



Reasoning Paper 1: answer guide

Verbal & Non-verbal Reasoning · Warm-up level · 36 questions · 30 minutes

How to mark

- Give 1 mark for each correct answer. There are no half marks.
- Use the answer key below, then read the explanation and tip for every question your child got wrong – and for any they guessed.
- Fill in the topic table at the end. A pattern (for example, losing marks on several questions of one type) tells you what to practise next.

Questions 1–20 are verbal reasoning and 21–36 are non-verbal reasoning. It's worth noting the two scores separately, as children are often much stronger at one than the other.

Answer key

Q	Answer	Q	Answer	Q	Answer	Q	Answer	Q	Answer
1	A quick	9	C 14	17	B snow	25	B	33	B
2	C courageous	10	D 16	18	D post	26	E	34	D
3	E shrink	11	C I	19	A saw	27	C	35	C
4	B mean	12	A V	20	C bat	28	A	36	E
5	D open	13	D down	21	D	29	D		
6	B seat	14	E hive	22	A	30	B		
7	E EPH	15	B carrot	23	C	31	A		
8	A TPBQ	16	E square	24	E	32	E		

What the score means

Score	What it suggests
32–36	Secure at warm-up level. Move on to the standard papers (4–8).
25–31	A good start. Read the tips for the questions missed, then try the next paper.
18–24	Getting there. Use the topic table to choose one or two topics to practise before the next paper.
0–17	Some foundations need work. Practise the topics without a timer first, then come back to timed papers.

This is a warm-up paper, so scores will usually be higher than on the standard and stretch papers. Scores on practice papers are a guide only – they don't predict a pass mark, which varies by area and year.



Question by question

Each answer shows how to work it out, and a **Next time** tip aimed at the most common mistake.

Question 1 · Answer A: quick

Verbal: Closest meaning

Which word is closest in meaning to RAPID?

Rapid means fast or quick.

Next time: Put each option into a short sentence with the word: 'a rapid train' = 'a quick train'. 'Slow' is the opposite – a common trap.

Question 2 · Answer C: courageous

Verbal: Closest meaning

Which word is closest in meaning to BRAVE?

Brave and courageous both mean willing to face danger or fear.

Next time: If you don't know a long word, look for a part you do know: cour-age-ous has 'courage' in it.

Question 3 · Answer E: shrink

Verbal: Opposite meaning

Which word is most opposite in meaning to EXPAND?

Expand means get bigger. Shrink means get smaller – the opposite.

Next time: First say what the word means in your own words ('get bigger'), then look for the word that means the reverse. The other options here all mean 'get bigger'.

Question 4 · Answer B: mean

Verbal: Opposite meaning

Which word is most opposite in meaning to GENEROUS?

A generous person likes to give. A mean person doesn't like to share.

Next time: Watch for words that are linked but not opposite – 'rich' is about money, not about sharing.

Question 5 · Answer D: open

Verbal: Hidden word

A four-letter word is hidden across the end of one word and the start of the next. Which word is it?

I hope nothing is wrong.

hope + nothing: h-o-p-e n-o-t-h-i-n-g contains o-p-e-n across 'hope nothing'.

Next time: Run your finger along each pair of words, ignoring the gap. 'thin' is inside one word, so it doesn't count.



Question 6 · Answer B: seat

Verbal: Hidden word

A four-letter word is hidden across the end of one word and the start of the next. Which word is it?

The sea tide was low.

'sea' + the 't' of 'tide' makes s-e-a-t: seat.

Next time: Write the sentence again without any spaces (theseatidewaslow) and look for the word across each join.

Question 7 · Answer E: EPH

Verbal: Letter codes

If the code for CAT is DBU, what is the code for DOG?

Each letter moves one place forward in the alphabet: C→D, A→B, T→U. So D→E, O→P, G→H gives EPH.

Next time: Write the alphabet across the top of your working space. Count the move for every letter, not just the first one.

Question 8 · Answer A: TPBQ

Verbal: Letter codes

If the code for MILK is NJML, what is the code for SOAP?

Each letter moves one place forward: M→N, I→J, L→M, K→L. So S→T, O→P, A→B, P→Q gives TPBQ.

Next time: Check the last letter as carefully as the first. TPBP is wrong only in the last letter.

Question 9 · Answer C: 14

Verbal: Number series

Which number comes next? 2, 5, 8, 11, ?

The numbers go up by 3 each time. $11 + 3 = 14$.

Next time: Write the gap between each pair of numbers above the sequence. If the gaps are the same, add that gap again.

Question 10 · Answer D: 16

Verbal: Number series

Which number comes next? 1, 2, 4, 8, ?

Each number is double the one before. $8 \times 2 = 16$.

