Free GL-style 11+ Mini-Mock: how to run the mock

Timed working time: 25 minutes (32 minutes with 25% extra time). The whole session takes longer, because of the instructions, examples, practice questions. In the real test, instructions and timings are often given by an audio recording; read the words in the boxes in a calm, even voice to get as close to that as possible.

About this taster. A short sample of the question types in the GL-style 11+ test used for the Buckinghamshire Secondary Transfer Test. It is much shorter than the real test, so the score is only a rough guide and cannot predict a result or be turned into a standardised score.

In the real test, an invigilator reads every instruction aloud and keeps strict time. Running the mock the same way is what makes it useful practice. Read the words in the boxes exactly as written, use a timer, and do not help once a timed section has started.

Before you start

- A quiet room and a clear table. Phones and other screens out of sight.
- Two sharpened pencils and a rubber. No calculator, ruler or protractor.
- A clock or timer that you can see, and your child cannot.
- Print the booklets and answer sheets single-sided, at 100% size (not "fit to page"), so the answer sheets can be marked accurately.
- Your child writes a nickname and the date on the answer sheet, never their real name.
- Each section is timed separately. When a section's time is up, your child must not go back to it, even if there is time to spare later. They may change answers within the section they are working on.
- A drink and the toilet before you begin. In total, allow about 40 minutes: 25 minutes of timed questions, plus instructions, practice questions and short breaks between sections.

Access arrangements (for children who have them, or may be granted them, on test day)

- **Extra time:** if your child is likely to have 25% extra time, use the longer timings shown in brackets throughout this guide. Access arrangements are not automatic: apply early through Buckinghamshire Council's Secondary Transfer Test process, and check what has been agreed before test day.
- **Large print:** use the large-print booklets in the "large-print" folder, and print the answer sheet on A3 paper ("fit to page" on A3).
- **Rest breaks:** if your child has supervised rest breaks, stop the timer for the break, keep the booklet closed and restart the timer afterwards. Breaks do not count towards the time.
- Practising with these arrangements does not mean they will be allowed in the real test: every access arrangement has to be agreed by the test organiser in advance.

Printing checklist

- Print at 100% ("actual size"), never "fit to page", single-sided on A4.
- Check the four black squares in the corners of each answer sheet and the QR code are printed clearly: they are used for online marking.

- Large print: print the large-print booklet on A4 and the answer sheet on A3 ("fit to page" is fine on A3).
- If your child uses tinted paper or an overlay at school, you can print the booklets on paper of the same colour.

25 questions · 25 minutes, plus a short warm-up

Give your child the question booklet, its answer sheet and two sharpened pencils. Check the answer sheet matches the paper.

> *Say:* **Do not open your booklet until I tell you. Listen while I read the front cover.**

Read the boxed instructions on the front cover aloud, word for word.

> *Say:* **You may write your working in the spaces in this booklet, but not on any other paper. When a section ends, you must not go back to it. Now open your booklet and turn to the first section.**

English

> *Say:* **This section is English. Follow the instructions while I read them: Read the story carefully, then answer the questions. You may look back at the story as often as you like. Then answer the spelling, punctuation and grammar questions.**

> *Say:* **Now we will do the practice questions, P1 and P2, together. Try each one first, then we will check it.**

This practice is not timed. Let your child try each one, then go through the answer.

P1	**B**	The mistake is in group B. "slowley" should be "slowly": slow + ly.
P2	**B**	The mistake is in group B. Items in a list need commas: "a map, a key, a note and an old coin".

> *Say:* **Do you have any questions? Once the test starts, I will not be able to help you with any of the questions.**

> *Say:* **Turn over. You have 8 minutes for this section. Work as quickly and carefully as you can. If you cannot answer a question, go on to the next one. Start now.**

*Start the timer for **8 minutes** (10 minutes with 25% extra time). Do not help or hint. When 5 minutes are left, say: **"You have 5 minutes left."** When it ends:*

> *Say:* **Stop. Put your pencil down. You must not go back to this section.**

Verbal Reasoning

> *Say:* **This section is Verbal Reasoning. Follow the instructions while I read them: There are different kinds of questions. Read the instructions for each kind carefully.**

Say: **Now we will do the practice questions, P1, together. Try each one first, then we will check it.**

This practice is not timed. Let your child try each one, then go through the answer.

P1	**D**	The first letters move 1 each time; the second letters move -1 each time.

Say: **Do you have any questions? Once the test starts, I will not be able to help you with any of the questions.**

Say: **Turn over. You have 6 minutes for this section. Work as quickly and carefully as you can. If you cannot answer a question, go on to the next one. Start now.**

*Start the timer for **6 minutes** (8 minutes with 25% extra time). Do not help or hint. When 5 minutes are left, say: **"You have 5 minutes left."** When it ends:*

Say: **Stop. Put your pencil down. You must not go back to this section.**

Non-verbal Reasoning

Say: **This section is Non-verbal Reasoning. Follow the instructions while I read them: Look carefully at the figures. Read the instruction above each question.**

Say: **Turn over. You have 4 minutes for this section. Work as quickly and carefully as you can. If you cannot answer a question, go on to the next one. Start now.**

*Start the timer for **4 minutes** (5 minutes with 25% extra time). Do not help or hint. When it ends:*

Say: **Stop. Put your pencil down. You must not go back to this section.**

Mathematics

Say: **This section is Mathematics. Follow the instructions while I read them: Answer each question. You may use the spaces on these pages for working out. Calculators are not allowed.**

Say: **Now we will do the practice questions, P1, together. Try each one first, then we will check it.**

This practice is not timed. Let your child try each one, then go through the answer.

P1	**B**	90 × 8 = 720 and 3 × 8 = 24. Total 744. Watch out for 734: you get that if you make a slip adding the two parts (it is 10 too few).

Say: **Do you have any questions? Once the test starts, I will not be able to help you with any of the questions.**

Say: **Turn over. You have 7 minutes for this section. Work as quickly and carefully as you can. If you cannot answer a question, go on to the next one. Start now.**

*Start the timer for **7 minutes** (9 minutes with 25% extra time). Do not help or hint. When 5 minutes are left, say: **"You have 5 minutes left."** When it ends:*

> *Say:* **Stop. Put your pencil down. You must not go back to this section.**

> *Say:* **Close your booklet. That is the end of this paper.**

Afterwards

Praise the effort, not the score. Mark the answer sheet with the answer key (or online, where available), and choose one or two topics to practise next.