

**MOVING UP TO
SECONDARY SCHOOL
IN SEPTEMBER 2018**



THE SELECTION PROCESS

- More information at <https://services.buckscc.gov.uk/school-admissions/schools>



The Secondary Transfer Test

- The Secondary Transfer Test is a test to determine whether or not a child is suited to a grammar school.
- The 2018 entry test is produced by CEM (Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring) which is part of the University of Durham
- Buckinghamshire County Council undertake the administration on behalf of the 13 grammar schools



What does the Secondary Transfer Test measure?

Verbal ability

includes comprehension and vocabulary

Numerical ability

includes problem solving and multi-stage items

Non-verbal ability

includes diagrammatic reasoning



Verbal question example

Select the word that means the opposite to the word on the left

	A	B	C	D	E
leisurely	messily	funnily	bleakly	hurriedly	angrily



Maths question example

A bakery needs to order 460kg of flour. The flour is only sold in 9kg sacks. How many sacks will the bakery need to order?

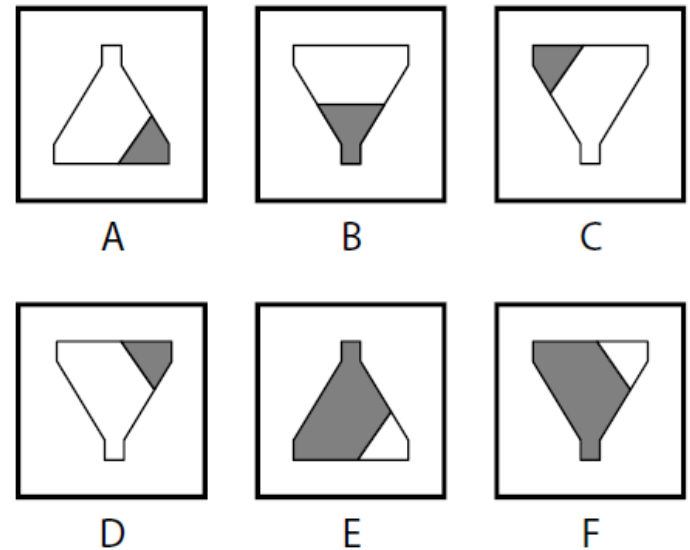
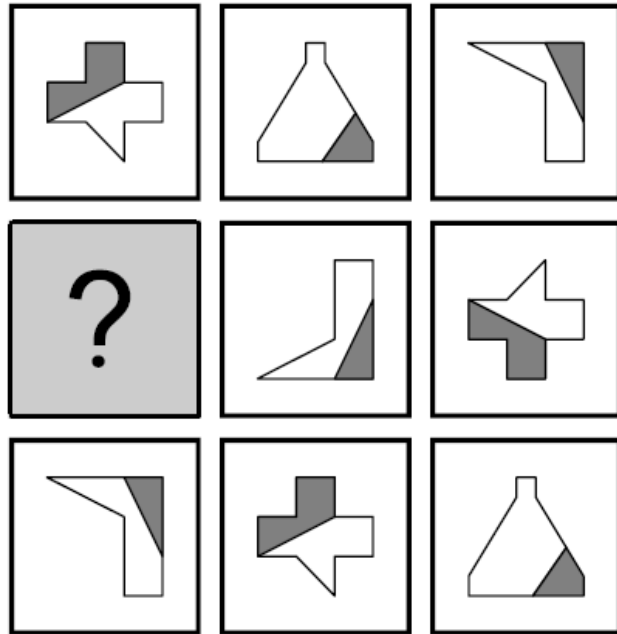
A	B	C	D	E
40	45	50	51	52

Shade the answer on your answer sheet.



Non-verbal question example

Look at the picture on the left then pick one picture on the right that best answers the question



Does my child have to sit the Secondary Transfer Test?

No, only if you want them to attend a
grammar school

Will a grammar school suit my child?