Next time: If the gaps keep growing (1, 2, 4...), try multiplying instead of adding.



Question 11 · Answer C: I

Verbal: Letter series

Which letter comes next? A, C, E, G, ?

The sequence skips one letter each time: A (b) C (d) E (f) G (h) I.

Next time: Write the alphabet out and circle the letters in the sequence. The pattern of gaps becomes easy to see.

Question 12 · Answer A: V

Verbal: Letter series

Which letter comes next? Z, Y, X, W, ?

The letters go backwards through the alphabet one at a time: Z, Y, X, W, V.

Next time: Sequences can go backwards. Check the direction before you count.

Question 13 · Answer D: down

Verbal: Word analogies

Hot is to cold as up is to ____.

Hot and cold are opposites, so we need the opposite of up: down.

Next time: Say the link between the first pair as a sentence ('hot is the opposite of cold'), then use the same sentence for the second pair.

Question 14 · Answer E: hive

Verbal: Word analogies

Bird is to nest as bee is to ____.

A nest is where a bird lives, so we need where a bee lives: a hive.

Next time: 'Honey' is linked to bees, but not in the same way. The link must match the first pair exactly.

Question 15 · Answer B: carrot

Verbal: Odd one out

Which word is the odd one out?

Apple, banana, pear and plum are fruits. A carrot is a vegetable.

Next time: Find what four of the words have in common, then the fifth word is the odd one out.

Question 16 · Answer E: square

Verbal: Odd one out

Which word is the odd one out?

Red, blue, green and yellow are colours. A square is a shape.

Next time: Name the group the others belong to ('colours'). If you can name it, you've found the odd one.



Question 17 · Answer B: snow

Verbal: Compound words

Which word can go in front of all three to make three new words?

__ball __man __flake

snowball, snowman, snowflake.

Next time: Try each option with all three endings. 'foot' works for football and footman, but not 'footflake'.

Question 18 · Answer D: post

Verbal: Compound words

Which word can go in front of all three to make three new words?

__box __man __bag

postbox, postman, postbag.

Next time: Check every one of the three. 'bin' makes binman and binbag but not 'binbox'.

Question 19 · Answer A: saw

Verbal: Two meanings

Which word means both: a tool for cutting wood AND the past tense of 'see'?

A saw is a cutting tool, and 'I saw' is the past tense of 'I see'.

Next time: Many short words have two meanings. Test each option against BOTH clues – it must fit each one.

Question 20 · Answer C: bat

Verbal: Two meanings

Which word means both: a flying mammal AND something used to hit the ball in cricket?

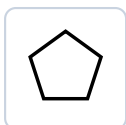
A bat is a flying mammal, and a cricket bat hits the ball.

Next time: Owls fly but aren't mammals, and clubs are used in golf. Only one word fits both clues exactly.

Question 21 · Answer D

Non-verbal: Odd one out

Which shape is the odd one out?



The square, rectangle, diamond and parallelogram all have 4 sides. The pentagon has 5.

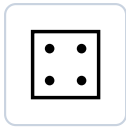
Next time: Count the sides of every shape and write the number under it. The odd number out gives you the answer.



Question 22 · Answer A

Non-verbal: Odd one out

Which figure is the odd one out?



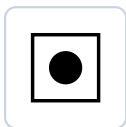
Four figures have 3 dots. One has 4 dots. The position of the dots doesn't matter.

Next time: Look for one thing at a time: number of dots, position, shape, shading. Here the positions change in every figure – the number is what stays the same.

Question 23 · Answer C

Non-verbal: Odd one out

Which figure is the odd one out?



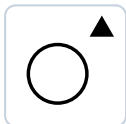
In four figures the small black shape is the same shape as the big white one. In the odd one out, a circle is inside a square.

Next time: Compare the inside and outside shapes in each figure. Ask: 'what is the rule for four of them?'

Question 24 · Answer E

Non-verbal: Odd one out

Which figure is the odd one out?



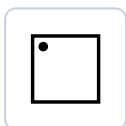
In four figures the small black shape is inside the big white shape. In the odd one out it is outside.

Next time: Position matters in non-verbal reasoning: inside/outside, top/bottom, left/right. Check where things are, not just what they are.

Question 25 · Answer B

Non-verbal: Series

Which figure comes next in the series?



The dot moves one corner clockwise each time: top left, top right, bottom right, bottom left – so next it returns to top left.

Next time: Trace the movement with your pencil. Ask: which direction is it moving, and how far each step?



Question 26 - Answer E

Non-verbal: Series

Which figure comes next in the series?



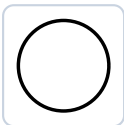
The number of sides goes up by one each time: 3, 4, 5, 6 - so the next shape has 7 sides (a heptagon).

