



Expert tips to get ahead in Year 5

Preparing for exams? Here's what you can do during Year 5 to get ahead of the curve!



Introduce reasoning

If you haven't already, introduce your child to verbal and non-verbal reasoning. They are unlikely to have encountered these subjects at primary school.

If you have an Exam Prep or Exam Prep Plus subscription on Atom Home, your child's plan will include weekly reasoning activities. They'll have access to multiple-choice questions with helpsheets, videos and explanations to introduce them to these unfamiliar topics.



Little and often approach

Our brains are much better at encoding new information when dealing with smaller 'chunks' with rests in between. Childhood development experts say that a reasonable attention span to expect of a child is two to three minutes per year of their age.

This means it's most effective to break revision up across the week. For example, you might try 20 minutes each morning before school.

8 years old		16 to 24 minutes
10 years old		20 to 30 minutes
12 years old		24 to 36 minutes



Spot knowledge gaps

Make sure your child fills any gaps in their knowledge of the exam curriculum. Go to your Track page on Atom Home to see how your child is progressing in the topics on their exam.

Pick out topics your child is finding challenging and set an **extra practice** in each one. This will help them to build understanding and confidence in these tricky areas. Atom will also automatically detect and target topics your child is struggling with.



Build exam technique

Mock tests help your child to practise working under timed conditions. Regular mock tests will help them become confident with the structure of their exam, so they're less likely to be surprised on exam day.

During Year 5, set **1–2 mock tests a month** for your child's target school. In the last six weeks before the exam, increase this to one mock test each week. After each mock test, take time to review the transcript together in a positive way. Ask them which areas they found difficult and what they want to do differently next time.



Read, read, read

Throughout the year, your child should be reading regularly for fun. This will support their comprehension skills, enhancing their vocabulary, analytical thinking and reasoning.

Explore Atom's [Year 5 recommended reading list](#).



The exam is done! What now?

Your child has worked hard to get ready for the 11+. After taking time to celebrate their progress and effort, switch the focus to starting senior school feeling confident. [Learn how to get ready for Year 7](#).