

## How do the assessments work and what will be tested?

The assessment is online, compatible with any modern device (e.g. computer, laptop or tablet). Computers will be provided by QEH, on the assessment day. It will cover the following subject components:

- English – 20 minutes
- Verbal reasoning – 10 minutes
- Maths – 20 minutes
- Non-verbal reasoning – 10 minutes
- Creative comprehension – 20 minutes
- Puzzles – 15 minutes

## How long will the assessment be and how do the applicants manage their time?

The assessment will be 1 hour 35 minutes - see the previous section for a breakdown. During the online assessment, applicants will see a clock on their screen that will count down in minutes showing them how long they have left for each section. It will be visible but not so large as to distract them from their work. Breaks will be given between tasks.

## What is the format of the assessment? Is the assessment adaptive or non-adaptive and what does this mean?

For the online assessment, the majority of questions will be multiple choice with some questions requiring an applicant to type one word or number.

**Adaptive (English, maths, verbal and non-verbal reasoning):** this means questions will get harder or easier as a child moves through the assessment to ensure they are the right level for each individual.

Students will not be able to skip or go back and change their answers to questions; therefore, it is important that the children check their answers before moving onto the next question. Adaptive assessment is a tried and tested method that yields reliable results.

**Non-Adaptive puzzles and problem solving:** this means all applicants will see exactly the same questions, have the ability to move backwards and forwards, and be able to change their answers.

Applicants will be permitted blank scrap paper and pencil in all subjects for any working out.

## What about applicants who are eligible for extra time?

Applicants may be granted extra time (and/or access arrangements) based on the findings of an Educational Psychologist's report already submitted to QEH. Additional time will automatically be added to the timer visible on their screen for each section of their assessment.

## What is the content of the assessment?

We recommend viewing the short familiarisation exercise to get a feel for the online format of the assessment: <https://app.atomlearning.com/public/taster/qeh-senior-school>

**Maths** assessment is adaptive. The maths content is based on the KS2 National Curriculum, but with opportunities to appropriately stretch and challenge through the style and depth of the questions asked.

**English** assessment is adaptive. It will consist of a comprehension analysis section and SPaG section (spelling, punctuation and grammar). Your child will see a piece of text and be asked to answer questions about it.

Candidates should not be thrown by vocabulary they do not know, as one of the things we are assessing is the ability to infer meaning from context.

**Verbal reasoning** assesses your child's ability to reason and solve problems with written information. This section is adaptive and will cover:

- Advanced vocabulary and use of language
- Pattern spotting and making connections in order to identify rules
- Thinking critically and using logic to make high-level deductions

**Non-verbal reasoning** assesses your child's ability to process graphic information. This section is adaptive and will cover:

- Following patterns and rules
- Applying mathematical skills – rotation, reflection and symmetry
- Use of spatial awareness
- Applying logical thinking and problem - solving skills

**Puzzles and Problem Solving:** this tests your child's ability to use words and numbers to solve multi-step problems. Interactive resources will be provided to aid them during their problem solving. This section is non-adaptive.

## **How much preparation does my child have to do for the entry assessment?**

We recommend that all applicants look at the familiarisation exercise provided. Beyond that, our assessments will test knowledge based on the National Curriculum and candidates will need to know how to read an extended comprehension passage to answer questions on it. These are all skills that your child will be developing in school, so they will not need any special tuition or intensive practice. Instead, they are encouraged to read widely.

## **Why is the new assessment being introduced?**

The new assessment is not only designed to be fun but crucially will measure children's genuine intellectual curiosity, passion and enjoyment for learning.

The new assessment aims to go beyond testing cognitive ability by seeking to discover a child's potential in creative thinking, analysis, and problem-solving.

We believe this is a fair and holistic assessment process that engages a wide range of learners.