

**Bond**

No.1 for exam success

**FREE**

# The 11+ Exam A Parent's Guide

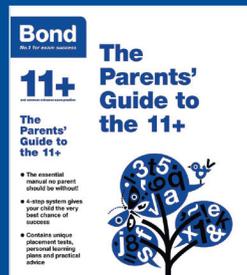


# The No.1 for exam success

For over 50 years, Bond has provided **market-leading** practice material for the **11+** and **Common Entrance exams**, helping **millions** of primary school pupils learn and practise at home, in school, and with tutors.



A selective entrance exam for secondary school, used by grammar schools and independent schools to identify academic ability and potential. Children usually take it at the start of Year 6.



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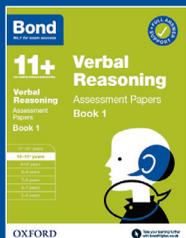
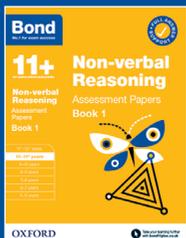
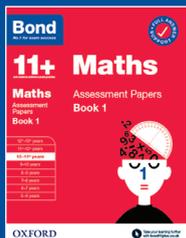
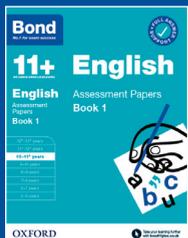
The essential 11+ manual for parents

# 11+

Due to their rigorous and challenging content, Bond 11+ resources are also ideal preparation for Selective Independent School Entrance Exams, which, alongside the 11+ in Year 6, can include the 7+ for Year 3 entry, pre-tests before secondary school and the 13+ in Year 8.

# Entrance Exams

Bond Online and Bond books have helped millions of pupils pass their 11+ and entrance exams.



# Timeline: applying to grammar school



## YEARS 1-4

It's never too early to start preparing for the 11+. Set the foundations and start focusing on core skills practice with *Bond Assessment Papers*.

## YEAR 5: SEPTEMBER

Create a 12-month revision plan to get your child ready for the 11+ exam.

## YEAR 6: SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

**Exam time!** Most 11+ exams are taken now.

## YEAR 6: MARCH

**It's National Offers Day.** You'll be told by letter whether your child has been offered a place at your first-choice school. If your application was unsuccessful you will automatically receive details of the appeals procedure.



## YEAR 4

Now's the time to decide if you want your child to attend grammar school. It might seem early, but this will leave you plenty of time to research schools and prepare for the 11+ exam.

## BEGINNING OF YEAR 5

Visit some schools with your child to find out if they're the right setting for them.

## YEAR 6: OCTOBER

11+ exam results are issued. You now need to complete the Common Application Form.

