

The 11 plus exam, region by region: provider, papers, 2026 dates, pass marks

Tests sat in September 2026 for entry in September 2027, from the councils' and schools' published timetables; confirm each on the official admissions page. Everywhere: Common Application Form by 31 October 2026; offers 1 March 2027.

Area	Provider	Papers	Registration	Test 2026	Results	Pass / qualifying
Kent (Kent Test)	GL	English, maths, reasoning (VR, NVR, spatial); writing task for panels	1 June to 1 July	Thu 10 Sept; 12 or 13 Sept out-of-county	15 Oct	2025: aggregate 332 of three standardised scores, with a minimum on each; set yearly
Buckinghamshire	GL	VR, NVR, maths	1 May to 2 June	Practice Tue 8 Sept; test Thu 10 Sept	9 Oct	Qualifying 121 combined; then school criteria
Essex (CSSE)	CSSE	English and maths, standard answer	Spring, summer	Sept or Oct	Oct	Ranked; each school's cut-off
Birmingham, W. Midlands consortium	GL	VR, NVR, maths, English	Spring, summer	Sept	Oct	Ranked; pupil-premium share
Lincolnshire	GL	VR, NVR	Summer	Sept	Oct	Qualifying score set yearly
Gloucestershire	GL	VR, NVR, maths, English	Summer	Sat 12 Sept	Oct	Ranked
Trafford	GL	Varies by school	Summer	Sept	Oct	Each school's own
Sutton (SET)	GL	English, maths; 2nd stage at some schools	June	Tue 15 Sept	Oct	Ranked
Redbridge	GL	VR, NVR, maths	To 15 June	Fri 18 Sept	Oct	Ranked
Bexley	GL	VR, NVR, maths, English	Summer	Sept	Oct	Qualifying score set yearly
Henrietta Barnett	GL	Round 1 reasoning, maths; round 2 English, maths	Summer	2 to 4 Sept; 5 Oct	Autumn	Ranked
Independents (London, national)	Own / ISEB	English, maths, reasoning, interview	Autumn Year 6	Nov 2026 to Jan 2027	Jan to Feb	School's own

Who sets it now

[] GL Assessment: nearly every grammar school area; CEM (Durham) withdrew after 2022 and its areas moved to GL

[] CSSE: Essex's own English and maths papers (the only grammar area with real past papers)

[] Independent schools: their own papers, the ISEB Common Pre-Test (online, adaptive, shared), or Cambridge Select Insight (about 20 to 25 schools)

How the scores work, and the timeline from Year 4

Standardised scores

- [] Each paper is standardised for age in months and scaled: average 100, about two thirds of children between 85 and 115; raw marks are not reported
- [] Qualifying areas (Bucks 121, Kent's aggregate, Bexley, Lincolnshire): reach the mark, then the school's criteria (distance, catchment, siblings) decide
- [] Ranked areas (Birmingham, Sutton, Redbridge, Gloucestershire, CSSE): places in score order; the mark needed is what the last child offered scored
- [] In the most sought-after schools the last child offered usually scored above 120: a qualifying mark is the floor, not the target

The timeline: tick each step

When	What	Done
Year 4	Decide whether the 11 plus suits the child (top groups, puzzles, reading, a school in reach). Read widely. No papers yet	[]
Year 5, autumn	Find the test your area or schools use; start taught preparation: maths a year ahead, VR types one a week, a book a week	[]
Year 5, spring	The official familiarisation papers; the first timed paper for pace; open days	[]
Year 5, May to July	Register (Bucks by 2 June, Kent by 1 July; no late entries). Two timed papers a week in the last half term	[]
Summer holidays	A paper a week, vocabulary daily, reading; nothing in the last week	[]
Year 6, September	The test	[]
Year 6, October	Results; the Common Application Form by 31 October, schools in preference order	[]
Nov to Jan	Independent school tests and interviews, if applying	[]
1 March 2027	Offers; appeals and waiting lists	[]

Your child's test

Area or school, and provider: _____

Papers and timings: _____

Registration opens / closes: _____

Test date: _____

Results, and the pass or qualifying mark last year: _____

From

sciencewithshobha.com/blog/11-plus-exam-what-it-is-who-sets-it-region-by-region-dates-for-2026-and-2027-what-is-tested-scores-and-pass-marks-and-a-timeline-from-year-4/