Foras Taighde ar Oideachas Educational Research Centre

PAPER TEST CATALOGUE

(Primary and Post-Primary)

Phone: (01) 8377 614

Email: tests@erc.ie

Website: https://tests.erc.ie

This booklet describes the paper tests available from our Test Department, the various scoring options and the processes for ordering your materials.

Follow these steps to order our test materials:

Step 1:   Review the booklet
Step 2:   Select the paper tests you wish to purchase
Step 3:   Complete your order form and email it to tests@erc.ie

For any questions on the content of this booklet, please email our Test Department at tests@erc.ie

ORDERING TESTS

You can order tests by email, **but not by phone**. For financial control reasons, orders cannot be accepted or amended by phone. The steps for ordering and conditions of sale are summarised below.

- Download the order form from our website (for primary schools: https://www.tests.erc.ie/primary-order-forms; for post-primary schools: https://www.tests.erc.ie/post-primary-order-forms).

- Fill in the details of your order, and ensure the order has been approved by the school principal.

- Send your order to the Test Department, **keeping a copy for yourself**. Orders can be emailed to tests@erc.ie.

- All materials will be sent directly to the school address. It is important to check the contents immediately, as discrepancies can only be dealt with up to 14 days from date of delivery.

  - An invoice, which will include postage costs, will be posted to the principal shortly after delivery.

- The total amount must be paid within 30 days of date of invoice. Any subsequent orders cannot be processed until overdue amount has been paid.

- **Payment should be lodged directly to the Test Department bank account** (details are on your invoice). You may also pay by cheque, but must note your **roll number** and **invoice number** on the back of the cheque. If you do not do so, your account may not be credited, because we may not know where the payment came from.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- All orders and costs must be approved by the school principal. It is the responsibility of the person submitting the order to secure appropriate approval.

- **Do not** include payment when you order. The school principal will be invoiced after the school has received the order. The invoice will include any postage costs.

- Invoices are payable within 30 days from the date of the invoice.

- You must flag any discrepancies or errors in shipments or invoices no later than 14 days from date of issue.

- Allow extra time during busy periods for processing and shipping your order.

- In rare circumstances, booklets and answer sheets may be returned, subject to:
  - Prior arrangement.
  - Purchase within the previous 6 weeks.
  - All in original unbroken packages (loose items will not be credited).
  - Items not sold in packages (stencils, manuals) are not returnable.
  - All returns are subject to a handling charge of 10%.

NEW DRUMCONDRA PRIMARY READING TEST (NEW DPRT)

The *New Drumcondra Primary Reading Test* (New DPRT) is a standardised test of achievement in English reading for pupils in primary schools in Ireland. Its content is based on both the 1999 Primary School English Curriculum (DES/NCCA 1999), where appropriate, and the Primary Language Curriculum (DES/NCCA 2015a; DES/NCCA 2018a).

The New DPRT was standardised in 2018, and is intended to replace the Drumcondra Primary Reading Test – Revised (DPRT-R), which was standardised in 2006. There are six levels of the New DPRT available in paper format: Levels 1 to 6 (First to Sixth class). Levels 3 to 6 are also available through the ERC's computer-based platform, the ERC DOTS (Drumcondra Online Testing System). For paper tests, there are two parallel forms available at each level, Form A and Form B. For computer-based tests (CBT), there is an additional Form C.

The New DPRT was standardised in spring/summer, and is therefore designed for use near the end of the school year. The table below indicates the level of the New DPRT that should be administered at each class level.

Class Level	Test Level	Norms	Paper Forms	CBT Forms	Time (approx.)
End of First	1	Spring	A & B	n/a	~90 mins
End of Second	2	Spring	A & B	n/a	~85 mins
End of Third	3	Spring	A & B	A, B & C	~100 mins
End of Fourth	4	Spring	A & B	A, B & C	~100 mins
End of Fifth	5	Spring	A & B	A, B & C	~100 mins
End of Sixth	6	Spring	A & B	A, B & C	~100 mins

- At Levels 1 and 2, pupils mark their answers on the test booklet. At Levels 3–6, the booklets are reusable, and pupils mark their answers on an answer sheet. The same answer sheet is used for the DPRT (reading) and the DPMT (maths) and a student needs just **one answer sheet for both tests**. These answer sheets can optionally be submitted to our offices for correction (see page 13-14).

