



Multiplication Check: Information for Parents

MARCH 2026

What is the Times Tables check?

- ▶ First announced by the Department for Education (DfE) in September 2017, it is an online test that assesses a child's knowledge of times tables up to 12x12.
- ▶ The test was sampled by a selection of schools in June 2019. A full roll-out took place in June 2022 and it takes place each year.
- ▶ The three Rs still reign supreme in the National Curriculum – Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. Times tables fall under arithmetic. 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.

Why has this test been introduced?

- ▶ A study published by Ofsted, says pupils without instant recall of multiplication tables struggle at maths.
- ▶ Nick Gibb, the schools minister at the time, said, “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 are fluent in calculation and have learnt the multiplication tables by heart before they leave primary school.”
- ▶ Jean Humphrys, Ofsted’s education director at the time, said, “It is really important that children have the tools of arithmetic at their finger tips. Without that it is like sending a plumber out to do a job without knowing how to use a spanner.”

Who will take the times tables test?

- ▶ The Multiplication Tables Check is only rolled-out to schools in England.
- ▶ Children will sit the times tables test in June 2026 – meaning it is now mandatory for all children in Year 4.
- ▶ Schools have a three-week window in the month of June to have their Year 4 children sit the test, but will be free to choose which day within that three-week period they choose to sit it.
- ▶ 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 test's 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 at school. The programme that the test runs on will automatically mark each child's times tables test.
- ▶ The times tables test will be timed, with the entire assessment lasting 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.
- ▶ Children will be given six seconds to answer each of the questions, with a three second blank gap between each question.
- ▶ All questions will be in the format $a \times b$ and there will be no division questions asked.
- ▶ Reversal of questions will not be asked in the same test (i.e. 3×4 will not appear with 4×3)

What is the test's format?

- ▶ 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.)

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

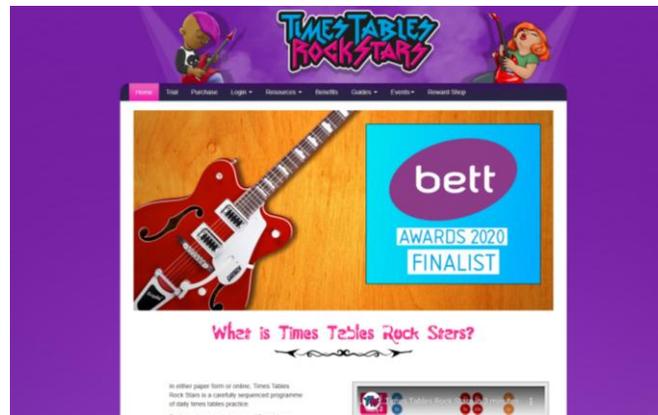
2x2=4	3x2=6	4x2=8	5x2=10	6x2=12	7x2=14	8x2=16	9x2=18	10x2=20	11x2=22	12x2=24
	3x3=9	4x3=12	5x3=15	6x3=18	7x3=21	8x3=24	9x3=27	10x3=30	11x3=33	12x3=36
		4x4=16	5x4=20	6x4=24	7x4=28	8x4=32	9x4=36	10x4=40	11x4=44	12x4=48
			5x5=25	6x5=30	7x5=35	8x5=40	9x5=45	10x5=50	11x5=55	12x5=60
				6x6=36	7x6=42	8x6=48	9x6=54	10x6=60	11x6=66	12x6=72
					7x7=49	8x7=56	9x7=63	10x7=70	11x7=77	12x7=84
						8x8=64	9x8=72	10x8=80	11x8=88	12x8=96
							9x9=81	10x9=90	11x9=99	12x9=108
								10x10=100	11x10=110	12x10=120
									11x11=121	12x11=132
										12x12=144

You only need to learn 66 facts!

Key	
Square numbers	
	Year 1 and 2
	Year 3
	Year 4 (5&6)

Time to have a go...

- ▶ On the laptop go to <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplications-tables-check/>
- ▶ Make sure the options are set to 25 questions and 6 seconds
- ▶ Times Tables Rock Stars will help prepare the children for the Multiplication Check



Scan this

How will the Year 4 times tables test scores be reported?

- ▶ Each child's result will be passed on to their 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.
- ▶ A 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.
- ▶ Children cannot fail the test. There is no expected level threshold. There will simply be a score out of 25 to indicate how fluent the child is in times tables.

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

- ▶ Times tables chanting: “6, 12, 18, 24...”;
- ▶ Times tables chanting in reverse order: “108, 99, 90, 81...”;
- ▶ Using times tables songs;
- ▶ Using apps, like the one by ks2timestables.co.uk, Times Tables Rock Stars or Hit the Button
- ▶ Using free online games, like those on Maths Frame;
- ▶ Asking your child multiplication calculations out of order, like: “What is 4×7 ? What is 9×5 ? What is 6×11 ?”;
- ▶ Using pasta pieces or pebbles to show groups of numbers representing times tables, e.g. four groups of three pasta shells to show $4 \times 3 = 12$;
- ▶ Asking your child related short 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?”



Any questions?