

# Year 4 Times Table Check

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# What Is The Purpose Of The Multiplication Tables Check?

- ▶ Here's what the framework tells us:
- ▶ The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether year 4 pupils can fluently recall their multiplication tables. Although the check will help schools to identify pupils who require additional support, it is not intended as a diagnostic tool.

# When Does The Multiplication Tables Check Start?

- ▶ The Multiplication Tables Check is a statutory test for the 2019/20 academic year.

# Who Will Take the Multiplication Tables Check?

Everyone in Year 4 will take the check.

**Now, let's look over 16 key facts about the  
Multiplication Tables Check**

# 1: It Will Only Present Children With Multiplication Statements Not Division

- ▶ It's been confirmed that Year 4 children will only face multiplication statements in the check. This means that related division facts, whilst a key part of children's mathematical learning, will not be tested as part of the check.

## 2: The Times Tables Check Is Online And On-Screen

- ▶ It's been confirmed that test will be fully digital and take place on screen.
- ▶ It will be available to use on laptops, desktops and tablets.

# 3: The Check Will Take Place In June Each Year

- ▶ There will be 3-week window in June for the administration of the check.
- ▶ There is no set test day, nor an expectation that all children will take the check at the same time.

# 4: Children Can Practise Before Taking The Check

- ▶ Before the test window opens each year, there will be the opportunity for children to access a practice area to become familiar with the style of the KS2 times tables test.
- ▶ Also we have already begun using Times Tables Rockstars!

# 5: It'll Take Less Than 5 Minutes Per Pupil

- ▶ Under standard administration (i.e. without any access arrangements) the multiplication check will take less than 5 minutes per pupil.
- ▶ There is no requirement for all children in a class to take the check all at once.

# 6: Children Will Have 6 Seconds To Answer Each Question

- ▶ Children will get 6 seconds from the time the question appears to input their answer. This means that children must be able to read, recall and enter their response within 6 seconds.
- ▶ They will enter their answer using a keyboard or by pressing digits using a mouse or touchscreen on an on-screen number pad.
- ▶ This means that it is vital that children are able to rapidly recall multiplication facts, and can do so 'out of sequence' (i.e. answer  $6 \times 7$  without having to count in 6's from 0).
- ▶ Whilst it may be tempting to resort to 'rote learning' for the multiplication tables, it is important that this is avoided, as it leads to children simply being able to chant facts without any meaning, and reduces their ability to recall facts out of sequence.

## 7: Whatever Is In The Answer Box At The End Of The 6 Seconds Will Be Counted As The Answer

- ▶ This means that if a child is mid-way into entering a two digit answer (e.g. they only enter the 7 out of 72 when answering  $8 \times 9$ ) they will be recorded as having answered  $8 \times 9$  as 7.

# 8: Children Will Face 25 Questions

- ▶ Children will be presented with 25 questions. There will be a 3 second pause in-between each question, before the next question appears on screen. It is therefore important that children have been used to answering (at least) 25 questions in quick succession before they face the test.
- ▶ Each child will be randomly assigned a set of questions, which the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) refer to as a 'form'. This is the spread of questions.

# 9: There Will Not Be An Equal Spread Of Each Multiplication Table Within The Check

- ▶ The check has been designed to focus on times tables that fit within the KS2 curriculum.
- ▶ 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.

Multiplication Table	Minimum number of items in each form	Maximum number of items in each form
1	Not applicable	Not applicable
2	0	2
3	1	3
4	1	3
5	1	3
6	2	4
7	2	4
8	2	4
9	2	4
10	0	2
11	1	3
12	2	4

# 10: 6 x 3 Is '6, Three Times'

- ▶ The STA state that they are classifying the multiplication tables by the first number in the question. For example,  $8 \times 3$  would fall within the 8 times table.

# 11: Remember, Commutativity Is Really Important

- ▶ Of course, it is important that children understand the commutative property of multiplication, and that  $8 \times 3$  (8, three times) is the same as  $3 \times 8$  (3, eight times.)

# 12: Eleven Facts Are More Likely To Appear Than Others

- ▶ This means that the following 11 multiplication questions (and their commutative equivalents) are more likely to be asked: -
  - $6 \times 6$ ,  $6 \times 7$ ,  $6 \times 8$ ,  $6 \times 9$ ,  $6 \times 12$
  - $7 \times 8$ ,  $7 \times 9$ ,  $7 \times 12$
  - $8 \times 9$ ,  $8 \times 12$
  - $12 \times 12$

# 13: There Is No 'Pass' Rate Or Threshold

- ▶ The guidance is clear that there is no expected pass rate or threshold. This means that, 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.
  
- ▶ BUT...

# 14: National And Local Authority Results Will Also Be Published

- ▶ From 2020, the DfE will report on the performance of pupils in the check nationally and in each local authority.
- ▶ There is no guidance at this point as to what form these reports will take, but we can infer from the test framework that is likely to include the percentage of children who achieve full marks.

# 15: Results Will Not Be Published In Performance Tables

- ▶ The document clarified that results of the check will not be published in the publicly accessible school performance tables.
- ▶ We also know from previous information released about the test that there are no current plans to use the results from the multiplication check in judging if schools meet the ‘floor standard’.
- ▶ BUT...

# 16: Results Will Be Reported And Analysed- Including By Ofsted

- ▶ From 2020, school and individual pupil-level reports will be made available to schools- in a similar way to the results from the KS1 Phonics Check are reported.
- ▶ This will mean that schools can target support and intervention where needed.

# How can you help at home?

Encourage children to use Times Table RockStars regularly

Sites like Maths Frame-

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

## This gives a mirror of the format the children will face in the real thing in June Multiplication Tables Check

This activity exactly mirrors the 'Multiplication Tables Check' that will be given to children at the end of Year 4. They are tested on their multiplication tables up to 12 x 12. There are twenty-five questions and children have six seconds to answer each question and three seconds between questions. The questions are generated randomly using the same rules as the 'Multiplication Tables Check' (see below).

Results can be downloaded and printed at the end of the test.

A similar activity which tests recall of [number bonds](#) can be found [here](#).

[For more multiplication games click here.](#)

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