Next time: Write the number of sides under each shape. The numbers make the pattern obvious - then count the sides of each option carefully.

Question 27 - Answer C

Non-verbal: Series

Which figure comes next in the series?



Two things change: the circle gets bigger each time, and the shading alternates white, black, white, black. Next is a bigger white circle.

Next time: More than one thing can change in a series. Check size, shading, position and number separately.

Question 28 - Answer A

Non-verbal: Series

Which figure comes next in the series?



The arrow turns a quarter turn (90°) clockwise each time: up, right, down, left - so next it points up again.

Next time: Use your pencil as an arrow and turn it the same way. Notice when a pattern returns to its start.

Question 29 - Answer D

Non-verbal: Analogies

The first figure changes into the second. Which option changes in the same way?



The big white square becomes a small black square: it gets smaller AND turns black. So the big white triangle becomes a small black triangle.

Next time: List every change in the first pair (size? shading? shape? direction?). The answer must make all the same changes.



Question 30 - Answer B

Non-verbal: Analogies

The first figure changes into the second. Which option changes in the same way?



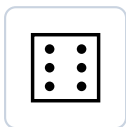
The arrow turns upside down (a half turn). So the black triangle pointing up turns to point down – and stays black.

Next time: Check what stays the same as well as what changes. The shading didn't change in the first pair, so it mustn't change in the answer.

Question 31 - Answer A

Non-verbal: Analogies

The first figure changes into the second. Which option changes in the same way?



The circle keeps its shape but the number of dots doubles ($2 \rightarrow 4$). So the square keeps its shape and its 3 dots double to 6.

Next time: With numbers of things, check whether they are added to or multiplied. $2 \rightarrow 4$ could be $+2$ or $\times 2$ – try both on the given figure and see which option matches.

Question 32 - Answer E

Non-verbal: Analogies

The first figure changes into the second. Which option changes in the same way?



The inside and outside shapes swap: square-in-circle becomes circle-in-square. So circle-in-triangle becomes triangle-in-circle.

Next time: Name the shapes in each figure ('square inside circle'). Describing it in words makes the swap easier to spot.

Question 33 - Answer B

Non-verbal: Reflections

Which option shows the figure reflected in the dashed mirror line?



In a mirror, left and right swap but top and bottom stay the same. The flag stays at the top of the pole but now points left.

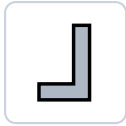
Next time: Imagine folding the page along the mirror line. Anything near the top stays at the top.



Question 34 - Answer D

Non-verbal: Reflections

Which option shows the figure reflected in the dashed mirror line?



The foot of the L points right, so in the mirror it points left. The tall part stays standing up.

Next time: Turning a shape is not the same as reflecting it. Rotated options are common traps – check that top and bottom haven't moved.

Question 35 - Answer C

Non-verbal: Reflections

Which option shows the figure reflected in the dashed mirror line?



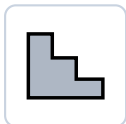
The arrow flips to point left, and the dot, which was top-left, moves to top-right.

Next time: Check every part of the figure separately. In one trap option the arrow is reflected but the dot hasn't moved.

Question 36 - Answer E

Non-verbal: Reflections

Which option shows the figure reflected in the dashed mirror line?



The steps go up to the right, so in a vertical mirror they go up to the left. The flat bottom stays at the bottom.

Next time: Pick one easy feature (here, the tallest step) and ask where it ends up. It moves to the other side but stays the same height.



Topic table

Tick the questions your child got right and write the total for each topic. Topics where marks were lost are the ones to practise first.

Topic	Questions	Score	Skills tested
Verbal: Closest meaning	1, 2	/ 2	Verbal reasoning
Verbal: Opposite meaning	3, 4	/ 2	Verbal reasoning
Verbal: Hidden word	5, 6	/ 2	Verbal reasoning
Verbal: Letter codes	7, 8	/ 2	Verbal reasoning
Verbal: Number series	9, 10	/ 2	Verbal reasoning
Verbal: Letter series	11, 12	/ 2	Verbal reasoning
Verbal: Word analogies	13, 14	/ 2	Verbal reasoning
Verbal: Odd one out	15, 16	/ 2	Verbal reasoning
Verbal: Compound words	17, 18	/ 2	Verbal reasoning
Verbal: Two meanings	19, 20	/ 2	Verbal reasoning
Non-verbal: Odd one out	21, 22, 23, 24	/ 4	Non-verbal reasoning
Non-verbal: Series	25, 26, 27, 28	/ 4	Non-verbal reasoning
Non-verbal: Analogies	29, 30, 31, 32	/ 4	Non-verbal reasoning
Non-verbal: Reflections	33, 34, 35, 36	/ 4	Non-verbal reasoning
Total		/ 36	

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