

Verbal Reasoning - A Complete Guide

11 Plus Verbal Reasoning

Verbal Reasoning tests a child's ability to solve problems by using logic to answer a variety of different question types. Verbal Reasoning requires very good maths skills, a good understanding of grammar and a wide vocabulary. The tests are designed to assess a child's potential, not just their intelligence.

The best way to improve vocabulary is to read a lot - preferably out loud to an adult. Pay particular attention to unknown words and ensure that your child understands the meaning of all the words. Learning words in context is the best way to ensure your chold remembers them in future, however there are some other strategies that can help to improve vocabulary.

Making a list of unknown words and have them look them up in a good children's dictionary/thesaurus. Ones with visual aids, at this stage, can be useful as they tap into the multiple senses, making it easier to store and recall.

Pay particular attention to words that have more than one meaning - such as 'contract' and 'suspend'. At the end of the guide in the appendix, you will find a list of important words for Verbal Reasoning. Although this is not exhaustive, it is a good resource to get your child on track with words likely to feature in exams.

Because Verbal Reasoning is not taught in school, it is important that your child becomes familiar with this type of question. They must be able to identify the question types, understand the question and have a strategy for answering them quickly. The questions involve letters, words, codes and sequences and require the child to work quickly and accurately to solve problems described in words and text.

There are typically 21 different types of Verbal Reasoning question types -determined by the GL Assessment group. The table below shows these types and how they are typically described in a question or section:

| Туре | Description |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Insert A Letter | In the following question, find the one letter that will complete the word in front of the brackets and begin the word after the brackets. The same letter must fit into both sets of brackets. |
| TYPE-B : Find the odd word | In the following questions, find the two words that are different from the other three. |
| | In the following question, words have been written in code. The first word and it's code has been given to you. You must find the second word or code. |
| | In the following questions, find two words, one from each group that are most similar in meaning. |
| Hidden word in | In the following question, you are given a sentence in which a four letter word is hidden at the end of one word and the beginning of the next word. Find the pair of words that contain a real four letter word and write the four letter word in the answer. |
| TYPE-F: Find the word | In the following question, one word, which is in capitals, has had three OR four consecutive letters taken out. These 3 or 4 letters will make one correctly spelt word without changing the order. Find the appropriate 3 or 4 letter word. |

| Calculating with | For the following question, numbers have been allocated to letters. Work out the answer to the calculation and mark the appropriate letter on the answer sheet or in the space provided. |
|--|--|
| TYPE-H: | In the following questions, find two words, one from each group that are most opposite in meaning. |
| TYPE-I: Complete the calculation | In the following questions, find the number that best completes the calculation. |
| TYPE-J: Rearrange to make two new words | In the following question, you are given two words. Choose one letter that can be moved from the word on the left to the word on the right, making two new words. You cannot rearrange any letters, but the letter that you move can fit anywhere in the second word. |
| <u>TYPE-K:</u> <u>Number</u> <u>relationship</u> | In the following question, the numbers in the last group must be related to each other in the same way as the numbers in previous group(s). Find the missing number. |
| TYPE-L: Complete alphabet series | In the following question, find the letters that best complete the series. |
| I COMPLETE THE | In the following questions you must chose two words, one from each group in brackets that best complete the sentence. |
| TYPE-N: Word Codes | You have been given four words and three codes. The codes are not necessarily written in the same order as the words and one code is missing. Once you have figured out which code belongs to which word, answer the question below. |
| I COMPLETE WOLD | In the following question there are three pairs of words. You must complete the third pair in the same way as the first two pairs. |
| TYPE-P: Number series | For the following question, find the number that best completes the series. |
| Form new word | In the following question, find the two words, one from each group, that together make a new, real word. The word from the first group always comes first. |
| Create word | In each of the following question, the word in brackets in the second group must be made from the words outside the brackets in the same way as the word in brackets in the first group is made from the words outside the brackets in the first group. Find the missing word. |
| | In the question below there are two pairs of words. Choose the word from the 5 possible answers which goes equally well with both the pairs. |
| TVPF-II · | In the question below, the pairs of letters are related in some way. Write |
| TYPE-Z : Comprehension | Generally includes Logic questions where the student has to read the question and comprehend the logic before answering. |

