

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS · YEARS 4, 5 AND 6

The 11+ guide for Hackney families

What the 11+ is, what each part of the test looks like, which schools Hackney children can apply to, and when to start.

Every part explained
Maths, English, verbal and non-verbal reasoning — with example questions.

Schools and dates
Which schools take Hackney children, and a timeline from Year 4.

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THE BASICS

What is the 11+?

An entrance test for some secondary schools.

The short answer

Some secondary schools choose pupils by a test, called the **11+**. Children sit it at the **start of Year 6**, usually in September. Schools then offer places to the children with the highest scores.

There are **no grammar schools in Hackney**, but Hackney children can apply to some selective schools nearby — see page 3.

The four kinds of question

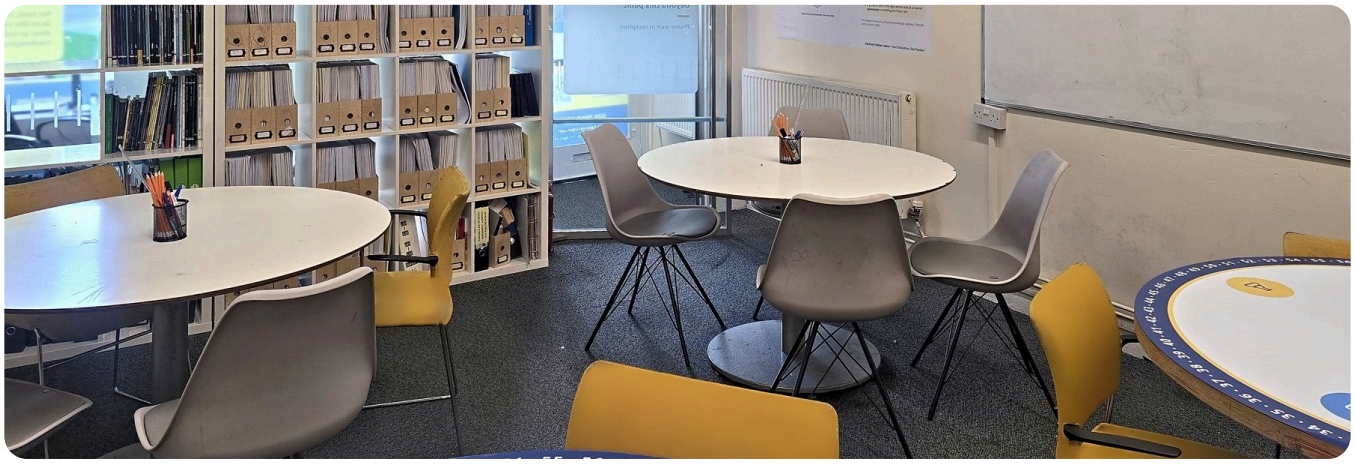
Maths
Arithmetic and problem solving, often beyond Year 5 work. *Page 4*

English
Reading comprehension, vocabulary, spelling — and sometimes writing. *Page 4*

Verbal reasoning
Puzzles with words, letters and number codes. *Page 5*

Non-verbal reasoning
Puzzles with shapes, patterns and pictures. *Page 6*

Each school chooses which of these to test. Most questions are **multiple choice**, answered on a separate answer sheet, and the test is **timed** — so speed and accuracy both matter.



Not the Hackney banding test. Most Year 6 children applying to Hackney schools also sit a cognitive ability test (CAT) in the autumn. It is not pass or fail — it gives each school a mix of abilities.

SCHOOLS

Schools your child can apply to

Always check each school's latest rules before you register.

The Latymer School

Edmonton · boys and girls · 192 places

Open to Hackney Only children living in its listed postcodes can get a place. These include the Hackney postcodes **E2, E5, E8, E9, N1 (not N1C) and N16**.

Test from September 2027: maths, English and a piece of writing. Some places are set aside for children on Free School Meals or Universal Credit.

Queen Elizabeth's School

Barnet · boys only · 180 places

No catchment Boys can apply from anywhere, but it is a long journey from Hackney. Test: English and maths, multiple choice.

Ilford County High and Woodford County High

Redbridge

Hard from Hackney Children outside Redbridge's catchment can sit the test, but in recent years places have gone to children living inside it. Test includes verbal and non-verbal reasoning.

The Henrietta Barnett School

Barnet · girls only

Hard from Hackney Priority goes to girls living within three miles of the school.

Independent (private) schools

Fees, but bursaries Many set their own 11+ exam, often with reasoning papers and an interview. Most offer bursaries for families on lower incomes.



From each school's published admissions details for 2027–2028 entry. Rules and tests can change every year.

INSIDE THE TEST

Maths and English

The core of almost every 11+ test.

Maths

Key Stage 2 maths, asked in trickier ways and against the clock.

1 · Arithmetic

EXAMPLE A book costs £4.75. How much do 4 books cost?

2 · Fractions

EXAMPLE What is ¾ of 60?

3 · Problem solving

EXAMPLE Sam is three times as old as Ali. In 4 years' time, their ages will add up to 32. How old is Ali now?

English

Children read a passage and answer questions about it — including what the writer *suggests*, not just what it says. Vocabulary, spelling and punctuation are tested too.

4 · Comprehension

EXAMPLE "Maya pushed her plate away and stared out of the rain-streaked window." How is Maya probably feeling?

A excited | B fed up | C hungry | D sleepy

5 · Spelling

EXAMPLE Which word is spelt correctly?

A neccessary | B necesary | C necessary | D nessesary

6 · Writing

Some schools, including Latymer, ask for a short story or description, written in the test. Neat planning, interesting vocabulary and correct punctuation all count.