- Levels 1 and 2 must each be administered separately, and cannot be administered in conjunction with any other level of the test. Levels 3–6 can be administered at the same time due to use of the same directions, format and time limits. This enables teachers of multi-grade classes to administer Levels 3–6 to several classes at the same time.

- Level 1 is a screening test: its primary purpose is to identify pupils who may be at risk of difficulties in reading. The content of the test falls into three categories: Word Analysis; Vocabulary; and Comprehension. The test gives a standard score and criterion-referenced report for Overall Reading, and a breakdown of scores can be generated for each subtest.

- Level 2 includes vocabulary questions, sentence comprehension and comprehension passages. Standard scores, Sten scores and Percentile ranks can be generated for Overall Reading, as well as the subtests of Vocabulary and Comprehension. Further subscales can be generated based on Sentence-level Comprehension and Passage-level Comprehension.

- Levels 3–6 include vocabulary questions and comprehension passages. Standard scores, Sten scores and Percentile ranks can be generated for Overall Reading, as well as the subtests of Vocabulary and Comprehension. Further subscales can be generated based on Text Type (Literary; Informational) and Comprehension Process (Retrieve & Infer; Interpret & Evaluate).

NEW DRUMCONDRA PRIMARY MATHEMATICS TEST (NEW DPMT)

The *New Drumcondra Primary Mathematics Test* (New DPMT) is a standardised test of achievement in Mathematics for pupils in primary schools in Ireland. Its content is based on the 1999 Primary School Mathematics Curriculum (DES/NCCA 1999).

The New DPMT was standardised in 2018, and is intended to replace the Drumcondra Primary Mathematics Test – Revised (DPMT-R), which was standardised in 2005 and 2006. There are six levels of the New DPMT available in paper format: Levels 1 to 6 (First to Sixth class). Levels 3 to 6 are also available for administration through the ERC's computer-based platform, the ERC DOTS (Drumcondra Online Testing System). For paper tests, there are two parallel forms available at each level, Form A and Form B. For computer-based tests (CBT), there is an additional Form C.

The New DPMT was standardised in spring/summer, and is therefore designed for use near the end of the school year. The table below indicates the level of the New DPMT that should be administered at each class level.

Class Level	Test Level	Norms	Paper Forms	CBT Forms	Time (approx.)
End of First	1	Spring	A & B	n/a	~80 mins
End of Second	2	Spring	A & B	n/a	~85 mins
End of Third	3	Spring	A & B	A, B & C	~100 mins
End of Fourth	4	Spring	A & B	A, B & C	~100 mins
End of Fifth	5	Spring	A & B	A, B & C	~100 mins
End of Sixth	6	Spring	A & B	A, B & C	~100 mins

- At Levels 1 and 2, pupils mark their answers on the test booklet. At Levels 3–6, the booklets are reusable, and pupils mark their answers on an answer sheet. The same answer sheet is used for the DPRT (reading) and the DPMT (maths) and a student needs just **one answer sheet for both tests**. These answer sheets can optionally be submitted to our offices for correction (see page 13-14).

- Levels 1 and 2 must each be administered separately, and cannot be administered in conjunction with any other level of the test. Levels 3–6 can be administered at the same time due to use of the same directions, format and time limits. This enables teachers of multi-grade classes to administer Levels 3–6 to several classes at the same time.

- Level 1 is a screening test: its primary purpose is to identify pupils who may be at risk of difficulties in mathematics. The test gives a standard score and criterion-referenced report for Overall Mathematics, and a breakdown of scores can also be generated for the content areas of 'Number/Algebra', 'Measures' and 'Shape & Space/Data'.

- Levels 2-6 of the test give Standard scores, Sten scores and Percentile ranks for Overall Mathematics. A breakdown of scores can also be generated for the content areas of 'Number/ Algebra', 'Measures' and 'Shape & Space/Data', as well as for the process skills of 'Understand & Implement' and 'Integrate, Reason & Problem Solve'.

