

Top Tips for Tests

(aka Survival Strategies
for KS2 SATs)



How to tackle tests

What are your SATs for?

Well...your teacher might tell you that they are to see what level you are, or so that people can see what a good school you go to.

WRONG!!

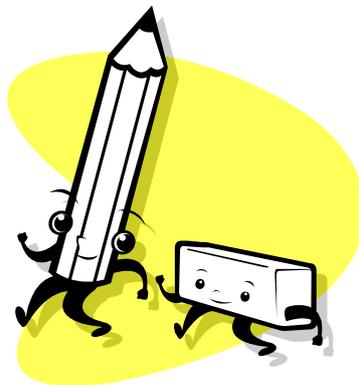
The SATs are for SHOWING OFF!

Yes, yes we all know that teachers and parents are forever telling you to stop showing off - but this is the one occasion when you can.

SHOW OFF what a good worker you are!

General Tips:

- **Stay calm.** You and your teachers already know what you're good at and the teachers at your new school will soon know, too. The test results add to that information - they do not replace it.
- **Read all of the questions carefully.** Ask yourself, '*What exactly is it they want me to do?*'
- **Imagine someone you would really like to impress.** Answer the questions carefully to try and impress that person!
- **Have you got your lucky pencil and pen?**



Other Helpful Hints

- **Sleeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeep!**

Going to bed late makes you tired. Tired pupils find tests extra difficult because they keep nodding off - and the snoring is very irritating for other pupils! For the week or two before your SATs, go to bed...

BEFORE YOUR PARENTS!!



- **Eat!** Everyone thought Granny was daft when she said some foods were good for the brain. Well, don't tell anyone, but she was right (shh!). Breakfast is especially good for the brain - cereal and a banana won't need much chewing - go on, you can do it!



- **Fresh air!** If you are allowed to walk to school, do it! Go out at playtime and have a run around.

- **Water.** You know what happens to a pot plant when it's not watered, don't you? Well, if you don't keep your liquid levels up, you will get all floppy and limp too! Get into the habit of sipping water throughout the day. Water helps to keep you alert and bright.



Tips for the Reading Test

- RELAX. Pretend you are reading for fun. If you try to remember everything, nothing will go in.
 - Skim quickly over the reading booklet to get the gist of what topics are covered.
 - Read through a section at a time (there will be either 3 or 4 different sections of writing). If you want to, you can underline any key words, facts and figures to help you remember them quickly if needed. BUT, don't interrupt your flow of reading to do this.
 - Pace yourself. You will have one hour altogether to complete the reading paper (this also includes time for reading).
 - You will notice that each question is worth either 1, 2 or 3 marks.
- **Short answers:** Some questions are followed by a short line or box. You need only write a word or phrase as your answer.
 - **Answers on a few lines:** This means that you are expected to write more words or one or two sentences.
 - **Answers in a large box:** This is space for you to give a more detailed answer and room for you to explain your answer. You can write in full sentences if you want to.
 - **Answers with no writing:** Some answers just require you to either tick, draw lines or draw circles.



Tips for the Reading Test

The **PEE** prompt can help you to answer the 2 and 3 mark questions.

1. **P** - make your **P**oint
2. **E** - find **E**vidence in the text to support your answer
3. **E** - **E**xplain or **E**laborate upon your answer.

Reading response stems for:

Text Structure:

The author has organised the text so that...

The bullet points make it easy to...

The diagrams make the text easier to understand because...

Viewpoint:

The author wants me to think/feel...

I think the author believes...

Author intent:

The author uses this phrase to give the impression that...

The author wants me to think that...

Language effects:

The effect of the phrase is to make the reader feel...

It makes me imagine...

The words sound like...

- Work as quickly as you can through the easier, 1 mark questions, leaving more time for the challenging ones.



Some useful websites:

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/revision/engindex.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/>

<http://www.primarygames.com/>

<http://www.mymaths.co.uk/>

<http://www.sundog.com/>

<http://www.parentsintouch.co.uk/Improve-your-child-s-SATS-results?gclid=CPSU6qqVwLOCFZDKtAodgYAmA>

<http://www.sats-papers.co.uk/>