Discuss this with your child's
headteacher



Coaching

- Primary schools that undertake testing on behalf of the grammar schools are asked not to tutor or coach the children in their school prior to the test over and above enabling the children to follow the national curriculum relevant for their age.



Coaching materials

- Although there are products on the market claiming to provide practice for CEM tests, there are no commercially available practice papers, materials or services written by CEM (the test provider).
- CEM does not recommend that parents purchase or subscribe to any commercially available materials.
- The Secondary Transfer Test is designed to enable all children to demonstrate their academic potential without the need for excessive preparation. Tutoring is therefore not required or recommended.



Timeline

What	When
Familiarisation booklet	By end of summer term
Preparation Test	12 September 2017
Secondary Transfer Test	14 September 2017
Results published	13 October 2017
Application deadline	31 October 2017 – 3pm
School place offers	1 March 2018
Start secondary school	September 2018



Familiarisation Booklet (to take home)

Explains:

- what the question books and answer sheets will look like
- how the answer sheets should be completed

Includes:

- example questions

It will not be looked at in school



Preparation Test - 12 September

- One test in two papers with a break
- Exam conditions
- 35 minutes each paper
- CD instructions
- Each paper - three separately timed topics (Verbal ability/ Numerical reasoning and Non-verbal skills)
- Not marked



What if my child misses the Preparation Test?

- Talk to Headteacher to reschedule
- Secondary Transfer Test should be delayed until the Preparation Test is completed



The Secondary Transfer Test

14 September

- One test but two papers
- Both papers taken on the same day
- Short 15 minute gap between the papers
- Each paper - about an hour in total



Marking

- Computer marked (scanned)
- One mark is given for each correct answer
- Each pupil will have three raw scores
 - **verbal ability**
 - **numerical ability**
 - **non-verbal ability**



Standardisation and Weighting

- Three raw scores
- Each is age standardised
- Weighted and combined to produce an overall result – Secondary Transfer Test Score (STTS)
- Tailored results letter according to result



Range and Qualifying Scores

- The Qualifying score is

121

- The range of scores is between

0 and 200+



What happens if my child is unwell and misses the test?

- They may sit the test later
- Parent told date in advance
- Children should NOT sit the test when unwell (even if they want to!)
- Results may be delayed – so list both grammar as well as upper / all-ability school preferences on your application



Special Arrangements

- Adjusted test for children with disabilities
- Apply via headteacher
- Discuss NOW!
- Application must be completed as soon as possible



Results - 13 October

- Sent by letter
- Handed out at end of school day
- Tailored letter according to score
- Confirms whether child has qualified for entry to grammar school



How many children qualify?

- Approximately 34% of children scored 121 or more in 2017 intake
- At the end of the process and following Selection Reviews, approximately 37% qualify for grammar school



What do I do if I think something has affected my child's performance in the test?

- At the time, let your headteacher know and also collect evidence, for example a doctor's letter
- Once you have the test results, talk to your child's headteacher



What can I do if my child does not qualify?

You can either

- Ask for a Selection Review OR
- Just Appeal

The procedure is explained in the results letter in October

The Selection Review Panel can decide a child is qualified and once agreed this qualification is for any grammar school



Selection Review Panel

- Selection Review Panel sits Nov-Jan
- 3 headteachers - two grammar one primary
- Decision included in 1 March allocation
- Decision applies to all grammar schools
- Can still Appeal later when IAP will consider whether review process was 'fair, consistent and objective'



Non-qualified Appeal

- Possible to go straight to appeal
- Appeal heard after 1 March
- Most schools will already be full by then
- You would have to prove academic potential AND give reasons why you believe a place should be offered above number



Whether a qualified child will be offered a grammar school place depends on:

- Preference order
- Grammar school admission rules
- A place being available



THE ALLOCATION PROCESS

Timelines, Preferences and Offers



KEY MESSAGE:

Apply on time:

by 3pm on 31 October – the
deadline



How to apply

ONLINE:

If you live in Buckinghamshire, visit
www.buckscc.gov.uk

between 12 September and 31 October 2017

If you live elsewhere go to your own LA's website.



