

AQE Practice Paper Guidance Notes

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to begin by saying this is not how we would have wished your child to begin their AQE practice paper journey. We would much rather be in school with your child preparing and helping them in the way they deserve. Unfortunately, present circumstances prevent us from being in school in the normal way at the minute. Therefore, we will do our utmost to support you as best as we can, utilising the technology we have access to. Please, also, keep a close eye on the AQE website (www.aqe.org.uk), for any updates on the 2020-2021 process.

We are providing these guidance notes to give you some practical and helpful hints as to how you may want to administer, mark, explain and support your child with practice papers at home. These are only recommendations; we recognise that this is a challenging time for everyone, so feel free to adapt in any way you wish, to suit your individual situation.

Administering Practice Papers

Where will I find AQE Practice Papers?

The AQE practice papers (2 per week) will be placed in the relevant folder in MySchool, on a Monday morning before 9.30am.

Hopefully your child has already managed to successfully log into MySchool from home.

When should my child complete practice papers?

We suggest papers are completed on a Monday and Wednesday morning.

Before your child begins:

- reassure your child that they can only do their best and not to worry if there seem to be questions they find difficult – this is the start of a long process.
- Your child will need a quiet space to work uninterrupted for the duration (1 hour)
- Set a timer for 60 minutes to help your child manage their time. You should give them a verbal reminder at the half way point (30 minutes) and again when there are 5 minutes left.
- Read over the helpful hints below with your child. Better still, print them off and leave them beside your child to refer to as they complete the paper:

CHILD FRIENDLY HELPFUL HINTS

There may be some questions that you do not know how to do yet. But remember, do not panic, you can only **TRY YOUR BEST!**

Write your name and date on the front of your paper/ pages you use to complete the paper.

Read each question at **least twice** and **remember to underline key words**.

If you leave a question out put a large **X** at the top of the page so the question is easy to find when you go to attempt it again.

Show your working out - don't try to do difficult calculations in your head!

Remember the answer may not always be obvious, you may have to '**read between the lines**', especially in the comprehension passages.

Keep an **eye** on the **time**. You have **60 minutes** to complete each paper. If you get stuck – move on, don't waste lots of time on one question.

Remember, when you've finished all the questions you can do, **retry** any questions you left out. Even if you're not sure about a question, have a go at writing an answer anyway - you might just be correct!

Check your answers at the end, if you have time.

Keep calm and most importantly just - TRY YOUR BEST!

What should I do after the 60 minutes is up?

- Ask your child to finish and put down their pencil. Try to stick to the 60 minute time limit, even if the paper is not completely finished. Your child needs to get used to working within this time frame.
- Let your child have a break and a run around outside. A 60 minute paper requires a lot of concentration and effort!
- Once your child has had a break let them get on with something more relaxing such as an art, PDMU or WAU activity.

Where will I find the answers to mark the paper?

The answers to the papers can be found in the relevant folder in My School.

On the answer papers we have shown the 'working out' to the questions, as opposed to simply giving you the answer. This will hopefully help you explain to your child how to do the questions they get wrong.

When should I revisit the paper and go over corrections with my child?

We suggest that if your child is completing papers on Monday and Wednesday mornings, you revisit the previous day's paper with them on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Your child will be rested after a night's sleep and more ready to concentrate.

Go through the marked paper with your child and use our answers, with the working out we've done, to explain how to do the question correctly.

How can I help my child improve?

- Use the marked practice paper to identify areas of learning your child has clearly found challenging.
- Revisit the revision packs we provided you with before Easter to find examples of similar questions. Use these examples to make similar questions for your child to try.
- Refer to the Table Revision Booklet we included in your pack. This booklet contains lots of examples and explanations about various mathematical processes.
- Left over questions from unfinished papers can also be used for revision.
- Use websites such as Twinkl, in order to search for worksheets/activities to support and consolidate your child's learning in the areas that they may require additional help.

Can I contact my child's teacher if I have a question?

Absolutely! Either you, or your child (with your permission), can contact us via email. We will email you shortly with details.

Feel free to use this email to contact us with any questions, queries, concerns, to send photographs of your child's learning or simply to say hello. We will do our very best to respond in a timely fashion and help/support you in any way we can.

In the meantime, good luck, and remember these are unprecedented times. All any of us can do is our best. Your kids are fabulous and will be absolutely fine.

Kind regards

Mrs Van Giesen & Mrs Martin