

THE PARENT'S GUIDE TO 11+ SUCCESS:

WHAT EVERY FAMILY SHOULD KNOW BEFORE THEY START



THE
ACCESS
ACADEMY

**"Education is the most powerful weapon
which you can use to change the world"**

NELSON MANDELLA



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INTRODUCTION



If you're reading this, you're probably considering whether the 11+ exam is the right next step for your child – and you're not alone.

Every year, thousands of families navigate the selective school admissions process, and it can feel a little overwhelming at first.

This friendly guide has been created to give you clear, helpful advice about the 11+ process and how to best support your child along the way.

WHAT IS THE 11+ EXAM?

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THE 11 PLUS EXAM, OR 11+, IS AN ENTRANCE EXAM USED BY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS AND SOME INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO SELECT STUDENTS FOR YEAR 7 ENTRY BY ASSESSING A CHILD'S ACADEMIC POTENTIAL,

It typically takes place in Year 6, when children are 10 or 11 years old.

Different schools and regions test slightly different subjects, but most include:

- English
- Maths
- Verbal Reasoning
- Non-Verbal Reasoning



DATES & DEADLINES

TIMING MATTERS WITH THE 11+ PROCESS. HERE'S A ROUGH GUIDE:

- January–April (Year 5): Research schools and registration opens for many 11+ exams.
- Summer holidays (Year 5): Ideal time for focused revision and practice.
- September (Year 6): Most 11+ exams take place.
- October (Year 6): Results released.
- October–December: School applications submitted.

Tip: Always check your local authority and preferred schools for exact dates.








CHECKLIST

PREPARATION STYLES VARY, BUT THE MOST COMMON OPTIONS ARE:

- At-home practice using books and online resources.
- Tuition centres offering small group classes.
- One-to-one private tuition.
- Mock exams to build experience and confidence.

HOW TO KNOW IF YOUR CHILD IS READY:

Every child is different, but some signs your child might be a good candidate for the 11+:

-  **ENJOYS A CHALLENGE**
 -  **READS WIDELY AND HAS A GOOD VOCABULARY**
 -  **CAN CONCENTRATE FOR EXTENDED PERIODS**
 -  **SHOWS STRONG MATHS REASONING SKILLS**
 -  **RESPONDS WELL TO FEEDBACK**
-

COMMON MISTAKES

(MADE BY PARENTS!)



LEAVING IT TOO LATE TO START PREPARATION.

Early preparation allows your child to build a strong foundation, develop essential skills, and reduce exam-related stress



FOCUSING ONLY ON CONTENT, NOT EXAM TECHNIQUE.

Mastering exam technique helps your child manage time, stay calm under pressure, and maximize their scores, even with challenging questions



OVERLOADING YOUR CHILD: CAUSING UNNECESSARY STRESS.

It's crucial to avoid overloading its importance and putting excessive pressure on children. Striking a balance between preparation and well-being is key to success and preventing burnout.



IGNORING WEAKER SUBJECTS.

The 11 Plus exam preparation should not ignore weaker subjects but should address them with focused attention. While building on strengths is important for confidence and overall performance, neglecting weaker areas can significantly hinder a student's success in the exam.



THE
ACCESS
ACADEMY

At The Access Academy, we specialise in helping your child reach their potential for the 11+ in a friendly, supportive environment.

Our experienced tutors provide:

- Small group lessons
- Tailored mock exams
- Regular feedback to parents

We have a proven track record with over 10 years of experience

Book your child's free assessment today and find out how we can help.

(Download our free 11+ Study Planner Template too — a great tool to keep your child organised).