

Post Primary Transfer Consortium (PPTC)

Practice Papers and Answer Keys *(P3 English version; P4 Gaeilge)*

A Guide for Parents

PPTC and GL Assessment have worked together to produce two official Practice Papers (one testing English and one which tests Mathematics) along with Answer Sheets for pupils to use and Answer Keys for parents. Parents can be assured that these are official PPTC/GL Practice Papers and Answer Sheets, commissioned by PPTC and produced by GL Assessment because these papers and the Answer Sheets have the GL Assessment logo on the front page. Gaeilge versions of the Practice Papers and Answer Sheets were also produced.

You should be aware that there are no Practice Papers produced by any other company which have been commissioned by PPTC or approved by GL Assessment. It is easy to spot a “Practice Paper” which is not actually an approved PPTC/GL Practice Paper because it will not have the GL Assessment logo.

About the Practice Papers:

PPTC met with Primary Principals and Parents as part of the process of planning for the 2021 Entrance Assessment. Both groups indicated that they would welcome full Practice Papers to sit alongside the Familiarisation Materials which form part of the Registration Pack available on the PPTC website (www.pptcni.com). The practice papers produced were based on the format and specification of the 2021-22 Entrance Assessment and are also valid for the 2022-23 Entrance Assessment.

English Practice Paper:

The English Practice Paper begins with a “Practice Test” section which consists of a short passage, entitled “Caves” followed by 3 comprehension questions. Then there is a short Punctuation Exercise which has 3 questions and lastly a short Spelling Exercise which has 4 questions.

The purpose of the Practice Test is to give boys and girls the opportunity to settle and actually practise answering, on the Answer Sheet, types of questions which occur in the Main Test. Answers in the Practice Test do not count towards the overall “score”. Only the Main Test is used.

Following the Practice Test is the “Main Test”. This is set out in a very similar way to an actual Entrance Assessment with two reading passages each followed by 16 comprehension questions. After one of these sections, there are 9 questions testing punctuation and, after the other comprehension section, a further 9 questions testing spelling.

Maths Practice Paper:

The Mathematics Practice Paper begins with a “Practice Test” section which consists of 9 questions.

The purpose of the Practice Test is to give boys and girls the opportunity to settle and actually practise answering, on the Answer Sheet, types of questions which occur in the Main Test. Answers in the Practice Test do not count towards the overall “score”. Only the Main Test is used.

Following the Practice Test is the “Main Test”. This is set out in a very similar way to an actual Entrance Assessment with 45 questions covering different areas from the Mathematics Specification.

How the Practice Papers can be used:

There are essentially two approaches to using the practice papers:

- 1) Using them to gain experience at sitting PPTC/GL type Assessment papers and Answer Sheets under timed “examination” conditions.
- 2) Using them to gain experience at answering PPTC/GL type questions, using the Answer Sheets.

In both approaches it is really important that pupils are reminded to read the instructions very carefully. They should have an HB pencil to write their answers with and a blank page for rough work.

Under approach **2** a pupil could attempt a full paper in one session or spread their work out over several sessions. The paper would not need to be timed. The parent or person supervising the pupil could use the Practice Test part to check that the pupil has been filling in the Answer Sheet correctly. That means answering Question 1 in the Question 1 box, Question 2 in the Question 2 box etc. and making sure that the little horizontal lines which the pupil uses to answer the questions are drawn in the little spaces provided.

Sometime after a Paper has been completed you can use the Answer Key to check over each answer. Although there may be a temptation to simply count the number of correct answers it is more helpful to also look at any questions which have been answered incorrectly and go over what the correct answer is and why.

Under approach **1** the Practice Test part can also be used to check that the pupil has been filling in the Answer Sheet correctly before he / she starts the Main Test.

The main difference between **1** and **2** is that, in approach **1**, the Main Test will be timed.

In the English Practice Paper 50 minutes should be allowed to answer the 50 questions and the pupil should be able to see a clock. He / she can be told at the start of the 50 minutes the time at which the test will end. The pupil should be allowed to work quietly through the paper. After 25 minutes you can indicate the time and after 40 minutes say something like “you have 10 minutes left”.

