probability

***Top Tip: know your times tables! They are invaluable for the 11+. AB Maths is a very good App that makes learning times tables and mental arithmetic fun.***

### Reasoning

- Section 1 – Verbal Reasoning (words)
- Section 2 – Non-Verbal Reasoning (shapes and codes)

This paper contains similar content to the previous 11+, where both Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning were assessed. GL Assessment (the examining body) refer to the four key areas: Verbal, Non-Verbal, Spatial Awareness and Quantitative Reasoning.

**The Verbal Reasoning** test contains questions where you may have to think about words, letters and numbers. Some questions look at the relationship between symbols (such as numbers or letters) and some look at the relationship between words. **Non-Verbal Reasoning** asks you to look at the

relationship between shapes – their similarities and differences – as well as identifying changes between shapes shown in sequence. Some questions may also involve codes, where you have to match parts of a shape with a letter or letters. Spatial reasoning questions are similar, but also test how well you can picture a shape and move it around in your head.

***The English, Maths and Reasoning papers are multiple-choice with a separate answer sheet. They are marked by an automated marking machine.***

### **Written Exercise**

The written element is a short test that gives students the opportunity to apply their written skills. However, the test will only be marked in borderline cases, meaning it is used for appeal cases where students did not pass the 11+ test.

Writing is not the main focus of tutoring, however, please encourage your child to take part in the BBC Radio 2 '500 Words' competition that runs every year.

***Top Tip: it is important that your child uses the PLVS+ acronym I have created: Punctuation, Literary devices, Vocabulary and Sentences.***

### **Exam Tips Practise, practise, practise!**

If the question is taking too long or the student is unable to work out the answer, they should:

- Enter a guess for the question on the multiple choice answer sheet;
- Circle the question number in the question booklet (so they know this is the question for which a guess has been entered);
- Continue to the next question;
- If there is time, once the other questions are completed come back to any questions circled.

### **Tips for Parents**

- Know the school: the criteria for admissions differ for almost every school in Kent so you must look at the individual school to understand their requirements. Some schools are known as 'super-selective' (Judd, Skinners and Togs for example) others use distance as a way of allocating places (Weald and Tunbridge Wells Grammar).
- Register for the Kent Test via the Kent County Council website.
- Preparation is key: sending a child into an exam room when he/she has never encountered these kinds of questions will do them no favours. In the early stages, it is useful to help them but as the exam approaches it is important that your child can work on their own.
- Do not rely on cramming. This could make your child feel stressed and nervous. Allow them to relax and get an early night before the test.
- There are only two reasons for taking the test after the assessment date
  - The student is ill - this must be confirmed by a doctor's letter
  - You move to Kent after the submission date for the Kent Test
- Try and make sure that you are eligible for at least one of the schools you apply for otherwise you will be allocated the nearest school to you.

## Resources

Year 4:

- Bond Maths: [Bond 11+: Maths 10 Minute Tests: 9-10 years: Amazon.co.uk: Lindsay, Sarah, Bond 11+: 9780192740588: Books](#)
- English: [10-Minute Tests for 11+ English Ages 9-10 - for GL & Other Test Providers \(CGP 11+ GL\) : CGP Books, CGP Books: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)
- Bond verbal reasoning: [Bond 11+: Verbal Reasoning 10 Minute Tests: 9-10 years: Amazon.co.uk: Down, Frances, Bond 11+: 9780192740687: Books](#)
- Spatial Reasoning: [11+ Spatial Reasoning Quick Practice Tests Age 9-10 \(Year 5\): For the CEM Tests \(Collins 11+ Practice\): Amazon.co.uk: Collins 11+: 9781844199198: Books](#)
- Bond non-verbal Reasoning: [Bond 11+: Non-verbal Reasoning 10 Minute Tests: 9-10 years: Amazon.co.uk: Primrose, Alison, Bond 11+: 9780192740632: Books](#)

Year 5:

- Bond Maths: [Bond 11+: Maths 10 Minute Tests: 10-11+ years: Amazon.co.uk: Baines, Andrew, Bond 11+: 9780192740595: Books](#)
- English: [10-Minute Tests for 11+ English: Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar Ages 10-11 - GL & Other Providers \(CGP 11+ GL\) : CGP Books, CGP Books: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)
- Bond verbal reasoning: [Bond 11+: Verbal Reasoning 10 Minute Tests: 10-11+ years: Amazon.co.uk: Down, Frances, Bond 11+: 9780192740694: Books](#)
- Spatial Reasoning: [11+ Spatial Reasoning Quick Practice Tests Age 9-10 \(Year 5\): For the CEM Tests \(Collins 11+ Practice\): Amazon.co.uk: Collins 11+: 9781844199198: Books](#)
- Bond non-verbal Reasoning: [Bond 11+: Non-verbal Reasoning 10 Minute Tests: 10-11+ years: Amazon.co.uk: Primrose, Alison, Bond 11+: 9780192740649: Books](#)



**Reading List:**

Finally, reading is very important. Ensure that your child reads high quality texts, examples below:

Hans Christian Andersen – The Complete Fairy Tales

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle – The Lost World

Eoin Colfer – Artemis Fowl

Susan Coolidge – What Katy Did

Roald Dahl – The Witches/Boy

C.S. Lewis – The Chronicles of Narnia

Philip Pullman – His Dark Materials

Arthur Ransome – Swallows and Amazons series

Philip Ridley – Scribbleboy

E.B. White – Charlotte’s Webb

Rick Riordan – Percy Jackson series

J.K. Rowling – Harry Potter series

Louis Sachar – Holes

R. J. Palacio – Wonder

Markus Zusak – The Book Thief

Noel Streatfield – Ballet Shoes

Judy Blume – Are You There God, It’s Me Margaret  
(usually girls prefer)

Anthony Browne – Voices in the Park

Beatrix Potter – Peter Rabbit Brothers Grimm Fairy  
Tales

S. F. Said – Varjak Paw

Ted Hughes – The Iron Man Top

***Tip: When your child reads, get them to create a Glossary or Dictionary to log any new words and their meaning. Also look how the author uses punctuation particularly semi-colons, colons, speech marks and brackets.***