

Non-Verbal Reasoning Parent's Guide

Familiarisation

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What is Non-Verbal Reasoning?

Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR) mainly involves reasoning with abstract figures. For some questions you might look at relationships between shapes and sequences of shapes, by identifying common features from a set of figures and applying them to a new figure. Some NVR question types involve codes, in which features of a shape have to be matched with letters.

About the Familiarisation Paper

The Non-Verbal Reasoning Familiarisation paper is designed to familiarise your child with the types of questions in the real 11+ tests. The paper is presented in a very similar way to many of the test papers used for selection at 11+, and will enable your child to practise answering different types of questions used in real 11+ tests (although these may not necessarily be exactly the same question types that will come up in the real test your child will sit). The paper will also give your child the opportunity to practise recording answers on the separate answer sheet, as is standard practice in the real 11+ test. The papers may not be exactly the same level of difficulty as the real tests, as they vary between schools.

Resources

Your child will need the following materials:

- **Non-Verbal Reasoning 1 Familiarisation booklet**
- **Non-Verbal Reasoning 1 Familiarisation answer sheet**
- **A pencil:** for the real 11+ tests, the answer sheets will need to be completed in pencil, not in ink, felt-tip etc. so they can be read by the computer.
- **A rubber** to change answers. Crossing out or placing an X next to the unintended answer on the answer sheet cannot be computer-marked.

Working through the Paper

For the real 11+ tests, your child will need to read the instructions on the front of the test paper, listen carefully to the instructions read out by the invigilator (observing the messages at the bottom of the test paper telling you to go on to the next page or stop) and check/fill in the details at the top of the separate answer sheet.

Give your child the paper at an appropriate time, when they are both physically and mentally alert. Choose a suitable area for them to work in – make sure they can work comfortably and free from any distractions.

Before your child takes a familiarisation paper, discuss with them the reasons why they are doing the paper. Also explain that they might find some of the questions difficult, but they should work as quickly and as carefully as they can. If they get stuck on a question they should not waste too much time on it, but move on to the next one. At the beginning of each section in the test, the solution to the example question has been provided, so you may work through the question with your child, so they understand how to answer the particular question type and mark their answer on the answer sheet. Where there is more than one question in a section, your child may then work through the remaining questions in each section independently.

Your child should mark their answers on the separate answer sheet provided. The real 11+ test will be marked by computer, but it is important for your child to learn how to use the answer sheet properly, in preparation for the real test: they should mark their answer in the appropriate box by drawing a clear line through it with a pencil. Mistakes should be rubbed out carefully, **not** crossed out, since in the real test this would not be recorded correctly by the computer. You can ignore the boxes at the top of the answer sheet marked 'Pupil Number', 'School Number' and 'Date of Birth'. Your child will be required to fill in or check these details in the real test, but it is not necessary for familiarisation purposes.

Timing the Paper

The Familiarisation paper should take around an hour to complete. In the real 11+ tests, the instructions at the beginning of each section (including the answers to the example and practice questions) will be read out loud by the invigilator. The instruction pages are not timed; only the numbered questions are timed in the real 11+ tests. You may wish to read these instructions out to your child, or ask them to read these themselves. It is important however that you work through the solutions to the example and practice questions in each section with your child prior to them completing the numbered questions within a section; the time taken will be dependent on your child. Should you wish to time your child in completing the numbered questions, allow them 10 minutes for each section.

Marking and Feedback

The correct answers to the Non-Verbal Reasoning Familiarisation Paper are provided on the following page. Only these answers are allowed. One mark should be given for each correct answer – half marks should not be given. When you mark the paper you will be able to see how many questions your child got right in each section and overall. This will give you a good indication of their strengths and weaknesses. You may wish to go back over any questions your child got wrong and work through them together.

Answer Key

Non-Verbal Reasoning Familiarisation

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4
1. B	21. E	41. B	61. C
2. B	22. E	42. D	62. E
3. D	23. C	43. B	63. B
4. B	24. E	44. E	64. E
5. D	25. D	45. C	65. B
6. A	26. B	46. C	66. D
7. D	27. C	47. E	67. E
8. D	28. D	48. D	68. A
9. C	29. E	49. A	69. C
10. D	30. E	50. D	70. E
11. E	31. A	51. E	71. C
12. D	32. B	52. B	72. A
13. E	33. C	53. A	73. A
14. D	34. B	54. E	74. C
15. D	35. B	55. E	75. A
16. E	36. C	56. E	76. D
17. B	37. E	57. A	77. B
18. C	38. A	58. B	78. C
19. C	39. B	59. D	79. E
20. D	40. E	60. A	80. A

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