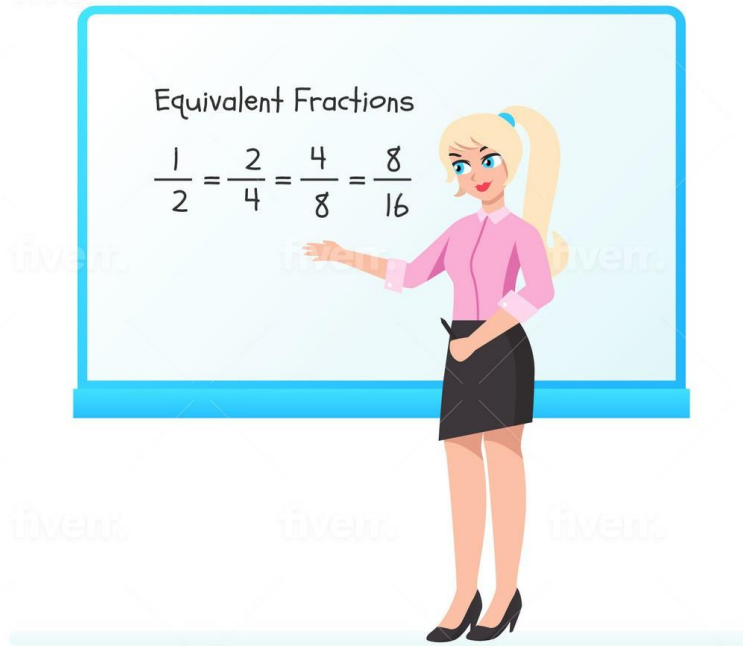


# My Maths Cloud

## 11+ Interview Advice



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# 1 General Tips

- Warm greeting such as Good Morning Mr/Mrs...
- Practise a firm handshake
- Voice - calm, clear and slow
- Try to pause and think quietly. Do not say 'ummm' every other word
- Body language, personality and art of conversation are important
  - Body language-Practise sitting on a sofa or chair looking engaged and interested with good posture. Stay relaxed and avoid fiddling, slouching etc
  - Personality - Show a bit of personality in the way you answer questions. You need to demonstrate that you are easy to get along with, enthusiastic without being 'cheesy' and keen to get fully involved. Show that you are sociable and have a good sense of humour.
  - Art of conversation-Responses which give one sentence answers will appear rehearsed and will not give as good an impression as an interactive dialogue which results from a question. Do not give one word answers! Be articulate and forthcoming. Do not be afraid to ask questions.
- Smile often and maintain eye contact with the interviewer when being spoken to and replying to questions
- Look through the prospectus and website. Take note of aspects of the school in case you're asked about them (show that you will make the most of the opportunities on offer) and start to compile a list of questions. Interviewers like the student to be well informed and to also ask questions without being prompted.
- When asked if you have any further questions do not say no. Interviewers like and expect questions about sport facilities. Do not ask if there was one thing you could change about the school what would it be! It is overused and boring.
- Upon departure: Smile, give eye contact, a firm handshake and say a polite thank you for the opportunity to come to the school. Leave a lasting impression
- Interviewer will be taking note of the following : appearance, entrance, sitting posture, composure, manner, use of language, confidence, listening skills, sociable, thinking skills, ability to summarise, general knowledge, mental maths, observations and discussion of reading. These will be graded as excellent, good, average, needs attention.
- Practise mock interviews at home, but do not overprepare. Do not lose your spontaneity. Also make sure to take pauses when answering questions that you have already rehearsed. Do not sound like a robot nor make it obvious that it's been practised at home.

## 2 General Questions Asked

### 2.1 Schools

- Why would you like to come to THIS school?
- Is this your top choice school and why? (Do NOT say no!)
- What is your behaviour like at school?
- What other schools have you applied to? List them in order of preference and mention why you have chosen this order
- What can YOU contribute to the school?
- Describe your school (What can you say about your current school? What do you like about it? How long have you been there?)
- What is your favourite/least favourite subject?
- Why do you think it is time to move on from your current school?
- Can you tell me about a teacher at your school?
- What might you change about your current school if you had the opportunity to do so?
- If there was one thing you could change about THIS school what would it be?
- What are the differences between your school and this school?
- Look through the prospectus and website and write down the things that appeal about the school! Be forthcoming with this information.
- What appeals the most about this school? Setting, historical features or facilities? Elaborate...
- Do you know anyone else applying to this school?
- Why does a single sex school appeal to you in terms of your education?
- Have you visited this school before in any other context?

### 2.2 Reading

- Do you enjoy reading and what books do you like?
- Do you have a favourite book? If so, what is the story and why do you like it?
- What is your favourite genre of books? Favourite Author?
- Are you currently reading a book? If so, which one? Describe it.
- What do you think the purpose of reading is?
- If you went to a bookshop what section would you choose to buy a book from?