IPS stands for Internet Primary School, who were one of the first publishers to categorise the question styles for Verbal Reasoning using a lettering system (type L,B,N etc). Sometimes you will find the types identified by a number and labelled differently - below we have included a comparison table to make this clearer:

| QUESTION TYPE | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| 01 - INSERT A LETTER | Α | |
| 02 - RELATED WORDS | В | |
| 03 - WORD-LETTER CODES | С | |
| 04 - CLOSEST MEANING | D | |
| 05 - HIDDEN WORD | Е | |
| 06 - MISSING WORD | F | |
| 07 - LETTERS FOR NUMBERS | G | |
| 08 - MOVE A LETTER | J | |
| 09 - LETTER SERIES | L | |
| 10 - WORD CONNECTIONS | M | |
| 11 - NUMBER SERIES | Р | |
| 12 - COMPOUND WORDS | Q | |
| 13 - MAKE A WORD | R | |
| 14 - LETTER CONNECTIONS | U | |
| 15 - READING INFORMATION | Z | |
| 16 - OPPOSITE MEANING | Н | |
| 17 - COMPLETE THE SUM | I | |
| 18 - RELATED NUMBERS | K | |
| 19 - WORD-NUMBER CODES | N | |
| 20 - COMPLETE THE WORD | 0 | |
| 21 - SAME MEANING | S | |

What You Can Do

When tutoring your child at home it may help to link question types together rather than to go through each of the 21 question types in order. This is because some question types can be worked out by using similar methods & techniques. The following list takes into account these similarities, grouping the types of question into families which should be studied together:

| TYPE | NUMBERS TYPES | IPS LETTER TYPES |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| CODES | Types 3, 9 and 14 | Types C, L and U |
| CODES | Type 19 | Type N |
| | Types 1 and 8 | Types A and J |
| MAKING WORDS | Types 5, 6 and 12 | Types E, F and Q |
| | Types 13 and 20 | Types R and O |
| WORD MEANING | Types 2 and 10 | Types B and M |
| WORD MEANING | Types 4, 16 and 21 | Types D, H and S |
| MATHC | Types 7 and 17 | Types G and I |
| MATHS | Types 11 and 18 | Types P and K |
| READING INFORMATION | Type 15 | Type Z |

Verbal Reasoning Strategies For Each Question Type

In Summary:

Verbal reasoning is understanding and reasoning using concepts framed in words. It aims at evaluating ability to think constructively, rather than at simple fluency or vocabulary recognition.

- Timed but not broken into sections
- Time calls at half way through and a few minutes from the end
- You need to be able to pace yourselves!!!
- Order of questions can slow you down so don't get stuck keep moving and come back later to tricky questions

Verbal Reasoning Tests - Student FAQs

What will I be tested on?

The questions are tests of ability, not what you have learned elsewhere in school. They require skills that are needed to succeed in secondary education, including your ability to:

- understand and analyse tasks
- · work quickly and carefully
- · apply attention to detail
- solve problems
- discover and apply rules
- repeat a particular task at increasing levels of difficulty

How long does the test last?

The test will normally be 50 minutes long. But it can be 60 minutes or even 45.

The test includes examples of each type of question as part of the timed assessment. Remember, there will be times when you need to sit and listen to instructions, to make sure that your answer sheet has been handed in or to wait for other pupils in the room to finish.

What kind of questions will be asked?

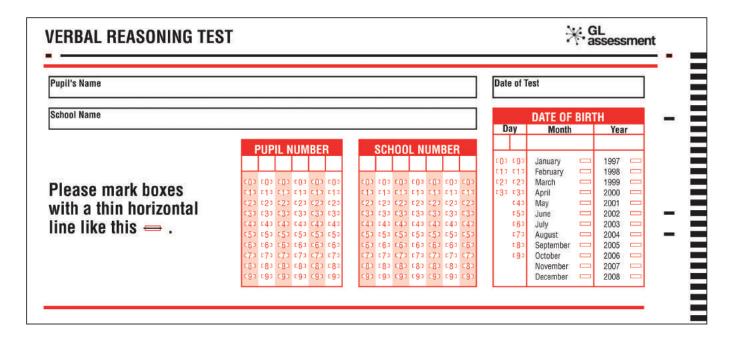
The verbal reasoning test asks you questions involving the manipulation of words, letters and numbers. In some cases you are dealing with a relationship between symbols (numbers, letters) and in others the relationship between the meanings of words.