Answers: 1 · £19.00 2 · 45 3 · Ali is 6 4 · B 5 · C

INSIDE THE TEST

Verbal reasoning

Puzzles that use words, letters and numbers.

Verbal reasoning tests how well your child **thinks with language**. It is not taught in most schools, so the question types can be new to children. A strong vocabulary and plenty of practice make the biggest difference.

1 · Hidden words

A word is hidden across the end of one word and the start of the next.

EXAMPLE Find the four-letter word: *The children played with bats and balls.*

2 · Letter codes

Letters are moved along the alphabet by a rule. Your child works out the rule.

EXAMPLE If CAT is written as DBU, how is DOG written?

3 · Closest meaning

Choose the word that means the same, or the opposite.

EXAMPLE Which word means the same as **rapid**?

slow | quick | heavy | quiet

4 · Number sequences

Find the rule, then the next number.

EXAMPLE 2, 5, 11, 23, ?

5 · Letter sequences

Find the pattern in pairs of letters.

EXAMPLE AB, DE, GH, ?



Answers: 1 · sand (bat**s and**) 2 · EPH (each letter moves on one) 3 · quick 4 · 47 (double, then add 1) 5 · JK

INSIDE THE TEST

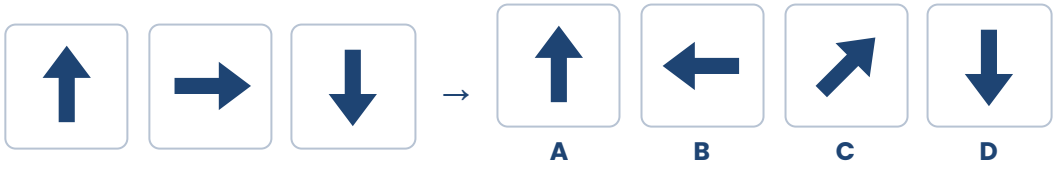
Non-verbal reasoning

Puzzles that use shapes and pictures.

Non-verbal reasoning tests how well your child **spots patterns** — in shapes, turns, sizes and shading — without using words. Children who find reading harder often shine here. Speed comes with practice.

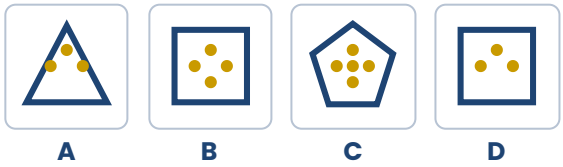
1 · What comes next?

The shapes change by a rule. Which option comes next?



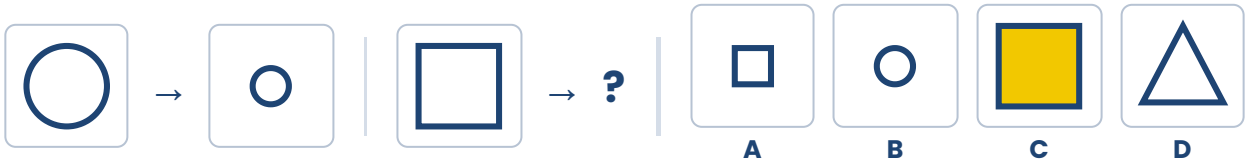
2 · Odd one out

Three shapes follow a rule. Which one does not?



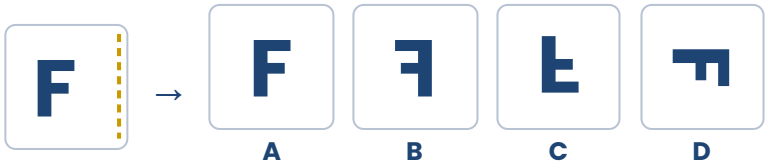
3 · Analogies

The first pair are linked. Which option completes the second pair in the same way?



4 · Reflections

Which option shows the shape reflected in the dashed mirror line?



Answers: 1 · B (the arrow turns a quarter turn clockwise each time) 2 · D (dots should match the number of sides) 3 · A (it gets smaller) 4 · B

PLANNING AHEAD

When to start, and how we help

Starting in Year 4 gives your child the most time.

The 11+ timeline

Year 4 — a great time to start

Build strong maths, reading and vocabulary, and meet reasoning questions without pressure.

Year 5, from September

Focused 11+ practice. Visit the schools' open events.

Year 5, March to July

Register for the test. Each school has its own window — Latymer is usually March to early June, Queen Elizabeth's May to July.

Summer holidays

Timed practice papers, so the format feels normal.

Year 6, September

Test day. Results usually by the end of October.

By 31 October

Apply for secondary schools through Hackney Council, including the 11+ schools.

Early March

National Offer Day.

How we prepare your child

1. **Free 11+ assessment** to find their starting point.
2. **Tell us your target schools** — we match their tests.
3. **Work at their level** in all four areas, with our own material.
4. **Practice papers and timing,** so test day feels familiar.
5. **Regular feedback,** so you see their progress.





6 ways to help at home

1 Read every day
20 minutes a day builds vocabulary and comprehension.

2 Know times tables
Quick recall up to 12 × 12 saves time on every maths question.

3 Play word games
Crosswords, word searches and "what does it mean?" help verbal reasoning.

4 Do shape puzzles
Jigsaws, Lego and spot-the-difference build non-verbal skills.

5 Practise against the clock
From the summer of Year 5, so speed feels normal.

6 Keep it calm
Praise effort, not just scores.

Book a FREE 11+ assessment

Scan the code, visit hackneytuition.com or call us.

020 7018 1260

Give your child the best opportunity to succeed