

Year 5 11+ Parent Information Evening

10th February 2026

What is the 11+?

- Most secondary schools in the UK are comprehensive - they're non-selective and accept children of all abilities. But in some areas, selective state secondary schools (grammar schools) still exist.
- These schools select their pupils based on academic ability. The 11+ test is used to determine if a child is suitable for grammar school.
- In Lincolnshire, the test will take place in September (VR and NVR GL Assessment / NFER)
- They will take the test in the schools- Kings, KGGS, Carres, Sleaford Girls. You will need to register for your child to sit the 11+ test.
- Everyone has to fill in a secondary school application form when their child is in the Autumn term of Year 6. List schools in your order of preference, putting all the grammar schools first. As a back-up option, include at least one non-selective state secondary school where your child is likely to get a place.

What is the 11+?

- The maximum standardised score is 282. The pass marks are usually around 80%, with King's and KGGS pass mark being 220.
- If the schools are oversubscribed, the school will usually apply the following criteria, giving priority to:
 - Looked After or previously Looked After child
 - Children whose sibling attends the school at the time of application
 - Children in receipt of Pupil Premium who achieved the minimum qualifying standard in the entrance test and who live within 12 miles of the school
 - Children of staff
 - Children living nearest to the school.

Deadlines and Dates

Date	Action/outcome		
Wed 07 January 2026	Registration for the LCGS 11+ testing in September opens. Information made available on individual school and LCGS websites	Fri 09 October 2026	11+ results emailed to parents at 12:00 (midday)
Tue 31 March 2026	Deadline for registration forms to be returned to the individual Grammar Schools	Fri 09 October 2026	11+ results emailed to primary schools at 16:00
Fri 26 June 2026	Deadline for Familiarisation Materials to be received by Primary Schools	Sat 31 October 2026	Closing date for Lincolnshire Local Authority Applications (Out of County Closing Dates may vary)
Mon 07 September 2026	Primary Schools provide all LA Secondary Transfer documents to parents.	Mon 01 March 2027	Allocation of places by the Local Authority (National Offer Day)
Fri 11 or Sat 12 September 2026	First 11+ Test – Verbal Reasoning	Mon 01 March 2027	Follow-up letter posted by Grammar Schools (if posted)
Fri 18 or Sat 19 September 2026	Second 11+ Test – Non-Verbal Reasoning and Spatial Awareness	Tue 02 March 2027	Follow-up e-mail sent by Grammar School (if electronic)

Verbal Reasoning

- Verbal Reasoning (VR) is used to test a child's potential – not just how well a child can learn.
- Verbal Reasoning tests a child's ability to solve problems by using logic to answer a variety of different question types. Verbal Reasoning requires very good maths skills, a good understanding of grammar and a wide vocabulary.
- The best way to improve vocabulary is to read lots – preferably out loud to an adult. Pay particular attention to unknown words and ensure that your child understands the meaning of all the words – don't presume – ask. Maybe make a list of unknown words and have them look them up in a good children's dictionary/thesaurus. Pay particular attention to words that have more than one meaning – such as 'contract' and 'suspend'.
- There are lists of common words that come up in past papers.

