



Western House Academy

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Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

2020 / 21



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What is the purpose of the check?

This will be a statutory assessment for pupils in Year 4.

The purpose of the Multiplication Table Check is to determine whether Year 4 pupils can fluently recall their multiplication tables to 12.

The check will help schools to identify pupils who require additional support.



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Who will take the check?

All eligible year 4 pupils who are registered at maintained schools, special schools or academies (including free schools) in England will be required to take the check.

The testing window for the 2020/21 Academic year has been set for w/c 7th June 2021 and will be open for 3 weeks.

Similar to the Year 2 & 6 SATs, there is guidance for schools to withdraw children with specific individual needs. This will be discussed with parents on an individual basis should the school feel there are any grounds for withdrawal.



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2018/19 Pilot

The government issued a request for schools to take part in a pilot scheme last year to gain feedback on the administration of the check - WHA was part of this pilot.

It was a great opportunity to become familiar with the materials and for our teachers to gain an insight into what is ahead.

Being part of the pilot has supported our planning moving forward to ensure our children achieve success.

2019 / 20 Cohort - COVID19

Due to the COVID19 global pandemic, the multiplication check was cancelled by the DFE and did not take place for this Year 4 group.



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Division Facts

It's been confirmed that Year 4 children will only face multiplication statements in the check.

This means that related division facts, whilst a key part of children's mathematical learning, will not be tested as part of the check.

We will however continue to teach division facts alongside multiplication as they form a valuable relationship when looking at number and calculation.



How Will Children Complete the Check?

The Check will be fully digital and take place on screen. It will be available to use on laptops, desktops and tablets.

Under standard administration the multiplication check will take less than 5 minutes per pupil. There is no requirement for all children in a class to take the check all at once.

- ▶ Children will get 6 seconds **from the time the question appears** to input their answer. This means that children must be able to **read, recall and enter their response** within 6 seconds.
- ▶ Children will enter their answer using a keyboard or by pressing digits using a mouse or touchscreen on an on-screen number pad.
- ▶ This means that it is vital that we are ensuring children are able to rapidly recall multiplication facts, and can do so 'out of sequence' (i.e. answer 6×7 without having to count in 6's from 0).



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Practise the Format?

Before the test window opens each year, there will be the opportunity for children to access a practice area to become familiar with the style of the KS2 times tables test.

This should be available to us in March 2020

We will build in time for this familiarisation, so the check style is not 'new' when children take the actual check.



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How Many Questions and What Will They Be?

Children will be presented with 25 questions. There will be a 3 second pause in-between each question, before the next question appears on screen. It is therefore important that children have been used to answering (at least) 25 questions in quick succession before they face the test.

Each child will be randomly assigned a set of questions, which the is referred to as a 'form'. This is the spread of questions.

There will be repeated questions across different sets of questions each year, but no more than 30% of the questions will be the same in any two sets of questions.



How Many Questions and What Will They Be?

(Continued...)

- ▶ The 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 times tables are more likely to be asked than the 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 or 11 multiplication tables. The STA state that there is a focus on these as these are the 'most difficult' multiplication tables.
- ▶ There will always be questions from the 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 multiplication tables in each test.
- ▶ There will be no questions from the 1 times table (i.e 1×8 or 8×1)
- ▶ There will only be a maximum of 7 questions from the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.
- ▶ Reversal of questions using the commutative law will not feature in the same check. This means that, for example, 8×3 and 3×8 won't be asked to the same pupil.



Results - How will the data be used?

- ▶ We will only access the result for each pupil at the end of the 3-week window. The child (or teacher) will not be shown the total score on screen.
- ▶ Unlike the KS1 Phonics Screening check, children will not be expected to re-sit the check if they do not meet a set threshold in this KS2 Times Tables Test.
- ▶ From 2020, the DfE will report on the performance of pupils in the check nationally and in each local authority.
- ▶ From 2020, school and individual pupil-level reports will be made available to schools- in a similar way to the results from the KS1 Phonics Check are reported. This will mean that schools can target support and intervention where needed.
- ▶ We will report individual pupil results to parents in the end of year academic report.



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Support at School and at Home

- ▶ We will continue to teach multiplication through the National Curriculum expectations. As mentioned, we will continue to teach corresponding division facts as it is a valuable skill.
- ▶ Year 3 and Year 4 timetables have a dedicated slot on their timetables each week in the computer suite to support familiarisation and speed of completing the check.
- ▶ ‘Times Table Rockstars!’





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New guidance is being made available throughout the year from the STA and DFE and we will keep you informed promptly.

Should you have any questions regarding your child's ability to work with multiplication facts, please speak with their class teacher who will be happy to discuss individual targets and strategies.

Thank you for your time this evening.