The answer sheet - sometimes you will answer in a special booklet. If that is the case:

Only the answers you fill in on the answer sheet will be marked. The sheet is read by a special scanning machine so you need to mark it in a particular way in order for your responses to be clear. You can get an adult to check that you are doing it correctly.

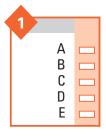
The top of the answer sheet will show the name of the test and some information about you, including your name and date of birth.

 Check that your name and date of birth are correct. Tell an invigilator if you think there is a mistake



• If the boxes are blank, you will need to fill them out. Ask an invigilator to help.

The rest of the answer sheet contains spaces for you to submit your answers. Each question has its own box containing the answer options. The question number is in the top left hand corner. For example, question 1 might look like this:



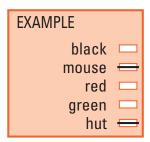
• You answer each question by putting a thin horizontal line in the rectangle next to your answer, like this:



- If you make a mistake, rub it out as completely as you can and put in your new answer.
- You must only use a pencilto mark the answer sheet.
- All the questions you do will be multiple choice.

That means that you are given a range of answers to choose from. The answer options will be printed in the test booklet but you must submit your responses on the answer sheet.

• Most verbal reasoning questions require only one answer but some require more than one answer. Read the instructions for each questions carefully. Here is an example of a question with two answers:



- You may need to fillin answers on both sides of the answer sheet.
- You must make sure that you mark your answers in the right place on the answer sheet. Mark your answer in the box that has the same number as the test question.
- You must make sure that all your answers are recorded on the answer sheet before the end of the test.

The test booklet:

The test contains a number of different verbal reasoning question types. You need to try to answer all of the questions.

Instructions are given before the start of each section along with an example question.

You can do rough work in the booklet if you need to, or on a separate piece of paper. But remember: the test booklet won't be marked. All your answers must go on the answer sheet.



In these questions, one letter can be moved from the first word to the second word, to make two new words. The letters must not otherwise be rearranged and both new words must make sense. Find the letter that moves and mark it on the answer sheet.



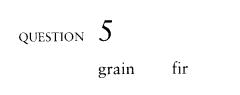
pound or

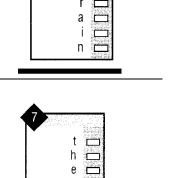
Answer

(The two new words are pond and our.)

Example

Practise







QUESTION 7

their sake

- Take a letter out of the first word one by one (the order of the first word doesn't change), does the word that is left still make sense?
- If it does, try putting it into the second word
- Try it out on scrap paper
- Look out for silent letters, sound changes

In these questions letters stand for numbers. Work out the answer to each sum, then find its letter and mark it on the answer sheet.

Example

If A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, D = 6, E = 8, what is the answer to this sum written as a letter?

$$A + B + C = (?)$$

Answer

D

Example

$$_{\text{QUESTION}}~12$$

If A = 1, B = 2, C = 4, D = 8, E = 12, what is the answer to this sum written as a letter?

$$E - D - B = (?)$$

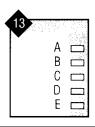


Practise

QUESTION 13

If A = 10, B = 20, C = 30, D = 40, E = 50, what is the answer to this sum written as a letter?

$$D \div B \times A = (?)$$



- Remember that the answer is changed back into a letter
- Remember that the value of a,b,c,d,e changes in every question
- Use scrap paper for working out
- Write the values of the letters above

<u>Instructions</u>

Read the following information, then find the correct answer to the question and mark it on the answer sheet.

Example

QUESTION 14

Katie, Adam, Lucy, Ranjit and Richard all wear school uniform.

Katie, Adam and Ranjit wear ties.

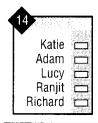
Ranjit wears a blazer.

Richard hates the uniform but wears a blazer and tie.

Lucy and Katie wear hats.

Adam wears a blazer but no hat.

Who wears the least items of uniform?



Practise

QUESTION 22

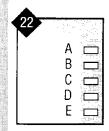
David, Gemma, Jane, John and Maria are 12, 11, 10, 10 and 9 years old, but not in that order.

