

## ***Guidance on the Professional Skills Tests for School Direct Applicants***

Dear School Direct applicant,

For candidates applying from 2013 onwards you must pass the professional skills tests before you can embark on an initial teacher-training programme. All offers of a training place through Riding Forward Teaching School will be conditional on you passing the professional skills tests before the training begins.

The numeracy and literacy skills tests:

- cover the core skills that teachers need to fulfill their professional role in schools, rather than the subject knowledge required for teaching. This is to ensure all teachers are competent in numeracy and literacy, regardless of their specialism;
- do not replace the GCSE grade C equivalence entry requirement;
- are set in the context of the professional role of a teacher; all questions use real data and information which teachers are likely to encounter; and
- are computerised and can be taken at any of approximately 150 test centres throughout the UK.
- Using the links below should give you information on the tests and an opportunity to undertake practice tests -

### **Literacy skills tests - information and practice materials**

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/careers/traininganddevelopment/professional/b00211208/literacy>

### **Numeracy skills tests - information and practice materials**

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/careers/traininganddevelopment/professional/b00211213/numeracy>

### **FAQ's**

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/careers/traininganddevelopment/professional/b00211225/skills-test-faqs>

### **Costs and resit attempts:**

- The number of resits allowed will be limited to two per subject which came into effect from 1 September 2012. This applies to all skills test candidates. Previous unsuccessful attempts by existing trainees will not count towards this limit; any test taken from 1 September 2012 counts as their first attempt.
- Candidates who fail after two resits in either numeracy or literacy will not be able to book any more skills tests, in either subject, for 24 months from the date of the second resit. This gives candidates a reasonable time during which they can become proficient at the skills assessed in the tests before further retakes.

- Skills tests candidates will continue to receive their first attempt at each test free of charge but will be charged for resits. The charge for resits is £19.25 per test and will be levied at the time of booking a test online

### Contact details for booking the tests

Skills test helpline is open on weekdays from 9am to 5pm.

Telephone: 0845 450 8867 or email: [skillstests@pearson.com](mailto:skillstests@pearson.com)

Applicants for Initial Teacher Training courses from the 2013/14 (or beyond) academic cohort just need to register their details on the Department for Education website.

There is a link below which will take your candidates to the registration page:

<https://www8.pearsonvue.com/testtaker/signin/SignInPage/TDAENTRYTESTS>

### QTS Skills Test Support

For an overview and general information about the Skills tests, look at this site:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/careers/traininganddevelopment/professional/b00212154/introduction>

Practice tests can also be found at:

<http://www.teacherstalk.co.uk/resources/qts-practice-test.php>

[www.numeracyready.co.uk](http://www.numeracyready.co.uk). This site costs £20 to join but is well worth it. There are numerous tests for you to practise and it keeps a track of your progress. The site will also tell you when you are ready to sit the actual maths professional skills test.

Help with the literacy and numeracy skills tests for QTS (online forum):

<http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/showthread.php?t=2215346>

### Numeracy support material:

To see someone solve maths qts problems, with full explanations, try:

<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQEK4k8M-Psjr02E0EDezcg>

This is the GA Numerical you tube site; you can also find it by searching for GANumerical through Google. Keep in mind that these videos reflect ONE PERSON'S STRATEGY—so you may actually have a strategy you like better.

Do a search on Google for Maths QTS Youtube; there you will find more videos.

This site <https://www.khanacademy.org/> has a lot of information about general mathematics knowledge. If there is a topic you do not understand, or you want to understand more thoroughly, there is probably a video for you on this site.

When you get to the main page, click on the LEARN menu, and then open the MATH submenu. You will probably want topics in arithmetic and pre-algebra, or probability and statistics to help you revise for the QTS.

This Youtube video provides some insights into what you may want to revise for the Literacy tests. The speaker sometimes seems to have trouble pronouncing some of the words, but most of his advice is sound.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzOCaEALrUE>

### Literacy support material:

QTS literacy skills test, advice and information including a useful list of resources to help with revision:

<http://www.teachersmedia.co.uk/trainee/literacyskillstest>

**BBC - KS2 Bitesize English** - Spelling & grammar. KS2 English activities, games, tests and notes on spelling and grammar, including how to use punctuation, adjectives, adverbs and nouns. A good source of revision and ideas for activities in school.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling\\_grammar](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar)

Another good place to brush up on your own subject knowledge is by visiting the Primary National Strategy support materials online. Grammar for Writing is particularly helpful:

Revisit **Grammar for Writing** (NLS) and further resources on PNS website.

<http://www.schoolslinks.co.uk/GrammarForWriting.pdf>

### QTS Practice Skills Books

There are many available online and from booksellers. Many books are available electronically. The first has the advantage of combining numeracy and literacy.

### Combined skills tests practice (numeracy and literacy in one volume!)

Tyreman, C. (2011). *How to pass the QTS numeracy and literacy skills tests: essential practice for the qualified teacher status skills tests*. London: Kogan Page.

ISBN-13: **978-0-7494-6241-3**

### Numeracy:

Patmore, M. (2012) *Passing the numeracy skills test (5<sup>th</sup> edition)*.

London: Sage

ISBN-13: **978-0-8572-5883-0**

**Literacy:**

Johnson, J. and Bond, B.. (2012) *Passing the literacy skills test (3rd edition)*.

London: Sage

ISBN-13: 978-0-8572-5879-3

**Core texts to support subject knowledge and understanding:**

Medwell, J., Moore, G., Wray, D. and Griffiths, V. (Eds, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition) (2012) *Primary English: Knowledge and Understanding* SAGE/Learning Matters Ltd.