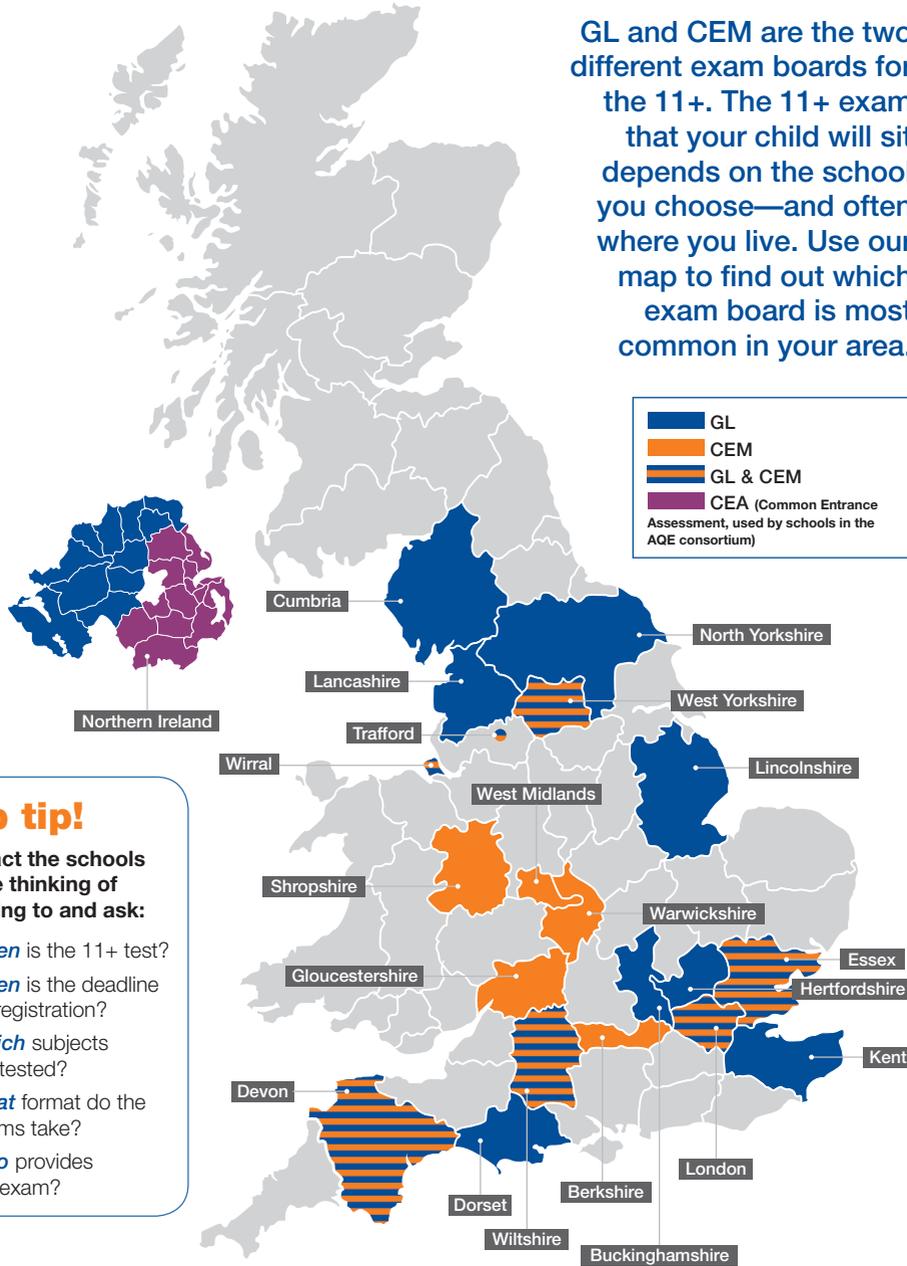
**If your child has passed the 11+,** you can list your chosen grammar schools in order of preference.

**If your child has not passed the 11+,** you can now select your school preferences from your local, non-selective secondary schools, OR you can still list your preferred grammar schools, but you will need to appeal in March on the grounds of non-qualification.



# 11+ exam boards

GL and CEM are the two different exam boards for the 11+. The 11+ exam that your child will sit depends on the school you choose—and often where you live. Use our map to find out which exam board is most common in your area.



## Top tip!

Contact the schools you're thinking of applying to and ask:

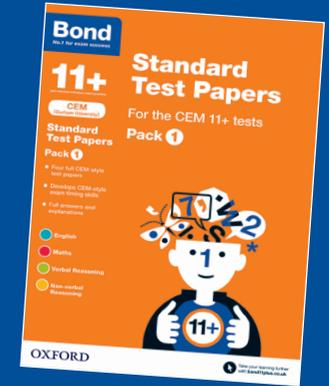
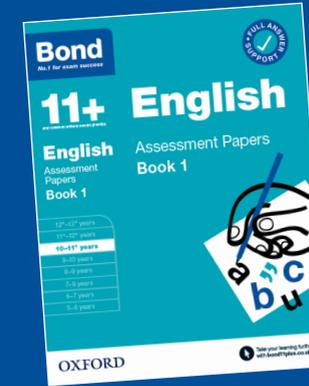
- **When** is the 11+ test?
- **When** is the deadline for registration?
- **Which** subjects are tested?
- **What** format do the exams take?
- **Who** provides the exam?

**PLEASE NOTE:** These exam boards were correct at the time of publication. Schools and regions do change exam boards, so it's essential that you check the exam board of each grammar school you apply to.

# CEM or GL: what's the difference?



Although CEM and GL exams cover broadly the same 11+ topics, there are very real differences in the way their 11+ exams work and this will have an impact on how you prepare your child for the 11+.