David is 2 years younger than John. Gemma is 2 years younger than Jane.

Maria is older than David.

Who are the twins?

- A David and Maria
- B John and Jane
- C Gemma and David
- D Maria and Gemma
- E John and Maria



- This question is designed to take a long time but still only worth one mark
- Draw out a chart
- Look out for names with the same letter
- Guess and move on if the answer doesn't show itself quickly!

In these sentences, a word of **four letters** is hidden at the **end** of one word and the **beginning** of the next word. Find the pair of words that contains the hidden word and mark it on the answer sheet.

Example

The film ended happily after all.

Answer

film ended (The hidden word is mend.)

Example

QUESTION 19

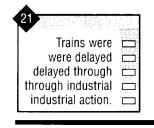
The restaurant was famous for seafood.



Practise

QUESTION 21

Trains were delayed through industrial action.



- Look at the answer sheet rather then the question booklet
- Rip two pieces of scrap paper to cover up the letters
- Watch out for silent letters, changes in sound etc

In these questions find the two words, one from each group, that will complete the sentence in the best way. Mark both words on the answer sheet.

Example

Big is to (small orange colour) as wide is to (apple' red narrow)

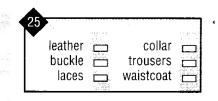
Answer

small narrow

Example

QUESTION 25

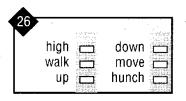
Belt is to
(leather buckle laces)
as shirt is to
(collar trousers waistcoat)



Practise

QUESTION 26

Jump is to (high walk up) as crouch is to (down move hunch)



- Use one word from each column
- Often opposites or synonyms
- · Look for relationships between the words
- Some will be very close, guess and move on!

In these questions find two words, one from each group, that are closest in meaning. Mark both words on the answer sheet.

Example

(office shop start) (work begin end)

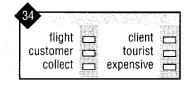
Answer

start begin

Example

QUESTION 34

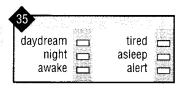
(flight customer collect) (client tourist expensive)



Practise

QUESTION 35

(daydream night awake) (tired asleep alert)



- Two boxes shaded, one from each column
- Looking for closest won't be an exact match
- Often 2 that are similar, guess and move on!

In these questions three of the five words are related in some way. Find the **two** words that do not go with these three and mark them **both** on the answer sheet.

Example

black mouse red green hut

Answer

mouse hut

Example

QUESTION 37

carpet curtain blanket pillow sheet



Practise

QUESTION 40

spoon rake fork wheel spade



- Two words need to be marked
- Watch out for words with double meanings

In these sentences, the word in capitals has had three letters next to each other taken out. These three letters will make one correctly spelt word without changing their order. The sentence that you make must make sense. Mark the correct three-letter word on the answer sheet.

Example

The cat scratched him with his CS.

Answer

LAW (The word in capitals is CLAWS.)

Example

QUESTION 47

Please play the CASTE.



Practise

QUESTION 48

The mist in the valley looked like SM rising.



- This can take children a lot of time and slow them down
- Use scrap paper to try out different combinations
- Look out for tricky spellings e.g. double letter, changes in sound etc

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

The alphabet is here to help you with these questions. Find the next letters in the series and mark the correct answer on the answer sheet.

Example

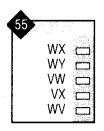
CQ DQ EP FP (?)

Answer

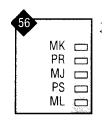
GO

Example





Practise



- Can be very tricky!
- Write on top of the alphabet strip
- Draw the sequence jumps on top
- Really struggling guess and move on!

In these questions find two words, one from each group that together make one correctly spelt word, without changing the order of the letters. The word from the first group always comes first. Mark both words on the answer sheet.

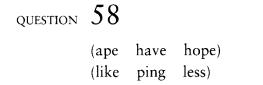
Example

(out by open) (bite like side)

Answer

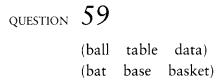
out side (The word is outside.)

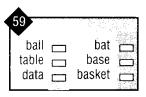
Example





Practise





- Must have one word from each column
- Has to be spelled correctly
- Word in the second column can't come first in the new word

In these questions, the three words in the second group should go together in the same way as the three in the first group. Find the word that is missing in the second group and mark it on the answer sheet.

