

Hints & Tips for the 11+ Examination Day

Exam preparation

- Try and ensure your child goes to bed early the night before and make sure everything is packed ready for the exam.
- Don't forget a clear through pencil case/bag and, if you are allowed, a watch if your child would like one.
- Always be calm yourself, any sign of anxiety in you or your manner at all will transfer itself to your child. If you are calm, happy and relaxed then they will stand a chance of being the same.
- Make sure your child has a good breakfast, drinks properly. Try to avoid overly sugary breakfast cereals (Teachitright have seen many parents who think they want to give their child a treat on the morning of the exam and so give them their favourite sugary breakfast – this is likely to set them on edge due to excess energy levels)
- Make sure they have a water bottle & snack with them for the break to keep their energy levels up.
- It is a very good idea to arrive at the exam venue early so your child doesn't feel worried about being late. Having a little walk can make all the difference.
- Mornings can be rushed, and we know that any tension will be communicated to your child. Any urgency to get up, get dressed, wash, get to the car, annoyance with other drivers etc all adds unduly to the pressure. Please try and avoid it.
- Encourage your child to use the toilet before the exam so they do not need to go during the exam itself.

Actual Exam

- Remind your child to listen carefully to the instructions given by the examiner as these may vary for the different exam boards.
- They need to ensure they are marking the multiple-choice sheet correctly – straight line for GL and CEM exam boards and coloured in for Reading Boys.
- If changing an answer clearly rub out the original and re-mark for CEM & GL exam boards. For Reading Boys cross it out with your pen and colour in the correct answer.
- They need to remember to keep their speed up to ensure they answer as many questions as possible in the time frame allowed. If they don't know an answer eliminate where possible and mark something down so they can move on to the next question. Try not to spend too long on a question. If they star the question, they could always come back to it at the end if time allows.
- Always fill in an answer even if they are unsure, as there is a chance that you will get it correct. Also, it will ensure the next answer is written on the correct line.
- Use elimination where possible on the question sheet to help determine the correct answer.
- If time left over make sure they check their answers. Use all the time allowed!