Schools can choose any combination of these subjects to best suit their selection policy.

Check with the schools you are applying to find out which format they will be using in the exam.

## GL Assessment

Used in the majority of grammar schools in the UK

Covers English, maths, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning / spatial awareness

Most exam papers are either Standard Format (where answers are written in spaces next to the question) or Multiple Choice (where answers are marked in a separate answer book).

The length of test papers can vary, although 45 minutes is the most common exam time.

## CEM

Originally developed by the University of Durham to discourage 'teaching to the test'

Covers verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning and numerical reasoning

CEM papers are mixed, with one exam combining English and verbal reasoning and another combining maths and non-verbal reasoning. Standard Format, Multiple Choice, or a combination may be used.

Timings are allocated to each section, and children will need to carefully manage their time.

There will typically be more questions than are likely to be answered in the time allocated.

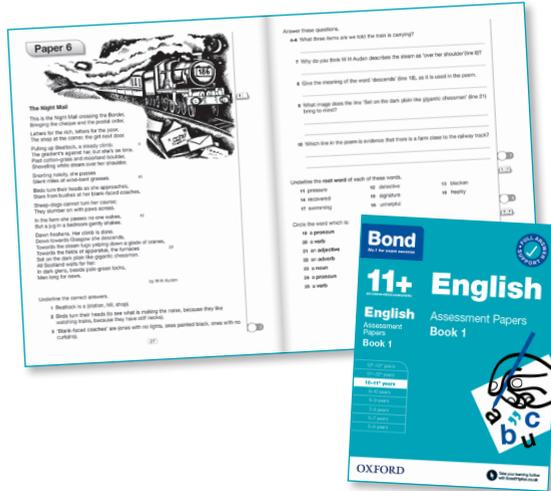


# 11+ subjects

## abc English

Tests your child's English skills through:

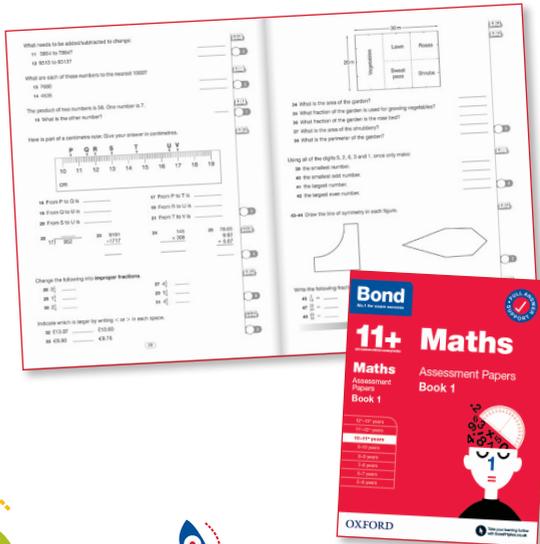
- Comprehension exercises—where they read texts and answer questions about them
- Writing tasks that test their own writing
- Punctuation and grammar problems
- Spelling tasks—where they spot incorrect spellings



## + - x ÷ Maths

Tests your child's ability to think and calculate. They'll need to:

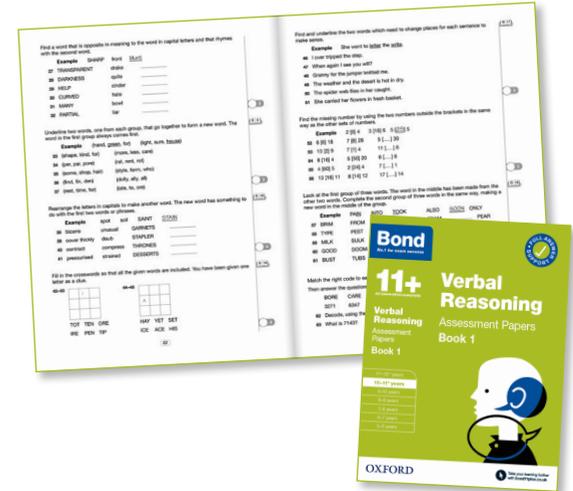
- Know their multiplication tables
- Be able to apply the four number operations (+ - x ÷) accurately
- Have a fundamental understanding of number relationships, measurement, mental arithmetic, geometry and data handling



