Sample Programme of Study

Sample Student

Year 5 | Target Schools: St Paul's School, Westminster, King's Wimbledon

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Student Profile

Student: Fictional Year 5 Student
Target School: St Paul's School
Target Entry: Year 7 (11+)
Programme Length: Approximately 12 Months
Lesson Frequency: One 60-minute lesson per week
Independent Study: 2–3 hours per week
Assessment Route: ISEB Common Pre-Test followed by Stage Two assessments

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Programme Aim

This personalised programme has been designed to prepare the student for every stage of the St Paul's School admissions process. Following an initial diagnostic assessment, lessons are carefully sequenced to strengthen core academic knowledge, develop advanced reasoning skills and build the confidence required to succeed in highly competitive entrance examinations.

Teaching is continually adapted using homework, lesson observations, assessments and mock examinations to ensure the programme remains personalised throughout.

Current Position

Strengths

- Strong mathematical reasoning
- Good reading comprehension
- Positive learning attitude
- Excellent resilience
- Enjoys challenging problems

Areas for Development

- Verbal reasoning techniques
- Academic vocabulary
- Timed examination performance
- Creative writing
- Examination confidence

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Baseline Assessment

Subject	Current	Target
Mathematics	81%	90%+
English	76%	90%+
Verbal Reasoning	68%	90%+
Non-Verbal Reasoning	84%	90%+

Programme Structure

The programme is divided into five progressive phases. Each phase builds upon the previous one, ensuring that core knowledge is secure before introducing increasingly demanding examination questions.

Phase 1 - Assessment & Foundation

Lessons 1–6

Objectives

- Complete comprehensive diagnostic assessments.
- Identify strengths and areas for development.
- Produce a personalised learning plan.
- Build secure foundations across all four subjects.
- Establish effective homework and revision routines.
- Introduce the ISEB assessment format.

Milestone

Baseline Assessment Report

Phase 2 - Core Skill Development

Lessons 7–18

Objectives

- Develop mathematical fluency.
- Strengthen reading comprehension.
- Expand academic vocabulary.
- Introduce every major Verbal Reasoning question type.
- Introduce every major Non-Verbal Reasoning question type.
- Develop independent problem-solving strategies.

Milestone

Progress Review & Parent Consultation

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Phase 3 - Advanced Application

Lessons 19–30

Objectives

- Apply knowledge to increasingly challenging questions.
- Develop advanced reasoning.
- Improve speed and accuracy.
- Introduce mixed-topic papers.
- Develop examination strategies.

Milestone

Mid-Programme Assessment

Phase 4 - Mock Examinations & Exam Readiness

Lessons 31–36

Objectives

- Complete full timed ISEB mock examinations.
- Analyse performance.
- Address remaining knowledge gaps.
- Develop confidence under examination conditions.
- Refine time management.

Milestone

ISEB Common Pre-Test

Phase 5 - Stage Two Preparation

Lessons 37–40+

Following successful completion of the ISEB Common Pre-Test, preparation transitions to the next stage of the St Paul's admissions process.

Depending on the requirements for the admissions cycle, lessons may include:

- Advanced Mathematics
- English comprehension
- Creative writing
- School-specific written assessments
- Critical thinking
- Discussion skills
- Interview preparation
- Mock interviews

Milestone

Stage Two Assessment & Interview

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Mathematics Programme

The Mathematics programme develops the knowledge, reasoning skills and problem-solving strategies required for success in the ISEB Common Pre-Test and highly selective independent school entrance examinations.

Teaching progresses from secure mathematical foundations through to advanced reasoning, multi-step problem solving and examination technique. Students regularly revisit previous learning to develop fluency, confidence and long-term retention.