Non-Verbal Reasoning

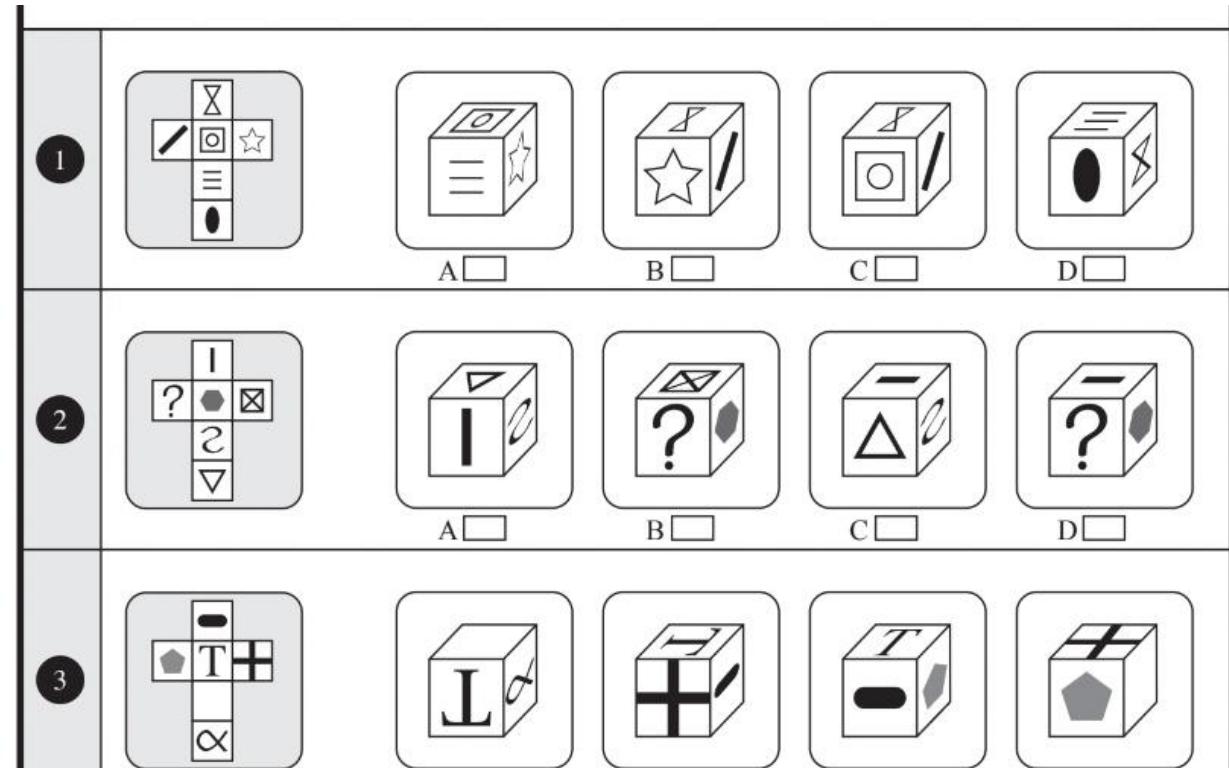
- Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR) is used to test a child's ability to logically work out problems which are shown pictorially as sequences of shapes.
- It tests skills like direction, orientation, and code-breaking.

A J	B K	A L	C J

	A J	B L	A K	C L	B J
a	b	c	d	e	

Spatial Awareness

- Spatial reasoning assesses your child's ability to interpret patterns within shape and space, often with a three-dimensional component.



Planning and Preparation

- There are usually three stages of preparation for an 11+ test:
 - 1) Learning how to recognise each question type and learning strategies to solve them.
 - 2) Doing lots of practice of each question type (concentrating on any difficult areas and improving speed and accuracy).
 - 3) Doing practice tests to develop test technique.
- Ideally, your child should be working at 11+ standard well before they sit the test. If your child is continually struggling with 11+ preparation and is unable to progress from answering lower-level questions, it might be worth considering whether or not your child is suited to grammar school. Children who don't pass the 11+ test often go on to be very successful in non-selective secondary schools. Reassure your child that they can still be happy at whichever school they go to, and that their test scores are not a measure of their worth. Encourage them not to compare themselves with other children taking the test, or with siblings who may have already gone through the 11+.



Dealing with Stress

- Children react to stress in different ways, but look out for symptoms like tiredness, loss of appetite, depression, withdrawal, stomach aches or headaches. If you spot any of these signs, talk to your child and find out what's bothering them.
- They might be stressed about other things too - Year 6 can be a worrying time for children, even if they're not taking the 11+. Many schools focus heavily on SATs and the thought of secondary school can be pretty daunting.
- Make sure your child keeps the test in perspective - if they're not offered a place at a selective school, it doesn't mean that they're less intelligent than other children, or that they're a failure - the 11+ only measures a few specific abilities.

Dealing with Stress

- The period leading up to the 11+ tests can be stressful, especially if you or your child feel strongly about your choice of school. If your child is spending a lot of their free time preparing for the tests, they might become tired and uncooperative. Keep a close eye on your child's behaviour and stress levels. Remember that your work plan is flexible – add breaks, games and activities into your child's study time to break up their work. Try adding time off and rewards into your work plan to keep them motivated.
- Choose small rewards to suit your child – things like sticker charts can help. It's important to stay positive about the 11+, but be realistic about your child's chances of passing. The tests are highly competitive, and there's always a chance that they won't pass, no matter how bright they are. Remember that school is what you make it, and a positive attitude is important in making sure that your child is happy and successful at whichever school they go to.
- Remember...you do NOT have to take the 11+!

Resources for you...

- [CGP-11plus-Parents-Guide \(cgpbooks.co.uk\)](https://www.cgphub.co.uk/11plus/parents-guide)
- [cgp-11plus-gl-nvr-free-practice-test \(cgpbooks.co.uk\)](https://www.cgphub.co.uk/11plus/gl/nvr-free-practice-test)
- [cgp-11plus-gl-vr-free-practice-test \(cgpbooks.co.uk\)](https://www.cgphub.co.uk/11plus/gl/vr-free-practice-test)
- <https://11plus.gl-assessment.co.uk/>
- <https://www.exampapersplus.co.uk/kesteven-grantham-girls-school-11-plus-11-exam-information/>
- <https://www.kings.lincs.sch.uk/11plusfaq>
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