

THE ASSESSMENTS AND ASSESSMENT DAYS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PART A: The run up to the Assessment Days

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2. What happens at a Familiarisation Day and do I have to attend?
3. What happens if we cannot attend the scheduled Familiarisation Day?
4. My child has a prior engagement and cannot attend one of the assessments, what should I do?

PART B: The Assessment Days

5. How will I know about the arrangements for my child on the assessment days?
6. Are parents allowed to remain on site during the assessments?
7. My child is ill for one of the assessments. What should I do?
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13. Does my child have to sit all three assessments?

PART A: The run up to the Assessment Days

1. How will we know about the arrangements for sitting the assessments?

After you send in the Registration Form you will receive an Admissions Card for your child. (This can take three weeks from when your Registration Form is received by the AQE Office). The Admissions Card will be a small laminated record card with your child's photograph on it and will provide you with your child's candidate number and the assessment centre in which they will sit all three assessments. **Your child will need to take this card to each assessment.**

Once registration has been completed for all candidates (usually towards the end of September), the AQE Office will send contact details to each Assessment Centre for all the candidates registered to sit the assessments with them. All parents will then be contacted at some stage in October by their child's Assessment Centre, inviting them and you to a Familiarisation Day or Evening prior to the first assessment.

2. What happens at a Familiarisation Day and do I have to attend?

Each Assessment Centre will run their Familiarisation Day slightly differently and they will generally be on different dates. Normally though your child will see the room or hall where they will be sitting the assessment and may also have an opportunity to meet their invigilator who will be in the room or hall to supervise the assessments. Information will also be given out regarding meeting points and specific times to ensure the assessment mornings run as smoothly as possible for everyone.

Attendance is not compulsory but is recommended as much more detailed information will be given about practical arrangements on the assessment mornings. There is also an opportunity to solve any issues that might occur without the added pressure of an assessment.

3. What happens if we cannot attend the scheduled Familiarisation Day?

You should contact your Assessment Centre to see if an alternative day is available or if private arrangements can be made for you and your child to see the Assessment Centre.

4. My child has a prior engagement and cannot attend one of the assessments, what should I do?

As children only have to sit two out of three papers to obtain a result it is perfectly acceptable for a child to miss an assessment. This system allows for situations such as illness or an 'off day'. You should inform your Assessment Centre that your child will not be in attendance for a particular assessment.

PART B: The Assessment Days

5. How will I know about the arrangements for my child on the assessment days?

Please see above for information regarding Familiarisation Days. Each assessment begins for everyone at 10.00am but each Assessment Centre will provide you with information on what time you should arrive and where you should go.

6. Are parents allowed to remain on site during the assessments?

This varies from centre to centre. Information will be provided by the Assessment Centre at the

Familiarisation Days (see Part A). If your child has a medical requirement for which you feel you need to be on site you should apply for Access Arrangements and request permission to do so. (See the section on our website, www.age.org.uk which refers to Access Arrangements).

7. My child is ill for one of the assessments. What should I do?

As children only have to sit two out of three papers to obtain a result it is perfectly acceptable for a child to miss an assessment. This system allows for situations such as illness or an 'off day'. If your child has been unwell in the days before an assessment you do not need to make a decision on whether or not they will attend until the morning of the assessments. If you decide not to send them or if your child becomes unwell on the morning of the assessment you should try and contact the Assessment Centre to let them know, but don't panic if you cannot reach them, they will get in touch with you if necessary.

8. My child is ill for more than one of the assessments. What should I do?

If your child has missed more than one assessment they will not receive a result. However, on Results Day you will receive the raw score for the assessment they sat which may be used to make a Special Circumstances claim, along with evidences to confirm why they missed two assessments. Please see the section on our website, www.age.org.uk which refers to Special Circumstances/Provision.

9. Should my child wear their school uniform to the assessment?

There is no requirement to wear school uniform to the assessments; this issue will be dealt with directly from the Assessment Centre. AQE would not wish to prescribe any dress code (we would, however, counsel against football jerseys) however if possible we would recommend wearing school uniform.

PART C: The Assessment Papers

10. What is the format of the Assessments?

The Common Entrance Assessments (CEA) is based on three one-hour assessments which take account of the English and Maths components of the present primary school curriculum.

Each paper has 58 questions counting for 64 marks. There are 32 marks for English and 32 marks for Maths. Some questions are worth two marks, where one mark can be given for a partially correct answer according to the set mark scheme. No half marks are awarded.

11. What is included in the assessments?

Further information on the format and specification for the assessments can be found on our website, www.age.org.uk under the section headed 'The Assessments'.

12. What font and page layout are used for the assessment papers?

The text is size 14 font and the paper comes in a booklet form. Enlarged papers can be provided where required for Access Arrangements (please see the section on our website www.age.org.uk which refers to Access Arrangements).

13. Does my child have to sit all three assessments?

No. The result is taken from the best two scores, so only two assessments have to be sat. However, we

recommend that candidates take advantage of the option to sit all three papers where possible, and the vast majority do so.