2026 Entrance Assessment Format (at a glance)

Overview

- The Entrance Assessment consists of two papers – pupils sit both
- **Paper 1 - Saturday 14th November 2026 (AM)**
- **Paper 2 - Saturday 21st November 2026 (AM)**
- Both papers assess English (or Gaeilge) and Mathematics
- Both papers have an identical format consisting of 3 Sections
- Section 1, the Practice Test, is not timed – only the Main Test is timed
- Pupils may begin their Main Test by starting with English (or Gaeilge) questions or by starting with Maths questions.

Section 1 – The Practice Test

- 5 English (or Gaeilge) questions
- 5 Maths questions
- Questions designed to help pupils settle before the Main Test begins
- The Practice Test Section does not count towards the overall Assessment marks

Section 2 – The English (or Gaeilge) Main Test

- 28 questions (*Q1-Q28*)
- **Punctuation Exercise** (5 multiple choice questions)
- **Grammar Exercise** (5 multiple choice questions)
- **Spelling Exercise** (5 multiple choice questions)
- **English (or Gaeilge) Comprehension.**
- Pupils read a passage- then answer 13 questions (*Q16-Q28*)
- *Q16-Q22* multiple choice
- *Q23-Q28* free response
- *NB Spelling is only assessed in the Spelling Exercise*

Section 3 – The Maths Main Test

- 28 questions (*Q29-Q56*)
- *Q29-Q50* multiple choice
- *Q51-Q56* free response

Other

- **60 minutes to answer the 56 questions in the Main Test**
  (unless additional time has been approved as an Access Arrangement)
- Each question is worth 1 mark
- Each multiple choice question has 5 possible answers
- Answer sheet is provided – see practice materials

Practice Materials *(available free to download)*

- **Practice Papers 1 and 2-** set out the format very clearly
- **Answer Sheets 1 and 2 -** double sided with clear spaces for every answer
- **Parents' Guide -** further details of format + answers to every question