- At Levels 4, 5 and 6, Part A of the test must be completed without the use of a calculator. Pupils may use a calculator for Part B, if they wish. Levels 1, 2 and 3 must be completed entirely without a calculator.

DRUMCONDRA PRIMARY SPELLING TEST (DPST)

The *Drumcondra Primary Spelling Test* (DPST) is designed to be administered to pupils in First to Sixth classes in primary schools. There are two forms of the test at each level: Form A and Form B. Please note that only one form of the test, A or B, can be administered during a testing session. The DPST takes 45–50 minutes to administer. Norms are available for spring testing only.

Range of the Drumcondra Primary Spelling Test		
Class Level	**DPST Level**	**Forms***
End of First	1	A & B
End of Second	2	A & B
End of Third	3	A & B
End of Forth	4	A & B
End of Fifth	5	A & B
End of Sixth	6	A & B

*Only one form of the test, A or B, can be administered during a testing session.

The DPST includes three item types: word spelling, in which the pupil is asked to spell words called out by the teacher; sentence or story completion, in which the pupil is asked to write out the missing words in a text that is also read aloud by the teacher; and error detection ('mistakes') where the pupil is asked to identify common spelling errors in each of several sentences, and to write out the correct spellings. At Level 1, pupils are provided with illustrations corresponding to some of the words they are asked to spell, and are not asked to complete the error detection task.

The content of the *Drumcondra Primary Spelling Test* was carefully chosen to include both words that pupils would be likely to encounter in the course of reading, spelling and writing instruction in school, and words that are of high utility (high-frequency words).

The DPST was standardised on a representative national sample of about 2,000 pupils at each class level (First to Sixth). Test scores can be reported in terms of raw scores, standard scores, Sten scores and percentile ranks. In addition, teachers may wish to use the test-wide scale to track the progress of pupils from year to year, as they complete Levels 3–6 of the test. Suggestions for teaching spelling to pupils who need extra support in this area are also given in the manual.

DRUMCONDRA IRISH TEST FOR ENGLISH-MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOLS (TGD-R)

(Drumcondra Irish Test for English-Medium Primary Schools)

The *Triail Ghaeilge Dhroim Conrach do Bhunscoileanna Rialta* (TGD-R) is a standardised test of achievement in Irish that can be administered to groups. The test content is based on the Primary School Curriculum - Irish (1999). 'Bunscoileanna Rialta' refers to those schools in which Irish is taught as a subject, rather than being the main language of conversation and instruction. There are separate tests available for Gaeltacht and all-Irish schools, and therefore the norms in these tests (TGD-R) apply to those schools not teaching through the medium of Irish.

There are three levels in the TGD-R test and they cater for pupils from Second Class to Sixth Class. There are two forms (A and B) available for the test at each level. The table indicates the levels appropriate for each class level.

Pupils record their answers on the booklets.
Two aspects of Irish are assessed at each Level: Reading and Listening. They can be administered on consecutive days. It takes approximately an hour to administer the Reading test. It takes approximately 45 minutes to administer the listening test.

Drumcondra Irish Test for English-Medium Primary Schools – Range of Tests		
Class**	**Level**	**Form***
End of 2nd Class	1	A & B
End of 3rd Class	2	A & B
End of 4th Class	2	A & B
End of 5th Class	3	A & B
End of 6th Class	3	A & B

* Forms A and B can be administered together.
** Spring Norms only

DRUMCONDRA TESTS OF EARLY LITERACY –
Screening (DTEL-S) and Diagnostic (DTEL-D)

The *Drumcondra Tests of Early Literacy* (DTEL) were created in response to requests for screening and diagnostic tests suitable for use with emerging readers, specifically those at the end of Senior Infants and the beginning of First Class, who were experiencing some difficulty in learning to read. The tests draw on international best practice in early reading assessment to provide instruments suitable for the Irish context. The DTEL can complement a teacher's observations and assessments of a child's performance and increase understanding of particular difficulties. Its aim is to provide information on young children's literacy difficulties so that instruction can be improved.

