

Selective school tutoring: the year-by-year plan and a weekly tracker

When to start, and how many hours a week

Test	Sat in	Start taught preparation	Hours a week	Before that
NSW Opportunity Class	May, Year 4	Start of Year 4	1 to 2	Reading at home; Year 3 maths secure
NSW Selective High School	May, Year 6	Start of Year 5	2, then 3 in Year 6	Maths a year ahead; a book a week
WA ASET	March, Year 6	Start of Year 5	2, then 3 in Term 4	The same
Victorian selective entry	June, Year 8	Start of Year 7	2, then 3 in Term 1 of Year 8	Maths ahead; wide reading; essays
SEAL (Victoria)	June to Aug, Year 6	Start of Year 5	1 to 2	Reading; maths ahead

The plan for the NSW test (shift by two years for Victoria)

When	Mathematics	Reasoning	Reading and writing	Done
Year 4	Secure the year; OC preparation if wanted	Puzzles, not tests	A book a week; a paragraph on it	[]
Year 5, T1 to T2	A year ahead: the Year 6 strand in order	Thinking skills, one type a week, untimed	A book a week; one timed piece a fortnight, marked to the criteria	[]
Year 5, T3 to T4	The four-step problem-solving method on multi-step problems	Mixed sets of 10, loosely timed	Reading questions on real texts; the structure for each writing task	[]
Year 6, T1	Above year level: the separating items	Timed sets, 40 in 40 minutes, marked by type	One timed piece a week; vocabulary from reading	[]
Year 6, T2 to May	Full practice tests, fortnightly then weekly; errors by type between	The same	The last fortnight: confidence only	[]

Five checks before paying a tutor or college

- [] The tutor's qualification in mathematics shown, and who teaches the writing
- [] A diagnostic first: a timed set marked with the child before any plan is sold
- [] The method taught, not only tests marked: ask how a wrong reasoning question is handled
- [] The same tutor to the test, in writing; every class recorded or notes sent
- [] Monthly payment, no year in advance; an honest answer to 'is my child a candidate?'

The twelve-week tracker

One row a week. Reasoning set: the score out of 10 and the question types wrong. Maths: the topic taught. Writing: the piece and the criterion that cost most. Reading: the book.

Week	Reasoning set (/10, types wrong)	Maths topic	Writing piece (criterion to fix)	Book
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

Notes

The school visit (date, the child's view): _____

Preferences, in order: _____

Application opens / closes: _____

Test date: _____

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