

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Bedfont Primary School



Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

The purpose of the check is to determine whether pupils can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for further success in mathematics.

It will also help your child's school to identify pupils who may need additional support.



Ofsted

Stated that pupils without instant recall of multiplication tables struggle at maths.

Nick Gibb (schools minister)

Has also said that, “It is vital that all children can grasp and master arithmetic while they are still at primary school. If we fail children at this early stage, the risk is they will never catch up. It is important that pupils [...] have learnt the multiplication tables by heart before they leave primary school.”



DfE, 2020

The content domain for the MTC is based on the national curriculum (2014). The national curriculum states, 'By the end of year 4, pupils should have memorised their multiplication tables up to and including the 12 multiplication table and show precision and fluency in their work'.

The year 4 programme of study for mathematics also states, 'Pupils should be taught to recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12×12 '. The MTC only assesses the instant recall of multiplication facts. Multiplication and division in a wider context will continue to be assessed through the KS1 and KS2 mathematics assessments.



The assessment will consist of multiple, equivalent forms and each pupil will be randomly assigned one of the available forms. If, for any reason, a pupil needs to restart the check, they will be randomly assigned a different form. Each form consists of 25 questions worth one mark each. Items are not ordered according to difficulty. Questions will all follow the same format⁴:

$$n1 \times n2 =$$

Pupils and schools will be able to access a practice area prior to the check window opening, in order to become familiar with the MTC format.



5.2.1 Table 1 – Multiplication table limits in the MTC

Multiplication Table	Minimum number of items in each form	Maximum number of items in each form
1	Not applicable	Not applicable
2	0	2
3	1	3
4	1	3
5	1	3
6	2	4
7	2	4
8	2	4
9	2	4
10	0	2
11	1	3
12	2	4



The test has been programmed to show children more questions from the 6,7,8,9 & 12 times tables

Key Points

- From the 2021/22 academic year, the MTC is **statutory for all year 4 pupils** and is only being rolled out to schools in England
- It is **“an online, on-screen digital assessment.”** Pupils will either be using a laptop or computer.
- The program will automatically mark each child’s test
- It will last approximately **5 minutes in length**
- The children will be set a handful of practice questions to begin with (mostly from the one times table).



Key Points

- After this, there will be **25 timed questions** (6 seconds per question with a 3 second gap)
- It will identify pupils who have not yet mastered this mathematical skill so schools can give them additional support
- Check window opens on **Monday 6 June for a 3-week period.**
- We will be choosing when to sit this during the 3 week period.
- Pupils should use the try it out area with the devices they will use, with any access arrangements enabled, to ensure they are familiar with the check.
- **Mainly based on 6 7 8 9 & 12 times tables.**



- Till now, there has been no formal measure to judge whether pupils had learnt their tables by year 4 aside from the judgement made in year 6 maths SATS performance.
- Idea for the times tables check is to ensure that pupils are meeting the benchmark of memorising their tables up to 12x12 before moving up to year 5 & year 6.



Daily times tables practice

paper practice

Online games

Songs



Results

At the end of the assessment window, a total score out of 25 will be reported to each school for all of their pupils who took the check. There will be no expected standard threshold for the MTC, (DfE, 2018)

A school's result will not be published in any public way, nor will they be used in informing any type of league or performance table.

"Pupils should be taught to recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12×12 ."

GOV.UK



Strategies to support learning times tables

- **Direct counting** of objects in groups
- **Rhythmic chanting:** '2 3s are 6' '3 3s are 9'
- **Skip counting in multiples:** 2, 4, 6, 8
- **Additive calculation / repeated addition:** counting replaced by calculations (e.g. $3+3=6$ $6+3 = 9$)
- **Multiplicative calculation:** calculations take the form of known facts (e.g. 3 times 3 is 9" or derivatives from a known fact e.g., $3 \times 3 = 3 \times 2 + 3$)
- **Cumulative law:** changing the order of 2 numbers (e.g." If I know that $3 \times 6 = 18$, then I also know that $6 \times 3 = 18$."

Main message: practising little and often everyday!



What can you do to support your child in practising their times tables?

- Times tables chanting “2, 4, 6”
- Chanting in reverse order: ‘99, 88, 77 ...”
- Using times tables songs (BBC movies)
- Using apps: Times tables Rock Stars or Hit the Button
- Online games: Maths Frame
- Asking multiplication and division questions out of order
- Asking your child word problems based on times tables, like: “If five friends have £5 each, how much money do they have in total?”



For more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents-text-version--2>

Multiplication tables check

Do you have a child in year 4 at primary school?

If so, your child will be participating in the multiplication tables check in June. The purpose of the check is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help your child's school to identify if your child may need additional support.

What is the Multiplication tables check?

It is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions. Your child will be able to answer 3 practice questions before taking the actual check. They will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

What if my child cannot access the check?

There are several access arrangements available for the check, these can be used to support pupils with specific needs. Your child's teacher will ensure that the access arrangements are appropriate for your child before they take the check in June.

The check has been designed so that it is inclusive and accessible to as many children as possible, including those with special educational needs or disability (SEND) or English as an additional language (EAL). However, there may be some circumstances in which it will not be appropriate for a pupil to take the check, even when using suitable access arrangements. If you have any concerns about your child accessing the check, you should discuss this with your child's headteacher.

Do I need to do anything to prepare my child for the check?

No, you do not need to do anything additional to prepare your child for the check. As part of usual practice, teachers may ask you to practise times tables with your child.

Schools will have unlimited access to a try it out area from March. They can use this to make sure pupils have the necessary support required to access the check. This includes opportunities for pupils to familiarise themselves with the check application and try out any access arrangements that may be required.

How will the results be used?

Schools will have access to all their pupils' results, allowing those pupils who need additional support to be identified.

Will I receive feedback on my child's check?

Yes. Your child's teacher will share your child's score with you, as they would with all national curriculum assessments. There is no pass mark for the check.