The *Drumcondra Test of Early Literacy – Screening* (DTEL-S) is designed for use with children at the end of Senior Infants or the beginning of First Class. The purpose of the test is to identify pupils who may be at risk of reading difficulties so that, if needed, further diagnostic assessment and targeted instruction can be implemented. The DTEL-S is divided into four parts and assesses two aspects of reading: word recognition and comprehension. The test is suitable for use with groups of six to ten children and takes about 40 minutes to administer.
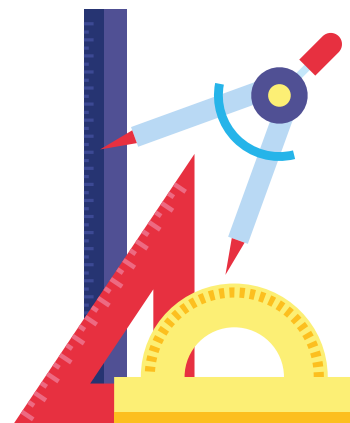
The *Drumcondra Test of Early Literacy – Diagnostic* (DTEL-D) is designed for use with children who may have a reading difficulty and is administered individually. It is recommended to administer the DTEL-D to children who have attained low scores on the DTEL Screening Test. The DTEL-D identifies specific reading and reading-related skills with which children may be experiencing difficulties. The test takes up to 45 minutes to complete. The DTEL-D is divided into three parts: Phonological Awareness; Phonological Working Memory; and Knowledge of Letters and Letter Sounds.

Key features:

- The **Screening Test** is suitable for use with pupils at the end of Senior Infants, or the beginning of First Class.

- To administer the Screening Test, the following are required: The DTEL Administration and Technical Manual and one copy of the DTEL-S Booklet (subtitled 'Pictures and Words 1') per pupil tested.

- The test, which provides a general measure of early reading performance, can be administered to groups of 6 to 10 pupils. It takes about 40 minutes to administer.

- The **Diagnostic Test** can be administered to pupils whose scores on the Screening Test indicate that further testing is needed. It is an individually administered test. It takes about 45 minutes to administer.

- To administer the Diagnostic Test, the following are required: The DTEL Administration and Technical Manual, The DTEL-D Display Booklet (subtitled 'Pictures and Words 2') and one copy of the DTEL-D Scoring Booklet per pupil tested.

- Both the DTEL Administration and Technical Manual and DTEL-D Display Booklet are reusable.

- The DTEL-S Test Booklet and the DTEL-D Scoring Booklet are not reusable.

DRUMCONDRA TESTS OF EARLY NUMERACY –

Screening (DTEN-S) and Diagnostic (DTEN-D)

The *Drumcondra Tests of Early Numeracy* (DTEN) were developed in response to requests for screening and diagnostic tests suitable for use with young children, specifically those at the end of Senior Infants and the beginning of First Class, who were experiencing some difficulty in acquiring basic numeracy concepts. The tests draw on international best practice in numeracy assessment to provide tests suitable for the Irish context. The DTEN can complement a teacher's observations and assessments of a child's performance and increase understanding of particular difficulties. Its aim is to provide information so that additional instruction designed to take a pupil's strengths and weaknesses into account can be planned.

The *Drumcondra Test of Early Numeracy* – Screening (DTEN-S) is designed to identify pupils who may be at risk of numeracy difficulties so that, if needed, further diagnostic assessment and targeted instruction can be implemented. The DTEN-S is divided into three parts: pre-number; numeration; and addition and subtraction. The test is suitable for use with groups of six to ten children and takes about 40 minutes to administer.

The *Drumcondra Test of Early Numeracy – Diagnostic* (DTEN-D) is designed for use with children who may have difficulties with numeracy. It is recommended to administer the DTEN-D to children who have attained low scores on the DTEN Screening Test. The purpose of the DTEN-D is to identify specific aspects of numeracy with which children may be experiencing difficulties. The test is individually administered and takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. The DTEN-D is divided into 15 tasks distributed over the three areas of pre-number, numeration and addition & subtraction.

Key features:

- The **Screening Test** is suitable for use with pupils at the end of Senior Infants, or the beginning of First Class. It provides a general measure of early numeracy. It can be administered to groups of 6 to 10 pupils. It takes about 40 minutes to administer.