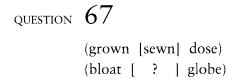
Example

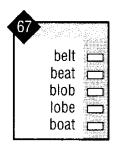
```
(man [mat] tip)
(bug [ ? ] dew)
```

Answer

bud

Example

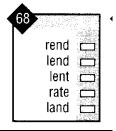




Practise

```
QUESTION 68

(tour [tear] reap)
(lead [ ? ] rent)
```



- Number the letters
- Look at the example for the rule

In each question, find the number that continues the series in the most sensible way and mark it on the answer sheet.

Example

2 4 6 8 (?)

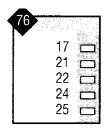
Answer

10

Example

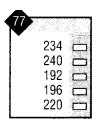
QUESTION 76

13 12 17 15 21 18 (?)



Practise

QUESTION 77
2 4 12 48 (?)



- Draw the sequence jumps
- If the sequence increases then decreases, look at every other number
- Use scrap paper for working out

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

The alphabet is here to help you with these questions. Find the letters that will complete the sentence in the best way and mark the correct answer on the answer sheet.

Example

AB is to CD as PQ is to (?)

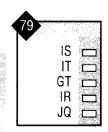
Answer

RS

Example

QUESTION 79

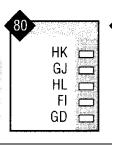
CX is to DW as HS is to (?)



Practise

QUESTION 80

BE is to GJ as CF is to (?)



- Can take a long time
- Work out rule for relationship between the letters
- Draw on alphabet strip
- Look at the answer sheet to help

<u>Instructions</u>

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

The alphabet is here to help you with these questions.

You need to work out a different code for each question.

Choose the correct answer and mark it on the answer sheet.

Example

If the code for **FOOT** is **ENNS**, what is the code for **TOE**?

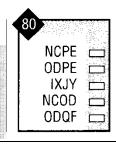
Answer

SND

Example

QUESTION 80

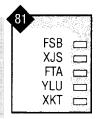
If the code for **CALF** is **FDOI**, what is the code for **LAMB**?



Practise

QUESTION 81

If the code for **CRATE** is **YNWPA**, what is the code for **BOX**?



- Often the last section
- Use list on answer sheet to help

In these questions, the **same** letter must fit into **both** sets of brackets, to complete the word in front of the brackets and begin the word after the brackets.

Find this letter and mark it on the answer sheet.

Example

mea [?] able si [?] op

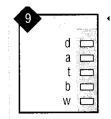
Answer

t (The four words are meat, table, sit, top.)

Example

QUESTION 9

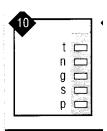
sof [?] in bea [?] rap



Practise

QUESTION 10

ra [?] ain fo [?] oat



- Look at the answer sheet to help
- Watch out for tricky spellings, new sounds etc.