Number & Arithmetic

Objective
Develop fluency and confidence with number, calculation and mental arithmetic.
Learning Outcomes

- Place value
- Four operations
- Order of operations (BIDMAS)
- Mental arithmetic
- Estimation
- Factors and multiples
- Prime numbers
- Square and cube numbers
- Negative numbers
- Number properties

Fractions, Decimals & Percentages

Objective
Develop confidence converting, comparing and calculating with fractions, decimals and percentages.
Learning Outcomes

- Equivalent fractions
- Simplifying fractions
- Comparing and ordering
- Four operations
- Fractions of amounts
- Decimal calculations
- Percentage calculations
- Percentage increase and decrease
- Percentage change
- FDP conversions

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Ratio & Proportion

Objective
Develop proportional reasoning and solve increasingly complex ratio problems.
Learning Outcomes

- Simplifying ratios
- Sharing in a ratio
- Ratio word problems
- Scale factors
- Direct proportion
- Inverse proportion (where appropriate)

Algebra

Objective
Develop algebraic thinking and confidently solve equations and sequences.
Learning Outcomes

- Missing number problems
- Expressions
- Formulae
- Substitution
- Linear equations
- Number sequences
- Algebraic reasoning

Geometry & Spatial Awareness

Objective
Develop understanding of shape, space and geometric reasoning.
Learning Outcomes

- Angles
- Triangles
- Quadrilaterals
- Polygons
- Circles
- Symmetry
- Coordinates
- Transformations
- Nets
- 3D shapes

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Measurement

Objective
Apply mathematical knowledge to real-life measures and conversions.
Learning Outcomes

- Length
- Mass
- Capacity
- Time
- Money
- Area
- Perimeter
- Volume
- Unit conversions
- Compound measures

Statistics, Data Handling & Probability

Objective
Interpret and analyse data using a range of mathematical representations.
Learning Outcomes

- Tables
- Bar charts
- Line graphs
- Pie charts
- Mean, Median, Mode and Range
- Probability

Mathematical Reasoning

Objective
Develop logical thinking and apply mathematical knowledge to unfamiliar multi-step problems.
Learning Outcomes

- Multi-step reasoning
- Logical thinking
- Working systematically
- Problem-solving strategies
- Mathematical communication
- Estimation and checking

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Examination Skills

Throughout the programme, students will develop the examination techniques required to perform confidently under timed conditions.

Skills Developed

- Speed and accuracy
- Time management
- Efficient working methods
- Identifying key information
- Eliminating incorrect methods
- Checking strategies
- Reducing careless errors
- Managing unfamiliar questions
- Timed mixed practice

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English Programme

The English programme develops the reading, writing and communication skills required for success in the ISEB Common Pre-Test and highly selective independent school entrance examinations.

Students build sophisticated vocabulary, secure grammatical knowledge and confident writing skills while developing the analytical thinking required for challenging comprehension tasks.

Reading Comprehension

Objective
Develop confident readers who can interpret, analyse and evaluate increasingly challenging texts.
Learning Outcomes

- Retrieval
- Inference
- Deduction
- Prediction
- Summarising
- Vocabulary in context
- Author's methods
- Language analysis
- Structural analysis
- Comparing texts
- Evaluating viewpoints

Vocabulary Development

Objective
Develop a broad academic vocabulary and apply ambitious language accurately in reading and writing.
Learning Outcomes

- Academic vocabulary
- Synonyms
- Antonyms
- Shades of meaning
- Word choice
- Figurative language
- Idioms
- Etymology
- Vocabulary in context

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Composition & Written Expression

Objective
Develop engaging, accurate and well-structured writing for a range of purposes.
Learning Outcomes

- Narrative writing
- Descriptive writing
- Diary writing
- Newspaper reports
- Letters
- Speeches
- Persuasive writing
- Planning
- Editing
- Proofreading

Grammar & Punctuation

Objective
Develop secure grammatical knowledge and accurate written communication.
Learning Outcomes

- Word classes
- Sentence structures
- Clauses
- Phrases
- Tenses
- Subject-verb agreement
- Apostrophes
- Commas
- Colons
- Semi-colons
- Parenthesis
- Relative clauses
- Fronted adverbials
- Passive voice
- Modal verbs
- Cohesion
- Paragraphing

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Spelling & Word Knowledge

Objective
Develop confident spelling through an understanding of word structure and spelling patterns.
Learning Outcomes

- Prefixes
- Suffixes

- Root words
- Homophones
- Common exception words
- Silent letters
- Spelling rules
- Morphology
- Etymology

Examination Skills

Skills Developed

- Reading efficiently
- Planning written responses
- Time management
- Editing techniques
- Proofreading
- Vocabulary selection
- Responding to unseen texts
- Writing under timed conditions

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Verbal Reasoning Programme

The Verbal Reasoning programme develops the vocabulary, language skills and logical reasoning required for success in the ISEB Common Pre-Test and highly selective independent school entrance examinations.

