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Guidance notes for KS1 and KS2 Mental Arithmetic Tests

Purpose? To give teachers regular, formal feedback on pupils' progress and highlight common errors and misconceptions in mental maths

How? The teacher will read the questions to the whole class. It is recommended that children have the pupil's response sheet to record answers:

- a) To accustom children to the SATS format;
- b) As the sheets contain cues and sometimes essential information;
- c) To take away the added pressure of recording/presentation and allow the children to focus on the maths.

We recommend that these tests be marked immediately (by the children themselves if they are responsible enough) and then discussed with the whole class to give feedback on performance and what they need to do to improve. At the same time you can make sure that any errors are put right and the merits of different methods discussed. This can inform future planning.