- To administer the Screening Test, the following are required: The DTEN Administration and Technical Manual and one copy of the DTEN-S Booklet (subtitled 'Numbers and Shapes Booklet 1') per pupil tested.

- The **Diagnostic Test** can be administered to pupils whose scores on the Screening Test indicate that further testing is needed. It is an individually administered test. It takes about 45 minutes to administer.

- To administer the Diagnostic Test, the following are required: The DTEN Administration and Technical Manual, The DTEN-D Display Booklet (subtitled 'Numbers and Shapes Booklet 2'), The Materials Pack and one copy of the DTEN-D Scoring Record per pupil tested.

- The DTEN Administration and Technical Manual, the DTEN-D Display Booklet ('Numbers and Shapes Booklet 2') and the Materials Pack are all reusable.

- The DTEN-S Test Booklet ('Numbers and Shapes Booklet 1') and the DTEN-D Scoring Record are not reusable.

DRUMCONDRA IRISH TEST FOR GAELTACHT AND ALL-IRISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS (TGD-G)

(Drumcondra Irish Test for Irish-Medium Primary Schools)

The *Triail Ghaeilge Dhroim Conrach do Bhunscoileanna Gaeltachta agus Lán-Ghaeilge* (TGD-G) is a standardised test of achievement in Irish that can be administered to groups. The test content is based on the Primary School Curriculum - Irish (1999). This is a test for pupils in Gaeltacht and all-Irish primary schools and this is the first time that a test has been provided based on the standards in those primary schools only where Irish is the medium of teaching and learning. The norms, therefore, only apply to pupils in Irish-medium schools.

There are four levels in the TGD-G test and they cater for pupils from Senior Infants to Sixth Class. There are two forms (A and B) available for the test at each level. These tests can be administered at the beginning and end of the school year as norms are available for both periods. The table shows the levels appropriate for the time of year in which the tests are administered.

Drumcondra Irish Test for Gaeltacht agus All-Irish Primary Schools – Range of Tests		
Class	Level	Form*
End of Senior Infs. / Beginning of 1st Class	1	A & B
End of 1st Class / Beginning of 2nd Class	2	A & B
End of 2nd Class / Beginning of 3rd Class	2	A & B
End of 3rd Class / Beginning of 4th Class	3	A & B
End of 4th Class / Beginning of 5th Class	3	A & B
End of 5th Class / Beginning of 6th Class	4	A & B
End of 6th Class	4	A & B

Forms A&B can be administered at the same time.

At Levels 1–3, two areas of Irish are assessed - Reading and Listening. At Level 4, three areas are assessed - Reading, Writing (spelling and proofing) and Listening. At each level, it takes approximately an hour to administer the Reading test and between 30 and 45 minutes to administer the Listening test. At Level 4, it takes about 30 extra minutes to administer the writing test.

While Levels 1–3 use only multiple-choice questions, Level 4 uses multiple choice questions and questions with constructed answers.
Pupils at each level record their answers on the booklets.

DRUMCONDRA POST-PRIMARY TEST OF ENGLISH READING LITERACY (DPPT-READ)

For end of 2nd Year

The DPPT-Read was developed in response to a need for such a test identified by the DES in the 'National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy 2011-2020'. The DPPT-Read is based on the pre-2014 Junior Certificate English syllabus and draws on international best practice in reading assessment to provide a test that is suitable for an Irish context. The test aims to complement a teacher's observations and assessments of a student's performance. It gives guidance on strengths, and on the types of difficulties experienced by students. This information can feed into effective planning and learning.

The DPPT-Read is available at two levels in order to appropriately challenge students of differing ability levels. Form A of the test is designed for students who are likely to take the Junior Certificate English examination at Ordinary level. Form B is designed for students who are likely to take the English exam at Higher level. In practice, either form of the test can be used, except for very low achievers (who should complete Form A) and very high achievers (who should complete Form B).

The DPPT- Read can be administered to class or year groups, and takes approximately 70 minutes to administer. This includes time to distribute and collect materials and complete identification information, as well as actual testing time. Forms A and B can be administered together. All Questions on the DPPT-Read follow a multiple-choice format.