## Verbal Reasoning

Verbal reasoning assesses children's problem-solving skills when working at speed and how effectively they can process verbal information. The test will require them to:

- Apply logical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Find and follow patterns and rules
- Determine word meaning
- Spell accurately
- Apply basic maths skills
- Work systematically



## Non-verbal Reasoning

Non-verbal reasoning, or spatial awareness, doesn't require any prior knowledge and can be used to determine your child's potential to think logically and recognise patterns. The test will require them to:

- Process graphic or pictorial information
- Understand how objects relate to each other in space
- Find and follow patterns and rules
- Apply maths skills like rotation, reflection and symmetry
- Work systematically



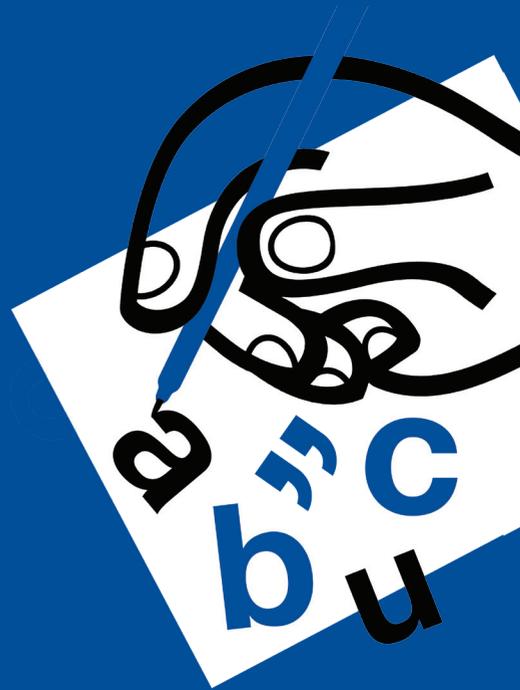
Verbal and non-verbal reasoning are not part of the National Curriculum in state primary schools, so they might feel quite strange for children who haven't seen questions framed like this before. That's why it's so important to practise!

# How to prepare for the 11+

- Use plenty of topic-based assessment papers to familiarise your child with the question types in each subject.
- Work hard on developing a deep and rich vocabulary by reading widely with your child and using more challenging words in ordinary conversation, explaining their meaning as you go.
- Make sure your child does plenty of timed practice and is accustomed to managing their time carefully.
- Use practice test papers to set mock tests under exam conditions to help them get used to formal exam conditions.
- Develop good exam techniques—encourage your child to pick off the questions they can answer easily or those that carry the highest marks.

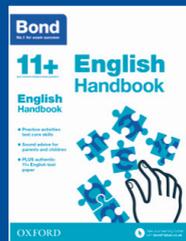
## Top tip!

Your child may not have the time or be able to answer all the questions, so teach them to focus on the ones they are most sure about.

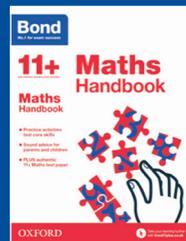


## Want more advice?

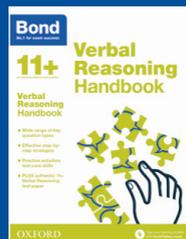
Look out for our  
**NEW 11+ Handbooks**



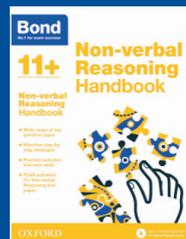
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# 11+ Exam Checklist: your 12-month plan

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MONTHS 1-3

- Decide which schools you're applying to and research what the 11+ exam consists of at those schools.
- Download a free copy of the *Bond Placement Test* from our website to assess your child's strengths and weaknesses.
- Create a learning plan weighted towards any problematic areas.

MONTHS 4-6

- Work through topic-based practice questions for your child's age group with *Bond Assessment Papers*.
- Use spelling lists, reading, and *Bond 11+ Handbooks* to strengthen problem areas.
- Revise your learning plan based on how your child is progressing.

MONTHS 7-9

- Continue working through the *Bond Assessment Papers*.
- Gradually introduce strict exam timings.
- Revise your learning plan based on how your child is progressing.