In the Maths Practice Paper 45 minutes should be allowed to answer the 45 questions. Again, if the test is being timed the pupil should be able to see a clock. After 25 minutes you can indicate the time and after 35 minutes say something like “you have 10 minutes left”.

Pupils who will be allowed additional time in the Entrance Assessment should also be allowed extra time in the Practice Paper.

Advice to pupils when using a Practice Paper and Answer Sheet:

- You may not be able to do all the questions, but try to do as many as you can. If you are not sure of the answer, choose the one you think is best.
- Make sure you keep your place on the Answer Sheet. Find the box with the correct question number, then find the letter you have chosen as your answer and draw a line in the box beside the letter.
- Remember to draw a firm line, in pencil, clearly in the box to make your answer. If you make a mistake, rub it out as completely as you can and put in your new answer.

PPTC PRACTICE PAPERS ANSWER KEY (English version)

ENGLISH:

Practice Test:

P 1 B P 2 D P 3 E

P 4 C P 5 N P 6 D

P 7 B P 8 D P 9 N P10 A

Main Test:

Comprehension 1:

Q 1 D Q 2 D Q 3 C Q 4 C Q 5 C Q 6 D Q 7 B Q 8 A Q 9 C Q10 A
Q11 E Q12 B Q13 A Q14 E Q15 B Q16 D

Punctuation Exercise:

Q17 D Q18 B Q19 N Q20 C Q21 A Q22 B Q23 A Q24 C Q25 N

Comprehension 2:

Q26 E Q27 B Q28 C Q29 B Q30 A Q31 C Q32 E Q33 D Q34 B Q35 C
Q36 D Q37 A Q38 D Q39 E Q40 B Q41 A

Spelling Exercise:

Q42 D Q43 A Q44 B Q45 B Q46 N Q47 C Q48 D Q49 B Q50 A

MATHEMATICS:

Practice Test:

P 1 E P 2 E P 3 D P 4 B P 5 E P 6 D P 7 B P 8 A P 9 D

Main Test:

Q 1 D Q 2 C Q 3 E Q 4 B Q 5 B Q 6 A Q 7 A Q 8 B Q 9 E Q10 B
Q11 C Q12 E Q13 C Q14 B Q15 B Q16 C Q17 C Q18 C Q19 A Q20 D
Q21 C Q22 D Q23 A Q24 A Q25 C Q26 C Q27 B Q28 B Q29 D Q30 B
Q31 B Q32 A Q33 C Q34 B Q35 C Q36 E Q37 C Q38 C Q39 D Q40 B
Q41 B Q42 C Q43 C Q44 A Q45 B

EOCHAIR FREAGRAÍ DO PHÁIPÉAR SAMPLACH PPTC

GAEILGE

Teist Chleachta

c 1 A c 2 A c 3 A

c 4 B c 5 C c 6 N

c 7 C c 8 C c 9 B c10 N

Príomhtheist

Triail Tuisceana 1

C 1 C C 2 A C 3 E C 4 D C 5 A C 6 C C 7 E C 8 B C 9 D C10 E

C11 D C12 D C13 A C14 D C15 B C16 C

Poncaíocht:

C17 B C18D C19C C20 N C21 C C22 A C23 N C24 A C25 C

Triail Tuisceana 2:

C26 A C27 D C28 A C29 C C30 E C31 B C32 D C33 D C34 B C35 A

C36 C C37 E C38 A C39 C C40 E C41 B

Litriú :

C42 B C43 D C44 B C45 N C46 A C47 A C48 D C49 D C50 B

MATAMAITIC

Teist Chleachta

c 1 E c 2 E c 3 D c 4 B c 5 E c 6 D c 7 B c 8 A c 9 D

Príomhtheist

C 1 D C 2 C C 3 E C 4 B C 5 B C 6 A C 7 A C 8 B C 9 E C10 B

C11 C C12 E C13 C C14 B C15 B C16 C C17 C C18 C C19 A C20 D

C21 C C22 D C23 A C24 A C25 C C26 C C27 B C28 B C29 D C30 B

C31 B C32 A C33 C C34 B C35 C C36 E C37 C C38 C C39 D C40 B

C41 B C42 C C43 C C44 A C45 B