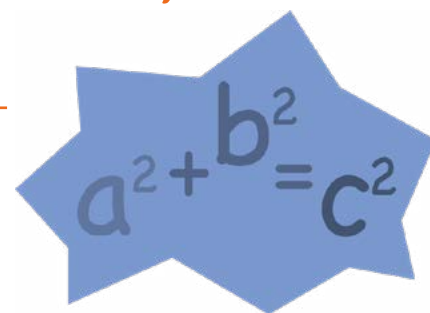| Domain	Reading Literacy
Based on	JC English Syllabi
Format	Multiple Choice
Forms	A (easier) and B (more difficult)
Administration Time	70 minutes
Administration Format	Large or small groups
Scoring & Reporting	Electronic
Subscales Reported	Continuous, Non-continuous, Access & Retrieve, Integrate & Evaluate

Each form of the DPPT-Read comprises 36 reading vocabulary items, and 40 reading comprehension items. Hence, students are asked to respond to 76 items in all. The comprehension items are based on four texts, each of which is followed by 10 items. The overall reading scale is made up of a number of overlapping subscales including 'Reading Vocabulary', 'Reading Comprehension', 'Continuous Texts', 'Non-Continuous Texts', 'Access & Retrieve' and 'Integrate & Evaluate'.

The DPPT-Read is completed on a machine-scorable answer sheet that is available from the Educational Research Centre. The same answer sheet is used for the DPPT-Read and the DPPT-Maths and hence a student needs just one answer sheet for both tests. Answer sheets can be returned to the ERC for scoring (see page 13-14). The ERC will then forward reports to schools that include overall scores and subscale scores.

DRUMCONDRA POST-PRIMARY TEST OF MATHEMATICS (DPPT-MATHS)

For end of 2nd Year

The DPPT-Maths was developed in response to a need for such a test identified by the DES in the 'National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy 2011-2020'. The DPPT-Maths is based on the Project Maths syllabus for Junior Cycle, and draws on international best practice in assessment to provide a test that is suitable for an Irish context. The test aims to complement a teacher's observations and assessments of a student's performance. It gives guidance on strengths, and on the types of difficulties experienced by students. This information can feed into effective planning and learning.

The DPPT-Maths is available at two levels in order to appropriately challenge students of differing ability levels. Form A of the test is designed for students who are likely to take the Junior Certificate Mathematics examination at Ordinary or Foundation levels. Form B is designed for students who are likely to take the Mathematics exam at Higher level. In practice, either form of the test can be used, except for very low achievers (who should complete Form A) and very high achievers (who should complete Form B).

The DPPT-Maths can be administered to class or year groups, and takes approximately 70 minutes to administer. This includes time to distribute and collect materials and complete identification information, as well as actual testing time. Forms A and B can be administered together. All Questions on the DPPT-Maths follow a multiple-choice format.

Domain	Mathematics
Based on	Project Maths Syllabi
Format	Multiple Choice
Forms	A (easier) and B (more difficult)
Administration Time	70 minutes
Administration Format	Large or small groups
Scoring & Reporting	Electronic
Subscales Reported	Statistics & Probability; Geometry & Trigonometry; Number & Measures; Algebra & Functions

Each form of the DPPT-Maths comprises 45 items, including 16 common maths items. To follow the Project Maths approach and syllabus, the assessment framework for the test has two main dimensions which are used to report student performance – 'Mathematics Content' and 'Cognitive Process Skills'. The 'Mathematics Content' of the test items is organised in strands and includes: (i) Statistics & Probability; (ii) Geometry & Trigonometry; (iii) Number & Measure; (iv) Algebra & Functions (Algebra & Functions have been combined for the purposes of this test). Two broad clusters of process skills are assessed and reported on. These are: 'Recall & Implement' and 'Reason & Problem Solve'.

The DPPT-Maths is completed on a machine-scorable answer sheet that is available from the Educational Research Centre. The same answer sheet is used for the DPPT-Maths and the DPPT-Read (and hence a student needs just **one answer sheet for both tests**). Answer sheets can be returned to the ERC for scoring (see page 13-14). The ERC will then forward reports to schools that include overall scores and subscale scores.

