MATHEMATICS EXAMINATIONS IN PRIMARY

Years 4 and 5: Half Yearly and Annual

Mental Mathematics Paper

Mental Mathematics will form part of the half-yearly and annual examinations for Year 4 and 5 and will carry 20% of the total marks. Teachers are encouraged to continue doing the mental practice on a regular basis for formative purposes, as indicated in the syllabus.

The Mental Paper has to be read out by the class teacher of the respective class. It is important that the teacher reads and follows the instructions on the Teacher’s Paper to ensure that the reading of the questions is carried out in a consistent way and in a way that enables children’s understanding.

The Mental paper is made up of twenty short questions which are read twice, in succession, by the class teacher. Code-switching is permitted only for giving out instructions before reading out the Mental paper. Instructions will therefore be read in both English and Maltese. The questions must be read out in English exactly as written. The questions are graded and divided into three sections. There are some easy questions at the beginning and some harder ones at the end.

The time interval between one question and another for answering each question in each section is as follows:
- the first 5 questions ….. 5 second intervals
- the next 10 questions ….. 10 second intervals
- the remaining 5 questions ….. 20 second intervals

The class teacher reading the mental paper must strictly adhere to these set intervals. The paper will be read out in English and no code-switching/mixing is allowed.

Guidelines for Year 4 and Year 5 teachers for Mental Mathematics practice for formative purposes.

It is recommended that each day’s Mathematics lesson shall begin with a whole class Mental Mathematics activity. Such activities are presented in the Mental Warm-up Activities book. The relevant pages to be used are referenced on the back of each Teacher Card. It is suggested that warm-up activities for Shape, Data and Measures are selected from the ‘Activity Bank’.

The ‘Main Teaching’ part of a Mathematics lesson and the ‘Plenary’ may also contain Mental Mathematics practice.

The Assessment Book proposes a set of ‘Oral questions’ for each teaching point. It also offers a set of ‘Practice activities’ which can also be adapted for Mental practice.

Classroom teachers should also ensure appropriate and best use of mathematical resources (inc. ICT) and programmes.

A list of mental questions for Year 4 and Year 5 may be downloaded from:

Below is a list of websites which can provide additional resources to the teacher.

http://www.amblesideprimary.com/ambleweb/quizies/brain1.htm
http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/maths/contents.htm
http://www.sgfl.org.uk/mathematics/primary/LearningandTeaching/Activities/mentalmathsallstrands
http://www.amblesideprimary.com/ambleweb/numeracy.htm
http://www.primaryonline.co.uk/sitetour/marthshort.html
http://www.netagency.co.uk/keyedin2/mental.html
http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/maths/number/mental_maths/play.shtml
http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/numbers/wholenumbers/addsubtract/mental/game.shtml
http://www.funnygames.co.uk/mental-arithmetic.htm
http://www.aplusmath.com/Games/HiddenPicture/HiddenPicture.php
http://primarygamesarena.com/Mental-Maths-puzzle-31399
http://www.topmarks.co.uk/EducationalGames.aspx?cat=16
http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/mathgames/Add%20Like%20Mad%20Math/AddLikeMad_easy.htm
http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm

Written Paper

The Mathematics Written paper will be spread over one examination session in both the Half Yearly and Annual examinations. Each examination session is 1 hour 15 minutes long and the examination paper carries 80% of the global marks.

The written paper covers all the four strands of the mathematics curriculum, that is, Number and Algebra; Measures, Shape and Space; Data Handling and Problem Solving.

The paper is made up of thirteen questions. The first question (a – j) will carry a total of 20 marks and will test simple basic skills. The next six questions will carry a total of 24 marks and will test the pupils’ mathematical competences in the four strands of the syllabus. The last six questions will have a total of 36 marks and will be more demanding non-routine questions. These questions will require the application of mathematical knowledge and reasoning to solve more challenging problems.