



Multiplication Tables Check

Y4 National Assessment – Summer 2020



Why the government are running the test

“The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will help schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided.”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhAJMJUsAac&feature=youtu.be
&safe=true](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhAJMJUsAac&feature=youtu.be&safe=true)



When & how it's due to happen

- 3 week window – starting Monday 8th June 2020
- Can be administered in groups or whole class
- Test done via ipads/pcs



Our findings from the trial last year

- It's fast! 6 seconds to answer from the moment the question appears
- Whatever is in that box at the end of that 6 seconds is taken as the answer
- 25 questions with a 3 second pause from the answer being taken to the next question arising
- Each child will have a different test
- Being good on the ipad is (almost!) as important as the tables – there are no backsies...



The actual questions

- Not an equal spread: 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 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



Interesting fact: Eleven questions Are More Likely To Appear Than Others

- The framework sets out that the second number in the multiplication will be monitored to ensure that the instances of each number is +/- 1 of the DfE set parameters. This means that the following 11 multiplication questions (and their commutative equivalents) are more likely to be asked: –
- 6×6 , 6×7 , 6×8 , 6×9 , 6×12
- 7×8 , 7×9 , 7×12
- 8×9 , 8×12
- 12×12

Of course, not each set of questions will feature all of these facts, and other questions will be asked, but it is likely that a good proportion of the above will be present in each set of questions.

Questions involving 2, 5 and 10 are least likely to be asked, with there only being a maximum of 8 (including the +/-1 parameter mentioned above) of these questions in each test.



Commutativity Is Really Important

- It is important that children understand the commutative property of multiplication, and that 8×3 (8, three times) is the same as 3×8 (3, eight times.)
- Therefore, if children have made this conceptual connection, it effectively reduces the number of unique facts children need to remember, and helps children answer questions such as 8×4 , which if taken as an 8 times table question may cause more panic than 4×8 .



Outcomes

- There is no 'Pass' rate or threshold: 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.
- Outcomes will be reported though. At this point, we think this will be on the number of pupils who have scored full marks (25/25) and the average marks gained.
- We will let you know on your child's score and how we did as a school.



What we're doing in school

- Tables are a priority: we are focusing on them within sessions, and we have daily TTRockstars on ipads that mirror the assessment process



Ways to help at home

- Knowing tables up to 12x12 is key – they can get rusty, so just keep your children plugging away at home.
- TTRockstars at home
- Tables is key to getting things correct in many mathematical concepts: fractions/ ratio & proportion/ area... the better they are, the more confident they will feel in other areas of Maths.



Any questions?