DRUMCONDRA REASONING TEST (DRT)
For incoming 1st years

The Drumcondra Reasoning Test (DRT) is an aptitude test, developed in Ireland, for use in Irish schools. The test is aimed at pupils making the transition to post-primary school, and First year students in post-primary school. It was revised and re-normed in 2016.

The DRT is a group-administered test of cognitive skills, divided into two subtests, Verbal Reasoning and Numerical Ability. **Verbal Reasoning** assesses the ability of students to understand, think and reason in and with words. Four types of items contribute to the Verbal Reasoning subtest: Synonyms, Classifications, Analogies and Antonyms. **Numerical Ability** requires the student to reason with numbers and to manipulate numerical relationships, and is assessed using four types of items: Operations with Numbers, Relations among Numbers, Sequential Ordering, and Numerical Abstractions.

The DRT was standardised on nationally representative samples of over 6,000 students enrolled in the target grades in Irish primary and post-primary schools in 2016. The DRT is now intended mainly for delivery on the ERC Drumcondra Online Testing System (DOTS), and five parallel Forms of the test are available on that platform. However, one Form is also available on paper. It is possible to compare results from the digital and paper versions, meaning that schools can opt to test using a mixture of digital and paper tests, should they choose.

The paper version of the test takes approximately 1½ hours to administer (overall administration time for the digital version is slightly shorter). The paper test must be administered using machine-scorable answer sheets which are subsequently scored at the Educational Research Centre (see page 13-14).

The administration of the DRT can be carried out by any qualified teacher, supported by advice from a suitably qualified person with training in the administration and interpretation of psychological tests (e.g., psychologist, guidance counsellor, etc). Interpretation of test results should also draw on the advice of suitably qualified persons.

Summary Features of Drumcondra Reasoning Test (Paper version)				
Target grade	Parallel Forms	Machine Scorable	Multi-grade administration	Time (approx.)
Pre-First Year	✗	✔	✔	~90 mins
First Year	✗	✔	✔	~90 mins

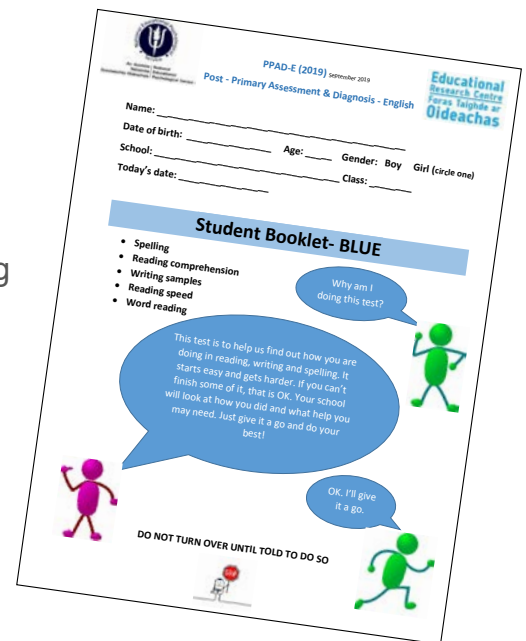# POST-PRIMARY ASSESSMENT AND DIAGNOSIS – ENGLISH (PPAD-E)

The Post-Primary Assessment and Diagnosis – English (PPAD-E) is a new standardised test of literacy in English for use in post-primary schools as a screening and diagnostic tool for assessing literacy skills. This assessment has been developed by the Department of Education and Skills, through the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) in collaboration with the Educational Research Centre (ERC).

A standardisation study involving a representative sample of over 1,700 first year students was

carried out in autumn 2019. The test is currently available for administration to first year students, accompanied by autumn norms. Future work on the PPAD-E is likely to entail the establishment of norms for other age and year groups, as well as an online version of some parts of the test.

