



## Guidance for Parents about St Joseph's online assessment (FAQs)

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### What is the assessment?

The assessment is an online exam. It is composed of two parts:

- **Part 1:** Maths, English, Non-Verbal Reasoning, Verbal Reasoning
- **Part 2:** Puzzles and Problem-Solving, Creative Comprehension

### What is covered in Part 1?

The **Maths and English** sections are based on the **National Curriculum**. They assess your child's ability to recall what they have been taught and apply this knowledge to solve problems.

The **Verbal and Non-Verbal reasoning** sections are designed to test your child's **academic potential**. They assess your child's ability to solve problems with written or visual information.

Part 1	Maths	English	Non-Verbal Reasoning	Verbal Reasoning
What is being assessed?	Arithmetic Mathematical reasoning	Reading comprehension Spelling Punctuation Grammar	Spatial reasoning Visual reasoning	Vocabulary Pattern-spotting Logic

### What is covered in Part 2?

The **Puzzles and Problem-Solving** section encourages your child to think deeply about a scenario and apply mathematical techniques to solve a problem.

The **Creative Comprehension** section assesses your child's ability to read and analyse a series of written sources and graphs that are centred around a theme.

Part 2	Puzzles and Problem-Solving	Creative Comprehension
<b>What is being assessed?</b>	Multi-step problem solving Logical reasoning	Extracting information Synthesising information to form a conclusion

## Is the assessment adaptive?

### Part 1: Adaptive

The Maths, English, Non-Verbal Reasoning and Verbal Reasoning section of the assessment is adaptive. This means that questions will get harder or easier as a child moves through the assessment. This ensures that each question is at the right level of difficulty for each student.

Please note, students will not be able to skip or go back to any questions. They will also be unable to change any of their answers.

### Part 2: Non-Adaptive

Part 2 of the assessment is **non-adaptive**. This means that all students will see the same questions, although some will progress further through the questions than others.

Please note, students will have the ability to move backwards and forwards through questions, and will be able to change their answers.

## How long is the assessment?

The assessment takes a total of 95 minutes (1 hour and 35 minutes). The timings of each subject component are:

Part 1	
Maths	20 minutes
NVR	10 minutes
English	20 minutes
VR	10 minutes
<i>Students will have a short break between taking Part 1 and Part 2 of the assessment.</i>	
Part 2	
Puzzles and Problem-Solving	15 minutes
Creative Comprehension	20 minutes

During the assessment, students will see a **timer** on their screen showing them how long they have left for each section. It will be visible but not so large as to distract them from their work.

Students eligible for **extra time** will be asked to indicate their entitlement at the point of application to St Joseph's College (**letter confirming your child's 'normal way of working' required from their school SENCO as well as qualifying specialist or consultant documentation**). Where extra time is approved for a student, the additional time will be automatically added to the timer visible on their screen for each section of their assessment.

## How to prepare for the assessment

We recommend that all students look at the familiarisation materials provided:

<https://app.atomlearning.com/public/taster/st-josephs-college-reading>

The assessment will test the knowledge and skills highlighted in the **Key Stage 2 National Curriculum**. Students will develop these skills as part of their school education, so they will not need any special tuition or intensive practice.

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## FAQs

### Is the assessment multiple-choice?

The majority of questions will be **multiple-choice**, with only a few questions requiring a student to type a single word or number. There is no extended typing exercise required, so typing ability will not impact results.

### What device can be used for the assessment?

The assessment will be taken on PCs in our Computer labs, using a mouse.

### What can my child use during the assessment?

Students will be permitted blank scrap paper and a pencil in all subjects for any working out. Students may not use any other additional materials during any stage of the assessment, e.g. dictionaries, thesauruses, calculators, rulers, mobile phones, etc.

If your child has additional needs and usually uses their own equipment, they may bring this with them (if a pen, it must be black ink) – please notify [admissions@sjcr.org.uk](mailto:admissions@sjcr.org.uk) in advance.

### My child is an overseas applicant. Where will they take the assessment?

We offer remote assessments for applicants not currently in the UK. If you are based in Hong Kong, you may take the assessment under exam conditions at our Hong Kong test centre (additional cost paid to the test centre direct). Please contact [admissions@sjcr.org.uk](mailto:admissions@sjcr.org.uk) for further information.