

Format and Specification of the 2021-22 PPTC Entrance Assessment

A guide for parents and teachers

This guide outlines the steps that PPTC and GL Assessment have taken, following input from parents and teachers, alongside discussions with GL Assessment in order to make the 2021-22 English and Mathematics Entrance Assessment papers more accessible than ever before.

The key to making the papers more straightforward has focussed on two different approaches – one for English and one for Mathematics.

Reducing the level of complexity in the English paper has largely been achieved through changing the format of the paper.

Reducing the level of complexity in the Mathematics paper has been achieved through reducing the content of the KS2 Mathematics Specification which will be assessed.

The English Entrance Assessment paper

2020-21

- *The paper had 6 sections – 3 reading passages each followed by comprehension questions; 1 punctuation section; 1 spelling section; 1 general section.*
- *The reading sections could be taken from: 19th, 20th or 21st century fiction; non-fiction; or poetry.*
- *Some questions had 4 answer options and some questions had 5 answer options.*
- *Some reading passages had more questions than others.*
- *The number of spelling questions was different to the number of punctuation questions.*
- *The paper had 60 questions.*
- *The paper lasted 60 minutes.*

2021-22

- ✓ The number of sections in the paper will be reduced from 6 to 4.
- ✓ There will be 2 reading sections, instead of 3, both followed by comprehension questions.
- ✓ One reading passage will be fiction or non-fiction and the other reading passage will be poetry but none of the passages will be from 19th century literature.
- ✓ Although the reading passages can be fiction, non-fiction or poetry there will be no 19th century fiction.
- ✓ The overall length of the reading material will be reduced by around 30%-40% compared to previous Entrance Assessment papers; i.e. reducing the number of reading passages does not mean increasing the length of the passages.
- ✓ Instead of some questions having 4 answer options and some having 5, every question will have 5 answer options.
- ✓ Both reading passages will be followed by 16 comprehension questions.
- ✓ There will be 9 punctuation and 9 spelling questions.
- ✓ There will be no general section - requiring knowledge and understanding of literary or linguistic terms, e.g. glossary or index.
- ✓ The number of questions in the paper will be reduced from 60 to 50.
- ✓ The paper will last 50 minutes instead of 60 minutes.

The Mathematics Entrance Assessment paper

2020-21

- The paper had 45 questions.
- The paper lasted 45 minutes.
- Every question had, A-E, answer options.
- The specification of topic areas essentially covered the whole of the Key Stage 2 N.Ireland Maths Curriculum.

2021-22

- ✓ The paper will have 45 questions.
- ✓ The paper will last 45 minutes.
- ✓ Every question will have 5, A-E, answer options.
- ✓ Some topic areas which have been assessed in previous years will not be assessed in the 2021-22 Entrance Assessment.
- ✓ Some topics areas have been simplified by removing more challenging parts of the topic.

For clarity, the table below indicates topic areas which will NOT be included in the Assessment and limitations in some topic areas.

2021-22 Mathematics Assessment – Topic Area exclusions and limitations

- Proportion will **not** be examined.
- Ratio, including scale will **not** be examined.
- There will be **no** algebra questions.
- There will be **no** questions involving use of brackets
- Pie charts will **not** be used in questions.
- Probability and likelihood will **not** be examined.
- There will be **no** questions on cube numbers.
- There will be **no** questions involving negative numbers.
- Averages will be **limited** to mean i.e. there will be **no** questions on mode or median.
- Calculation of perimeter and area are included but calculation of the volume of cubes and cuboids is **not**.
- Questions may be asked on 2D shapes but **not** on 3D shapes.
- Metric units for length, mass and volume will be **limited** to cm, m, km (length), g, kg (mass) and ml, l (volume).
- Although questions may be asked on 12 and 24-hour clocks there will **not** be any questions which use timetables.