



## SIMPLE GUIDE TO THE SEAG TEST (NORTHERN IRELAND)

*(For parents of Primary 6 & 7 children)*

The SEAG Test is the exam many grammar schools in Northern Ireland use to choose pupils for Year 8. It replaced the old AQE and GL tests, so now there is one single test.

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### 1. WHAT IS THE SEAG TEST?

- It is a transfer test taken in Primary 7.
  - It helps grammar schools decide who gets a place.
  - It checks English and Maths skills.
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### 2. WHAT IS IN THE TEST?

Your child sits two papers, one week apart (usually in November).  
Each paper has:

- English questions – reading a passage, grammar, punctuation, vocabulary.
- Maths questions – number work, fractions, problem-solving, word problems.

The test includes:

- Multiple-choice questions (they pick from answers)
- Write-your-own-answer questions (short answers)

Pupils have 60 minutes to finish.

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### 3. WHAT DOES THE TEST LOOK LIKE?

Each paper has 3 parts:

1. Practice section (not marked) – helps children settle.
  2. English test section – 28 questions (comprehension + grammar).
  3. Maths test section – 28 questions.
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#### **4. WHAT IS THE TEST BASED ON?**

The questions come from what children already learn in Primary School (Key Stage 2):

- Reading and understanding stories
  - Spelling and punctuation
  - Adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing
  - Fractions, percentages, shapes, and real-life maths problems
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#### **5. WHO CAN TAKE THE TEST?**

Most children in Primary 6/Primary 7 are allowed to sit it when applying to grammar school.

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#### **6. HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD?**

You must sign up online before the deadline.

- Registration opens in May and closes in September (dates vary each year).
  - You fill in an online form and upload documents (photo, ID).
  - Only children who are registered can take the test.
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#### **7. HOW IS THE TEST SCORED?**

You get:

- A standardised score
- A Band (Band 1 is the highest, Band 5/6 lower)
- A percentile (shows how your child did compared to others)

Schools use these results to decide places.

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## 8. HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD (EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT GOOD AT SCHOOLWORK)?

You don't need to be highly educated to support your child.

Here are simple ways to help:

### For English

- Read with your child for 10–15 minutes.
- Ask simple questions: “Who is in the story?” “What happened?”
- Notice full stops, commas, capital letters (point them out).

### For Maths

- Practice adding and subtracting with shopping prices.
- Let your child read the problem aloud.
- Encourage them to underline important words like *total*, *difference*, *more than*.

### General Tips

- Keep sessions short (10–20 minutes).
- Praise effort, not scores.
- Do one thing at a time – don't overwhelm them.
- Make sure your child sleeps well and isn't stressed.

These small steps make a big difference, even if you're not confident with schoolwork.

Link to purchase past papers - [transfertest.co.uk](https://www.transfertest.co.uk)

Search for SEAG help on our website and there will be some good resources there for you to help your child.

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## 9. WHAT HAPPENS ON TEST DAY?

- Arrive early.
- Bring a pen, pencil, and what the school asks for.
- Remind your child to stay calm and read questions slowly.
- They don't need to get *everything* right — nobody does!