### 2.3 Family

- Do you have any brothers or sisters? If so, do you enjoy having brothers and sisters or do you fight with them?
- What do you do on the weekend with your family?
- What schools do/did your siblings go to? Are you applying to the same schools? If not, why?
- What do your parents do?
- Did your parents attend this school? If so, why is important to follow in their footsteps?
- Do your family have strengths, achievements or contributions to make to the school community?

## 2.4 Hobbies

- What are your hobbies/interests outside of school? What have you achieved in these? Be prepared to talk in detail about these (Don't just name them - expand on them to tell the interviewer how you're involved, how often and when)
- What is your favourite hobby and why? (Do not say watching tv or playing video games)
- Do you play an instrument? Why did you start? Have you done any exams?
- Do you speak any languages apart from English?
- What sports do you do?
- Favourite film?
- Do you enjoy acting? Have you performed in any plays recently?
- Do you watch much TV? Do you watch educational TV?
- What would you do if you were stuck inside all day

## 2.5 Subjects

- What academic subjects do you enjoy most?
- What are you currently learning in your favourite subject (s) and why does this interest you?
- Have you heard about the reputation of this school for certain subjects or extra-curricular activities?

## 2.6 Current Affairs

- Make sure you aware of what is happening in the news at the current time (UK Europe and Worldwide). Form an opinion. Why have you formed it? What has caught your eye in the news this week
- Do you read a newspaper? If so, which one?
- Do you listen to news or watch the news on TV?

## 2.7 Personal

- What would you like to achieve in the future and what new things would you like to try? Sound ambitious!
- Is there anything you dislike (answer briefly, don't dwell on this!)
- Describe a situation that you have found difficult and how did you resolve it?
- If you had 2 hours of free time what would you do with it?
- What happens during a typical school day/week/weekend?
- Who is your hero?
- If you could choose one object to take to a desert island, what would it be and why?
- Any funny stories or jokes you want to tell?
- If you could have one super power what would it be?
- Do you have any pets?
- If the world were to end in 3 days what would you do?
- If you could only take one object to a desert Island what would it be (sometimes given a list to choose from)
- If you could be anyone for a day...
- If you had unlimited money what would you do with it and why?
- What is the greatest problem facing the world?
- What is your greatest achievement?
- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- Describe a future invention and how it would affect our lives

- You invent a new religion. What would you call it and name one central rule it would have
- Which instrument would you be and why?
- Is being nice to other people important and why?
- What would you uninvent?

## 3 Subject Questions Asked

### 3.1 English

Usually you will be asked to read a passage or be shown a picture. Practise in advance so you are prepared. Having to think on your feet can make nerves come into play, so make sure you rehearse these situations in advance. Form and express an opinion.

- Shown a picture (s) and asked
  - To comment on what you see (identify and describe-give as much detail as possible)
  - To give a context
  - A specific question related to this picture
  - what similarities/differences you see between two pictures
  - which you like/prefer and why
  - what kind of paint has the artist used
  - to order objects by importance
  - name and describe certain objects and mention what they are used for
  - Which country certain flags are from?
- Asked questions on a current affairs topic
  - What should the government do to reduce the number of teenagers smoking
  - Why do so many young people smoke and what is additive in cigarettes?
  - What do you think about Brexit
  - North Korea and their nuclear weapons
  - Donald Trump
- Given a passage to read and then asked
  - to summarise in a few sentences
  - some comprehension questions
  - what part of this passage is formal or informal
  - what part is realistic
  - what is the narrator trying to tell us
  - what do you think the narrator wants us to feel
  - to give two versions of what happens next
- Think of synonyms for certain words
- Be able to give examples of similes and metaphors

### 3.2 Maths

You will usually be given some maths questions. Unfortunately, these usually change every year. They are often based on logic and puzzles.

Some examples from previous years include

- Mental maths calculations (e.g.  $77+39$ ,  $10.6+100$ ,  $-6-15$ ,  $19\times 4$ )
- Choose some given numbers that make a given total (often decimals)
- Add all the primes up until 20
- Find the perimeter of a square with an area  $121\text{ cm}^2$
- What kind of numbers are 1,4,9,16,...
- What comes next in a given sequence
- How many years, months and days in 795 days
- Approximately how many heartbeats in 10 years
- 3 apples and a banana cost 64p. 5 apples and a banana cost 88p. How much does 1 banana cost?
- The floor of a square hall is tiled with square tiles. Along the two diagonals there are 125 tiles altogether. How many tiles are there on the floor?

- On Monday, Claire bought an apple and a banana. The total cost was 57p. On Tuesday, Claire bought a banana and a pear. The total cost was 56p. On Wednesday, Claire bought an apple and a pear. The total was 69p. On Thursday, Claire bought an apple, banana and a pear. How much did Claire spend on Thursday?

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