Teaching progresses from fundamental vocabulary and language development through to advanced reasoning, complex problem solving and timed examination practice. Regular mixed practice ensures students can confidently apply multiple reasoning skills under examination conditions.

Vocabulary Development

Objective
Develop a broad and sophisticated vocabulary, enabling students to understand increasingly complex language and recognise relationships between words.
Topics Covered

- Synonyms
- Antonyms
- Closest meaning
- Multiple meanings
- Shades of meaning
- Academic vocabulary
- Vocabulary in context
- Root words
- Prefixes
- Suffixes
- Homophones
- Commonly confused words

Vocabulary in Context

Objective
Develop the ability to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words using contextual clues and wider reading comprehension skills.
Topics Covered

- Context clues
- Word definitions
- Figurative language
- Idioms
- Reading for meaning
- Selecting appropriate vocabulary
- Contextual reasoning

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Word Construction

Objective
Understand how words are formed and manipulated through spelling patterns, prefixes, suffixes and structural changes.
Topics Covered

- Compound words
- Making words
- Changing words
- Root words
- Prefixes
- Suffixes
- Letter substitution
- Word families

Sentence Reasoning

Objective
Apply vocabulary and grammar knowledge to interpret and complete increasingly challenging sentence-based reasoning tasks.
Topics Covered

- Sentence completion
- Missing words
- Grammar in context
- Word choice
- Contextual meaning
- Sentence logic
- Sequencing ideas

Reading & Context

Objective
Strengthen reading fluency and the ability to interpret language through cloze passages and contextual reasoning exercises.
Topics Covered

- Cloze exercises
- Contextual vocabulary
- Grammar
- Reading fluency
- Inference
- Selecting appropriate language

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Letter Manipulation

Objective
Develop flexible thinking through recognising and manipulating patterns within words and letters.
Topics Covered

- Anagrams
- Hidden words
- Letter movement
- Rearranging letters
- Missing letters
- Word construction

Pattern Recognition

Objective
Identify logical relationships between letters and words by recognising increasingly complex patterns.
Topics Covered

- Alphabet sequences
- Letter patterns
- Word patterns
- Classification
- Odd one out
- Pattern recognition

Codes & Sequences

Objective
Develop logical reasoning by identifying and applying coding rules involving letters, numbers and symbols.
Topics Covered

- Letter codes
- Number codes
- Letter-number codes
- Symbol substitution
- Coding and decoding
- Logical sequences

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Numerical Reasoning

Objective
Apply logical thinking to numerical information and recognise mathematical relationships commonly encountered in verbal reasoning.
Topics Covered

- Number sequences
- Number relationships
- Missing numbers
- Arithmetic reasoning
- Numerical logic

Logical Reasoning

Objective
Develop higher-order thinking skills through increasingly complex reasoning and deduction problems.
Topics Covered

- Deductions
- Statements and conclusions
- Following instructions
- Logical arguments
- Elimination strategies
- Critical thinking
- Multi-step reasoning

Examination Skills

Throughout the programme, students will also develop the examination techniques required to perform confidently under timed conditions.
Skills Developed

- Speed and accuracy
- Time management
- Eliminating incorrect answers
- Recognising common distractors
- Working systematically
- Checking strategies
- Managing unfamiliar question types
- Maintaining concentration
- Reducing careless errors
- Timed mixed practice

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Non-Verbal Reasoning Programme

The Non-Verbal Reasoning programme develops visual reasoning, spatial awareness and logical problem-solving through progressively more challenging diagrammatic questions.

Students learn to identify patterns, analyse relationships between shapes and mentally manipulate two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures before applying these skills under timed examination conditions.

