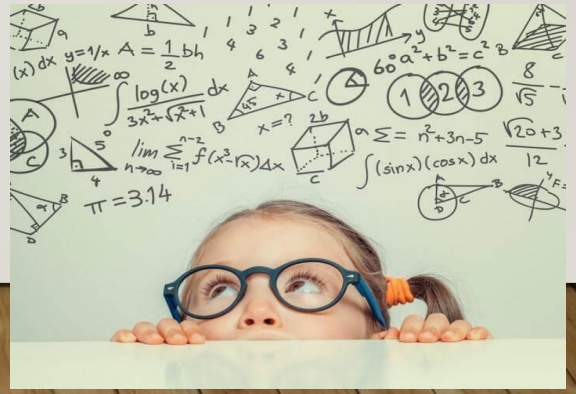
WHAT IS THE MULTIPLICATION TABLES CHECK?

- The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether Year 4 pupils can fluently recall their multiplication tables.
- 2022 will be the first year that the test is mandatory for schools.
- *There is no pass mark and children will not be required to resit the test if they don't get*
- *a high enough score.*



The times tables check is online and on-screen

It's been confirmed that the test will be fully digital and take place on screen.

It will be available to use on laptops, desktops and tablets.

As a school we use iPads as this is the easiest and quickest way for the children to respond.

Children will have a chance to practise ahead of the test, knowing the format and speed of questions

The MTC will only present children with multiplication statements not division

Year 4 children will only face multiplication statements in the check.

The check will take place in June each year

There will be 3-week window in June – there is no set day to take it

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. We will build in time for this familiarisation, so the check style is not 'new' when children take the actual check.

It'll take less than 5 minutes per pupil

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 x 9) they will be recorded as having answered 8 x 9 as 7.

Children will face 25 questions

The number of questions has been confirmed at 25. Children will be presented with 25 questions with a 3 second pause in-between each question, before the next one appears on screen.

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.

Children will enter their answer by pressing digits using a touchscreen

It is vital that children are able to rapidly recall multiplication facts, and can do so ‘out of sequence’ (i.e. answer 6 x 7 without having to count in 6’s from 0).

They need to be able to rapidly recall their multiplication facts – this will help them to calculate in other areas of maths as well (especially in the arithmetic test in Y6 SAT’s)

As the facts have to be read by the child (rather than being read to them), it is also important that children are used to giving the correct answer to multiplication questions in a written format, rather than only answering questions out loud

There will not be an equal spread of each multiplication table within the check

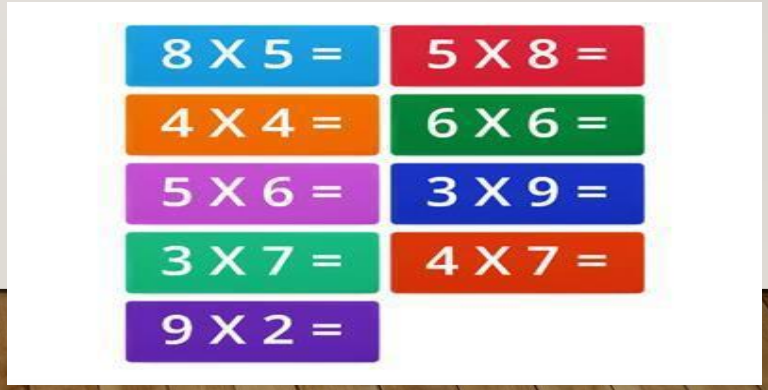
The check has been designed to focus on times tables that fit within the KS2 national curriculum.
By the end of Year 3, children must be fluent in the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 times tables, and then by the end of Year 4 it's those tables plus the 6, 7, 9, 11, 12.

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 always be questions from the 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 multiplication tables in each test.

There will be no questions from the 1 times table (i.e 1 x 8 or 8 x 1)

There will only be a maximum of 7 questions from the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

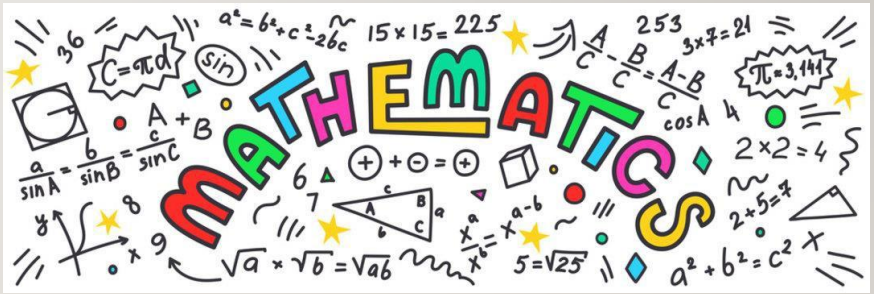


It is important that children understand that 8 x 3 (8, three times) is the same as 3 x 8 (3, eight times.) Therefore, if children have made this conceptual connection, it effectively reduces the number of unique facts children need to remember, and helps children answer questions such as 8 x 4, which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

Eleven facts are more likely to appear than others

- 6 x 6, 6 x 7, 6 x 8, 6 x 9, 6 x 12
- 7 x 8, 7 x 9, 7 x 12
- 8 x 9, 8 x 12
- 12 x 12

and their commutative equivalents



Results will be available at the end of the 3-week window

There is no 'Pass' rate or threshold

National and Local Authority results will also be published

From 2020, the DfE were expecting to 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.

What if my child cannot access the check?

There are several access arrangements available for the check, these can be used to support pupils with specific needs. Your child's teacher will ensure that the access arrangements are appropriate for your child before they take the check in June.

The check has been designed so that it is inclusive and accessible to as many children as possible, including those with special educational needs or disability (SEND) or English as an additional language (EAL).

However, there may be some circumstances in which it will not be appropriate for a pupil to take the check, even when using suitable access arrangements.

What can I do to support my child at home?

Complete the times tables homework sent by the teachers

Play times tables games online to help support inputting answers in to a given format

Practise 3 x 7 is the same as 7 x 3, 6 x 8 is the same as 8 x 6

Singing tables is great – but remember they will be putting in an answer not just rote learning as a pattern

https://urbrainy.com/mtc

https://www.mathshed.com/en-gb/mtc