

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Parent information evening

34

28% of 650 =

$650 \div 100 = 6.5$

$28 \times 6.5 =$

$28 \times 6 = 168$

$20 \times 6 = 120$

$8 \times 6 = 48$

$120 + 48 = 168$

$28 \times 0.5 =$

half of 28 = 14

$168 + 14 = 182$

182

1 mark

$$\begin{array}{r} 28 \\ \times 6.5 \\ \hline 140 \\ + 168.0 \\ \hline 182.0 \end{array}$$

Children need to:

- Divide by 100 ($650 \div 100 = 6.5$)
- For 28×6.5 use knowledge of 6×2 , 6×8
- Know that $0.5 \times$ a number means to half it

Why is it being introduced?

- All primary school-aged children are expected to know their times tables up to 12 x 12 by heart. In fact, they are expected to have mastered their times tables by the end of Year 4.
- Until now, there had been no formal measure to judge whether children in England had learnt their times tables or not – with a formal judgement only somewhat made from a child's Year 6 Maths SATs performance. So, the idea is for the Multiplication Tables Check to be taken towards the end of Year 4 to make sure children are meeting the benchmark of memorising their times tables up to 12 x 12 before moving up to Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and Year 6).
- <https://youtu.be/GhAJMJUsAac>

Who will take the test?

- The Multiplication Tables Check is only being rolled-out to schools in England.
- It is mandatory for all children starting Year 4 in September 2019.
- Schools have a three-week window starting on Monday 8 June, to administer the MTC. Teachers will have the flexibility to administer the check to individual pupils, small groups or a whole class at the same time.
- All state schools in England, including maintained schools, special schools, academies and free schools will be required to enter their children for the Multiplication Tables Check.

What is the format?

- The Multiplication Tables Check has been described as “an online, on-screen digital assessment” – meaning the children will take the test on a desktop computer, laptop or tablet (such as an iPad) at school.
- Approximately 5 minutes in total.
- The children will be set a handful of practice questions to begin with – mostly from the one times table.
- Following the practice questions, the test itself will comprise of 25 questions, all formatted, for example, as $2 \times 5 =$ with the child required to input the product or result.
- Children will be given six seconds to answer each of the questions, with a three second gap between each question.

The questions will be randomly selected by the testing programme from 121 different options, ranging from $2 \times 2 =$ up to 12×12 .

The test's software has been programmed to show children more questions from the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables, as these are trickier times tables focused on more in Years 3 and 4. (The 2s, 5s and 10s are more of a focus in Years 1 and 2.)

Another point to note is that if children are shown a multiplication one way round, for example, 6×7 , they will not be later tested on the multiplication inverted – so, with the example provided the child **would not** be asked 7×6 later on in their set of 25 questions.

| 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 |

How will the scores be reported?

- Each child's result will be passed on to the school, and the DfE will create a report on overall results across all schools in England to measure whether national times tables results improve over the coming years.
- The school will then report results to parents.
- The school's results will not be published in any public way, nor will they be used in informing any type of league or performance table.

How does a child pass the check?

- No child will fail the times tables test as no pass mark has been set.
- It is also important to note that all children will be tested on is their times tables knowledge – with no problem solving skills or division questions being asked.
- The DfE state that the motivation behind the multiplication tables check is purely to allow teachers a chance to identify children who need some more help with their times tables to stop them from falling further behind their peers as they move up to Year 5 (and then Year 6).

How can I help my child?

- Times Tables Rockstars – range of mode practice
- Times tables chanting: “6, 12, 18, 24...”;
- Times tables chanting in reverse order: “108, 99, 90, 81...”;
- Asking your child multiplication calculations out of order, like: “What is 4 x 7? What is 9 x 5? What is 6 x 11?”;
- Using pasta pieces or pebbles to show groups of numbers representing times tables, e.g. four groups of three pasta shells to show $3 \times 4 = 12$;
- Asking your child related division questions, like “What is 12 divided by 4? What is 55 divided by 11?”;
- Asking your child word problems based on times tables, like: “If five friends have £3 each, how much money do they have in total?”;
- Trying out active ways of learning times tables