Similarities & Differences

Objective
Develop the ability to compare visual information, identify relationships and recognise subtle changes between figures.
Learning Outcomes

- Identifying similarities
- Identifying differences
- Figure classification
- Odd one out
- Shape relationships
- Visual comparison
- Pattern recognition

Patterns, Series & Matrices

Objective
Develop logical thinking by recognising and completing increasingly complex visual patterns.
Learning Outcomes

- Pattern completion
- Figure series
- Shape sequences
- Matrices
- Missing figures
- Multiple-rule patterns
- Grid reasoning

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Transformations

Objective
Develop confidence manipulating shapes through movement and transformation.
Learning Outcomes

- Reflections
- Rotations

- Translations
- Enlargements
- Symmetry
- Orientation
- Combined transformations

2D Shape Logic

Objective
Develop logical reasoning using two-dimensional shapes and diagrams.
Learning Outcomes

- Shape properties
- Composite shapes
- Embedded figures
- Hidden shapes
- Shape construction
- Shape decomposition
- Visual logic

Codes & Visual Logic

Objective
Develop reasoning skills by applying logical rules to symbols, diagrams and coded information.
Learning Outcomes

- Diagram codes
- Shape codes
- Symbol substitution
- Visual sequences
- Code matching
- Logical deduction

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Nets & Folding

Objective
Develop the ability to visualise shapes when folded, unfolded or manipulated.
Learning Outcomes

- Cube nets
- 3D nets
- Paper folding
- Hole punching
- Folded patterns
- Surface matching

Spatial Reasoning in 3D

Objective
Develop advanced spatial awareness by mentally manipulating three-dimensional objects.
Learning Outcomes

- Cubes
- Cube rotations
- Isometric drawings
- Perspective
- 3D visualisation
- Object manipulation
- Spatial awareness

Examination Skills

Throughout the programme students will develop the examination techniques required to perform confidently under timed conditions.
Skills Developed

- Speed and accuracy
- Time management
- Working systematically
- Identifying multiple rules
- Eliminating incorrect answers
- Checking strategies
- Managing unfamiliar question types
- Timed mixed practice

Sample Programme of Study

Homework & Independent Study

Each lesson is supported by structured independent study, including:

- Weekly homework
- Vocabulary revision
- Reading programme
- Timed practice
- Revision activities
- Error correction
- Optional extension tasks

Homework is reviewed at the start of every lesson and used to inform future planning.

Progress Monitoring

Progress is continuously monitored through:

- Diagnostic assessment
- Weekly homework
- Lesson observations
- Topic assessments
- Timed papers
- Monthly progress reports
- Parent consultations
- Full mock examinations

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the programme, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate a secure understanding across Mathematics, English, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning.
- Apply effective examination techniques confidently under timed conditions.
- Perform consistently at a competitive standard in ISEB-style assessments.
- Transition smoothly into St Paul's Stage Two assessments with confidence.
- Approach interviews and written assessments with maturity, resilience and independence.

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Success Benchmarks

Throughout the programme, progress is monitored through regular assessments, mock examinations and lesson observations. Each assessment provides a clear indication of the student's current level, highlights areas for development and informs the next phase of teaching.

The benchmark ranges below represent the expected level of progress for a student preparing for highly selective independent school entrance examinations. Individual targets may be adjusted according to the student's starting point, target schools and programme duration.

Assessment	Emerging	On Track	Competitive
Baseline	65–75%	75–82%	82%+
Phase 1	75–80%	80–85%	85%+
Phase 2	80–85%	85–88%	88%+
Phase 3	85–88%	88–91%	91%+
Mock Exams	88–90%	90–93%	93%+

These benchmark ranges are illustrative and are designed to monitor progress throughout the programme. They do not represent published admissions thresholds. Individual targets may be adjusted based on the student's starting point, target schools and assessment performance.

Assessment Timeline

Lesson	Assessment
Lesson 1	Diagnostic Assessment
Lesson 6	Foundation Review
Lesson 18	Mid-Programme Assessment
Lesson 30	Progress Assessment
Lesson 34	Mock Examination 1
Lesson 36	Mock Examination 2
Lesson 40	Final Readiness Review / Stage Two Planning

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Following Every Assessment

Parents receive a detailed progress report including:

✓ Current attainment in each subject

✓ Comparison against programme benchmarks

✓ Strengths demonstrated

✓ Priority areas for improvement

✓ Recommended lesson focus

✓ Independent study recommendations

✓ Predicted readiness for the next assessment stage