MONTHS 10-12

- Do daily revision in 'bite-sized' chunks—the *Bond 10 Minute Test* series is perfect for this!
- Do a series of mock exams at home using *Bond 11+ Test Papers* to get your child used to the exam format and working under exam conditions.
- Don't forget to schedule in time for rest and relaxation. Try the *Bond Brain Training Puzzle Books* for some fun relief!



For more help and support, visit [www.bond11plus.co.uk](http://www.bond11plus.co.uk)

# Bond free resources



Start your journey to 11+ exam success when you register for FREE at [www.bond11plus.co.uk](http://www.bond11plus.co.uk)

## Download our 11+ Starter Pack

Perfect if you're new to the 11+, our 11+ Starter Pack includes lots of free practice tests to help you start preparing your child for the 11+ exam, as well as a *Bond Placement Test* to establish their strengths and weaknesses.

## Watch 'How To' videos

11+ exam tutor Alvon Stewart works through a series of tricky 11+ exam questions and shows you how to help your child at home.

## Take a look at our 11+ FAQs

where we address the questions most commonly faced by parents.

## Try sample tests

Taken from the *Bond 10 Minute Test* series and *Test Paper Packs*, try tests in English, maths, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning in both standard and multiple-choice formats.

## Download revision planners and learning plans

to help you schedule your child's 11+ revision.

## Discover our expert blog posts

on when and how to prepare, results day, the appeals process, and how to make 11+ preparation fun.

## Receive the latest 11+ news

Subscribe to our monthly Bond newsletter and you'll receive free 11+ advice, support and resources straight to your inbox.



Register now at [www.bond11plus.co.uk](http://www.bond11plus.co.uk)

# Bond 11+ books and resources



FOR AGES 5-11

## No Nonsense

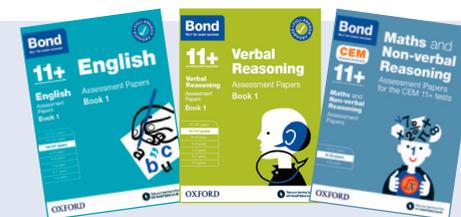
General skills practice for Key Stages 1 and 2, matched to the National Curriculum



FOR AGES 5-13

## Assessment Papers

Topic-based practice questions for the 11+



FOR AGES 7-12

## 10 Minute Tests

Bite-sized practice. Ideal for revision and consolidation



FOR AGES 10-11

## Test Papers

Realistic 11+ timed test papers with full answers



## ALSO AVAILABLE



FOR AGES 8-11

## Bond SATs Skills

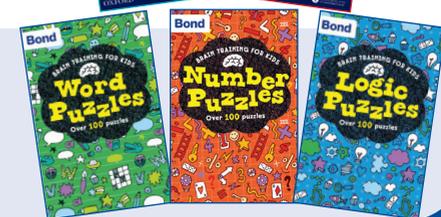
Workbooks for developing core SATs Skills



FOR AGES 8-11

## Bond Puzzle Books

Fun puzzles designed to boost your child's brain power



Visit [www.bond11plus.co.uk](http://www.bond11plus.co.uk) or find Bond in bookshops

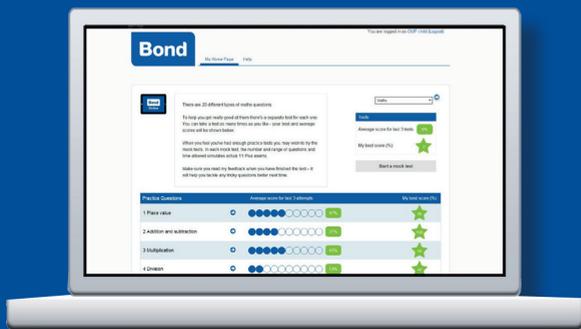
@Bond11Plus

# Bond Online

Get unlimited access to thousands of **11+ practice questions** for both GL Assessment and CEM 11+ exams with Bond Online.

Available  
as an annual  
or monthly  
subscription

- Interactive question bank
- Unlimited practice, anytime, anywhere!
- Auto-marked tests
- Instant question feedback
- Progress reports for parents
- Timed mock tests
- Fun and easy to use for ages 9 to 11



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