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KEY STAGE  
3HIGHER  
TIERS

Mathematics tests

# Subject-specific guidance

Mental mathematics

Test A and Test B

## Test A (higher tiers)

- 20 minutes

## Test B (alternative higher tiers)

- 20 minutes

## Key points

- The Mental mathematics CD includes both the instructions to the pupils and the questions. The full text of these instructions and the practice question are provided in the transcript.
- There are two occasions to pause the recording, which are indicated by a bleep:
  - the first point comes at the beginning of the recording once the instructions have been given
  - the second comes after the practice question.

You should explain to pupils that these two occasions will be their only opportunity to ask any questions before the test starts.

**You must not pause the recording at any other point, or add any additional instructions of your own.**

- The recorded test will tell pupils how long they have to answer each question. The test is in three sections and the time given increases from 5, to 10, to 15 seconds as the test progresses.
- You should ensure that pupils who were entered for tiers 4–6, 5–7 or 6–8 take Mental mathematics test A or B. Pupils who were entered for tier 3–5 must be entered for test C.
- You should ensure that each pupil has a pen or pencil. They must not have rubbers, rulers, calculators or any other mathematical equipment. Pupils must not have access to paper for working out answers.
- You should ensure that pupils write their name and the name of the school in the spaces provided on their pupil answer sheet.

## Transcript of CD

The transcripts of tests A and B are provided in the *key stage 3 Mental mathematics – transcript* booklets. The transcripts should only be used in the event of CD or audio equipment failure.

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