IMPORTANT WORDS for VERBAL REASONING

| OPPOSE | NOTED x2 | WASTEFUL |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| CONTEST x2 | FATIGUE | LENIENT |
| CONCEAL | FEEBLE | RESTRAIN |
| REVEAL | GRAVE x2 | CONDEMN |
| COMMENCE | SANITARY | EMPLOY |
| ABANDON | HOAX | RELEASE |
| ABODE | IMITATE | APPROVE |
| ADHERE | INSOLENT | NEAT x2 |
| AID | INTENTION | PROHIBIT |
| ALLY | UNITE | DILUTED |
| COMPREHEND | LAMENT | FORBID |
| AFFECTIONATE | LEAN x2 | PROMPT |
| ACCUSE | LOFTY | AVOWED |
| HYGIENIC | LOYAL | QUAINT |
| PECULIAR | INSANE | QUEER |
| ASSEMBLE | SANE | RAIMENT |
| ASUNDER | MALADY | RAMBLE |
| BROAD | MARGIN | RANK |
| BESIEGED | MARINER | DWELLING |
| CAUTION | MAXIMUM | ROAM |
| COARSE | MINIMUM | ROBUST |
| CONCENTRATED x2 | DUMB[not stupid] | SHRINE |
| CUNNING | MEAGRE | SLEEK |
| ARTFUL | NIMBLE | STERN |
| SLY | ROWDY | SCORE X4 |
| CURB | ODOUR | OBSTINATE |
| CUSTOM | OMEN | STURDY |
| DECEIVE | SCANTY | YIELD |
| CALAMITY | OPTION | STUBBORN |
| TWILIGHT | COAX | SUSPEND x2 |
| ELUDE | PLUME | THRUST |
| FOE | PROFIT | TRANQUIL |
| EXTENDED | ECONOMICAL | VACANT |
| EXTERIOR | ABSURD | CANDIDATE |
| INTERIOR | DISPERSE | WRETCHED |
| DEBATE | SACRED | QUENCH |
| DECLARE | LIABLE | PROVOKE |
| DECLINE | INFLUENCE | PROCLAIM |
| REFUSE x2 | RESIDENCE | CONCLUSION |
| DETERMINE | GRATITUDE | IMPUDENT |
| ACCUSTOM | DESTITUTE | REVIVE |
| CONFERRED | DESPAIR | RESOLVE |
| FRAGMENT | DESPISE | EXTRACT |
| PROPORTION | FAMINE | MODERATE |
| | | |

IMPORTANT WORDS for VERBAL REASONING

TRAITOR **DEPOSIT ESTIMATE INSERT RESERVE PROMOTE ENTIRE IMMERSE CONVERT** WHOLESOME CONVEY DISCONTENT **ENTERPRISE** AMBITION **EVIDENT** PROMINENT OBJECTION **FREQUENT** DOMESTIC OBJECT x2 **EXPEL HEROIC ACQUIRE** SATIN **MAJESTIC** AOUAINTED **SOBER OFFEND EXCLAIM** TEMPERATE **PUNCTURE OPPRESS PLUNGE ATTEMPT ABUNDANCE** RESIGN PUNCTUAL BURDEN **TEMPTATION TENANT** PRETENCE HARBOUR x2 VACANT TRIFLE x2 **CONTRIBUTE TYRANT** VAPOUR **CONSUME PROSPEROUS** INVALID x2 **JUSTICE PERCEIVE** RETREAT **CONTRAST DECEIT COMMIT VEIL** CONSIDERATION SACRIFICE LABOUR COMBINATION **PURPOSE OBLIGE** VENTILATION DIGEST COMPEL **FRAGRANT POULTRY** SUSPECT x2 ASSISTANCE **COMRADE GARMENT** SEIZE **ENDEAVOUR FOUNDATION ORDEAL** WHOLLY **ERRAND** ORIGIN **PLEDGE** FATAL **BETRAY MORAL** DIVINE DIVINITY **CSERMON** PERMIT x2 **ADOPT** IDLE HUMBLE **PROMPT IDOL** VAST **MERCY STOOP CONFINE GRATE INSPIRE** CONTRACT x2 LINGER CONVICT x2 **ROGUE DEVOTE EXPENSE MERCHANT EMBRACE** CONSTANT **INHABIT RECITE EMPIRE PASTURE** FERTILE LIMIT LEA BARREN **PUBLIC** COMPOSITION **ENTIRELY ADVANCE PERIL WEARY HASTY PROFIT** AVOID FLEET x2 **FLOURISH ADMISSION CREDIT**

LIBERTY

BANISH

CULTIVATE

UNION

IMPORTANT WORDS for VERBAL REASONING

CURIOUS PERISH ARTICLE ANXIOUS CORRECT x2 DOSE **WORTHY** DISTINCT **LIMB ABUNDANT** DISTRESS **ERECT APPEAL STRESS ELECT BRIEF** OCCUR **HALT SUBMIT OCCUPY CEASE AROUSE HOLLOW MERE** WITHER **SINCERE** COMPANY x2 **DENY** COMPANION LATTER LIBERAL **GRIEVE MODEST FUND RESTORE DISPUTE PIONEER RURAL** BOX x2 **VESSEL** REPENT **MORTAL** CONSENT RARE SELDOM **CONTEMPT** LODGE x2 RETAIN CONCLUDE DIN **OATH STOUT CONVINCE PROCURE** SOW x2 **SCRIPTURE ENDURE CONSIST EARNEST SECURE**