



FOREST SCHOOL

13+ Guidance for Parents & Candidates (FAQs)

This guidance only concerns the Entrance Test sat on Thursday 29 January 2026, which candidates will sit as part of their Entrance Assessment Examination at Forest.

What is the assessment?

The assessment is an online and written exam. It is composed of two parts:

- Part 1: Maths, English, Non-Verbal Reasoning, Verbal Reasoning, Puzzles and Problem-Solving
- Part 2: Paper-based assessment of written English

What is covered in Part 1?

The **Maths and English sections** are based on the National Curriculum. They assess your child's ability to recall what they have been taught and apply this knowledge to solve problems.

The **Verbal and Non-Verbal reasoning** sections are designed to test your child's **academic potential**. They assess your child's ability to solve problems with written or visual information.

The **Puzzles and Problem-Solving** section encourages your child to think deeply about a scenario and apply mathematical techniques to solve a problem.

Part 1	Maths	Non-Verbal Reasoning	Verbal Reasoning	English	Puzzles and Problem-Solving
What is being assessed?	Arithmetic Mathematical reasoning	Spatial reasoning Visual reasoning	Vocabulary Pattern-spotting Logic	Reading comprehension	Multi-step problem solving Logical reasoning
Timings	20 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes
Total					1 hour 10 minutes

What is covered in Part 2?

A written, **paper-based, assessment of written English**. There will be one question giving candidates the opportunity to write creatively in a short piece of non-fiction. Candidates will have 30 minutes for this section.

Is the assessment adaptive and what does this mean?

Adaptive

The Maths, Non-Verbal Reasoning and Verbal Reasoning sections of the assessment are **adaptive**. This means that questions will get harder or easier as a child moves through the assessment. This ensures that each question is at the right level of difficulty for each candidate.

Please note, candidates will not be able to skip or go back to any questions. They will also be unable to change any of their answers.

Non-Adaptive

The English, Puzzles and Problem-Solving sections are **non-adaptive**. This means that all candidates will see the same questions, although some will progress further through the questions than others.

Please note, candidates will have the ability to move backwards and forwards through questions, and will be able to change their answers.

How will the test work?

The majority of questions will be multiple choice with only a few questions requiring a candidate to type one word or number at most.

How long will the assessments take and how will candidates manage their time?

The timings of each subject component are:

Part 1	
Maths	20 minutes
Non-Verbal Reasoning	10 minutes
Verbal Reasoning	10 minutes
English	15 minutes
Puzzles and Problem-Solving	15 minutes
<i>Candidates will have a short break between taking Part 1 and Part 2 of the Assessment.</i>	
Part 2	
Paper-based written English test	30 minutes

The entrance exam will be 1 hour 40 minutes long - see the previous section for a breakdown. During the assessment, candidates will see a timer on their screen 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.

How to prepare for 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/forest-school>

The assessment will test the knowledge and skills highlighted in the **National Curriculum**. Candidates will develop these skills as part of their school education, so they will not need any special tuition or intensive practice.

We hope the information below is helpful to learn a little more:

PART 1:

Part 1 assesses attainment against the taught English and Maths curriculum (up to the end of Year 7), but with opportunities to appropriately stretch and challenge through the style and depth of the questions asked. Part 1 also assesses potential ability through reasoning.

Maths

Covers:

- Number
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Ratio and proportion
- Geometry
- Measurement (area, surface area, volume, changes of units)
- Statistics and data (central tendencies, graphs)
- Algebra
- Basic Probability (not compound)

In the first section of the maths paper, candidates will answer questions that assess their understanding of the concepts set out in the National Curriculum (as above). In the second section of the maths paper, candidates will answer 'Maths Challenge Style' questions. These questions assess their ability to reason and problem solve with curriculum concepts. They are more playful and capture a candidates' ability to adapt to the unexpected.

Non-Verbal Reasoning assesses the candidates ability to identify patterns and think logically. This section is adaptive and will cover:

- Analysing visual information in order to problem solve
- Identifying and continuing patterns
- Visualising changes in 2D and 3D space

Verbal Reasoning assesses the candidates ability to reason and solve problems with written information. This section is adaptive and will cover:

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

English

Covers:

- Comprehension

Aligned with the National Curriculum, questions in the comprehension assessment focus on skills such as retrieval, drawing inferences and understanding the meaning of words in context. Candidates 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.

Puzzles and Problem Solving: this section tests the candidates ability to use words and numbers to solve multi-step problems. They will be provided with interactive resources to aid them during their problem-solving.

Skills assessed:

- Strategy
- Use of resources
- Trial and error
- Logical thinking

PART 2:

Written English Paper: There will be one question that will allow candidates the opportunity to write creatively in a short piece of non-fiction. Here, we are looking for original and accurate writing. Candidates who do well write in an imaginative and engaging manner.

FAQS

What about candidates eligible for extra time?

Candidates eligible for **extra time** will be asked to indicate their entitlement at the point of application to Forest School. Where extra time is approved for a candidate, the additional time will be automatically added to the timer visible on their screen for each section of their assessment.

What can my child use during the assessment?

Candidates will be permitted a blank scrap paper and pencil in all subjects for any working out. Candidates may not use any other additional materials during any stage of the assessment, e.g. dictionaries, thesauruses, calculators, rulers, mobile phones, etc.

Why is the entry assessment going to be online? Will this not put candidates not used to typing at a disadvantage? What type of device will candidates use?

Many selective independent schools like Forest are now running online assessments, which is becoming common practice. There is no extended typing exercise required so typing ability will not impact on results. Putting the assessment online significantly reduces the risk of human error, leading to results we can trust.

The entry assessment can be taken on many different types of devices. The device used will not make any difference to a candidate's performance. Forest will provide a desktop computer for all candidates. Please ensure that your child is comfortable using a desktop computer, including familiarity with a mouse and keyboard.

My child is an overseas applicant. Where will they take the assessment?

Your child is welcome to travel to sit the assessment at our school. If you would prefer your child to sit the assessment overseas, please contact our Admissions team to find out how to proceed. Candidates who are living overseas may take the assessment under exam conditions at their current school or at a test centre.

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

Candidates look at the familiarisation materials provided further above. 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 and engage in activities that inspire curiosity for the wider world.