

# Annual Examinations Year 4 and Year 5 Mathematics Guidelines

The Annual Year 4 and Year 5 Mainstream Mathematics Papers consist of a mental paper and a written paper.

## **The Mental Mathematics Paper**

The Mental Mathematics Paper carries 20% of the total marks and is allotted 15 minutes.

In Years 4 and 5, the Mental Paper is 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 manner and in a way that enables children's understanding.

The Mental Mathematics Paper is made up of twenty short questions which are read to the students twice, in succession. Code-switching is permitted **only** for giving out instructions before reading out the Mental Mathematic Paper. No other code-switching/mixing or translation is allowed. Instructions will therefore be read in both English and Maltese. The questions must be read out in English **exactly as written**. Whilst the teacher is reading the questions, the students can jot down any information which they think is useful.

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.**

Even though all the questions can be worked out mentally, if the students need to do any working on the answer sheet, they will not be penalised.

**Note:** Teachers are encouraged to do mental practice on a regular basis for formative purposes, as indicated in the revised primary mathematics syllabus.

## The Written Mathematics Paper

The Mathematics Written Paper is allocated 1 hour 15 minutes 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, Measurement, Space and Shapes and Data Handling.

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

Boxes, similar to the one below, will feature in the written paper to encourage students to show their working. However, it is to be noted that students will not be penalised if they choose not to show any working. A correct answer scores full marks even if no working is shown.



Past Annual Mathematics Papers can be accessed through [curriculum.gov.mt](http://curriculum.gov.mt). As from 2014, the Marking Schemes for the Papers have also started being uploaded on the same website. Other resources can be downloaded from [primarymaths.skola.edu.mt](http://primarymaths.skola.edu.mt).

Furthermore, the Education Officer Ms Melanie Casha Sammut and the Mathematics Support Teachers, each according to their role, are available to provide further support and clarifications.