Applying online

- All you need is an email address
- Email reminders will be sent where an application has not been submitted
- Resubmit if you make changes
- 31 October deadline – 3pm
- Offer emailed on 1 March
- Accept the place online



More information:

- 'Moving up to Secondary School' leaflet
- Schools' websites
- School open evenings- dates:
See School Directory in 'Find My Child a School Place'
<https://services.buckscc.gov.uk/school-admissions/schools>
- By end of August - more information in the Guide available at:
www.buckscc.gov.uk/movinguptosecondaryschool



Making an application

You will be able to:

- List up to 6 schools, including grammar, upper / all-ability and out of county schools
- Put the schools in the order you prefer them
- Give reasons why you have listed these schools



Do your homework!

- Does your child need to sit or pass a test to be considered for a place at the school?
- Do you have priority of admission?
- Do you need to complete a supplementary form?
- Do you live in-catchment? (Check this on the website)
- How will your child get to school?



School Transport

Transport given to the **nearest** secondary school if:

- Over three miles away, or
- Under three miles but the route is an 'unsafe walking route'
- Check on www.buckscc.gov.uk/findaschoolplace which school is the nearest school to you
- All secondary schools are treated equally (grammar/upper/comprehensive/free)
- Paid-for bus tickets can be purchased



The offer process – Step 1

- Local authorities share offer information
- Each school preference is treated separately
- The schools are not told where they are placed on the preference list by the parent
- All admission authorities apply their admission rules to all the children with the school as a preference and sort the children into 'ranked order'
- The schools tell the ranked order to their council



The offer process – Step 2

- Where more than one offer can be made to the same child the higher preference place is offered
- The lower preference place is declined
- The lower preference place is offered to another child
- Children who cannot be offered any of their preferences are then offered a place at the nearest school with vacant places remaining



Important notes

- Only qualified children are offered grammar school places
- Think carefully about the order you put the preferences in
- Try to include a local school that you have a good chance of being offered a place at
- Look at the transport rules



SCHOOLS

CHILD

Schools advise LA of initial places to offer

Place(s) available to offer

Places released and offered to next children on schools' ranked list because a) they are no longer required as a higher preference can be offered or b) (in later allocation rounds) parents have decline the offered place.

Is more than one place available to offer to the child?

Yes

Hold highest preference place possible, automatically reject others

No

Hold place for child

Is place held first preference?

Yes

First preference will be offered

No

Back to see if a further offer at a higher preference is possible, and if so this is offered



Offer Day – 1 March 2018

Online applicants

- Offer emails sent 1 March
- Can log on and accept the school place online

Postal applicants

- Offer letters posted 1 March

All applicants

- Can ask to go on the waiting list,
- Can register an appeal
- Have 14 days to accept the offer.



Admission Appeals

- You can appeal for any school you have been refused
- This includes where your preference is a grammar school and your child has not qualified



About Appeals

- Three independent people
- Unpaid volunteers who are not connected to the Admission Authority
- With no connection to the school
- You can put your case in person



Finally – remember!

- Apply by **3pm** on 31 October 2017
- Apply online at www.buckscc.gov.uk or on your home LA's website
- List schools in true preference order
- Be realistic, understand the rules
- Consider transport arrangements
- Visit the schools
- Don't rely on the opinions of others



After Year 7

- Full details about the late entry requirements for all grammar schools can be found at:
<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/education/school-admissions/late-transfer-procedure/>
- Each school will have details on their own website of the testing dates
- There is no guarantee that children who qualify in the tests will be offered a place at a grammar school



Where to get help

Web:

www.buckscc.gov.uk/movinguptosecondaryschool

Email:

Fill in the 'Contact Us' form:

www.buckscc.gov.uk/contactadmissions