The test is:
- culturally appropriate and tailored to the Irish context

- designed for use by teachers

- helpful for screening for difficulties (particularly at first year intake)

- useful in diagnostic assessment, monitoring and evaluating progress

- helpful in identifying if further assessment might be needed (e.g. speech & language)

- helpful in contributing to the processes for RACE/ DARE/ Exemption from Irish

- useful in establishing and reviewing literacy standards

The PPAD-E has a secure software application that converts raw scores to standard scores and generates group and individual summary reports. A range of suggestions outlining evidence-based SET interventions and research-validated in-class approaches will be provided based on student score profiles.

The suggested interventions and in-class approaches are based on the 2019 edition of the NEPS publication, Effective Interventions for Struggling Readers, a freely available on-line resource designed for Irish schools.

The complete test package includes five subtests:
- Word reading

- Spelling

- Reading speed

- Reading comprehension

- Writing samples.

All but the Word Reading test are group-administered. (Word Reading is individually administered). The assessment requires an hour to administer, plus 3-4 minutes per student for the Word Reading test.

The tests have been developed in parallel (yellow and blue) versions, to allow for test/retest data.

The PPAD-E will be available to order starting in September 2021.

SCORING

There are a number of scoring options available for different tests. All primary tests can be scored directly by teachers using a scoring stencil or scoring booklet. For tests that use answer sheets, the Machine-Scoring Service is available, while the Test Scoring System is a computer program for schools that allows them to record scores and generate reports for some primary tests.

MACHINE-SCORING SERVICE

The Test Department offers a machine-scoring service for:

- New Drumcondra Primary Reading Test (Levels 3–6) – €1.00 per sheet scored

- New Drumcondra Primary Maths Test (Levels 3–6) – €1.00 per sheet scored

- Drumcondra Post-Primary Test of English Reading Literacy and Mathematics for end of 2nd Year – €2.00 per sheet scored (combined Reading/Maths)

- Drumcondra Reasoning Test – No additional scoring charge

Users of the machine-scoring service are provided with reports that summarise the performance of each pupil in a class or group.

Schools wishing to avail of the machine-scoring service should note the following:

- Answers must be marked on the answer sheets **using pencil only**.

- Teachers should check answer sheets before sending them to the Educational Research Centre to ensure that:
  a. the pupil identification information has been entered correctly;
  b. there are no stray marks on the answer sheet;
  c. there is one response only for each completed item;
  d. unwanted answers have been completely erased ('x' marks are unacceptable); and
  e. the slots are completely filled.

Answer sheets on which identification information is incomplete, or which contain stray marks, or have the slots filled incorrectly, cannot be scored electronically, and will be returned to schools without scoring.

- The relevant Processing Information Form should accompany each batch of answer sheets returned for machine-scoring. A separate processing form should be completed for each class for which a report is required.

- A data processor agreement (available with the Processing Information Form) MUST be returned to the Test Department with the materials for machine soring. **No machine scoring can be carried out without a signed data processor agreement**. Where the agreement is not included, the materials will be returned to the schools.

- Ten working days should be allowed for scoring of answer sheets and reporting of results.

Results will be sent by email to the address indicated on the Processing Information Form, and the original answer sheets submitted by the school will be returned by post, along with a hard copy of the results.

Please note that schools using this service will be required to sign a data protection agreement before sending materials to the ERC for scoring. The ERC will contact you to organise same once you order this service.

NEW DRUMCONDRA PRIMARY TESTS SCORING SYSTEM

The New Drumcondra Primary Tests Scoring System is a computer program that schools can use to calculate standardised scores and generate reports for the following tests:

- New Drumcondra Primary Reading Test

- New Drumcondra Primary Mathematics Test

- Triail Ghaeilge Dhroim Conrach do Scoileanna Rialta (English-medium Schools)

- Triail Ghaeilge Dhroim Conrach do Scoileanna Gaeltachta agus Lán-Ghaeilge

The data (test scores) associated with the Scoring System can be installed on a single computer/laptop, or on a school network. In all cases, varying levels of access (administrator, teacher) can be allocated within the System.

The Scoring System can be used to input pupils' raw test scores, or input their answers on a question-by-question basis, and then calculate standard scores, Sten scores and percentile ranks. It can also produce the following reports for Reading, Mathematics and Gaeilge:

- Individual Pupil Reports that give a summary of a pupil's performance over several years

- Class Reports that summarise the performance of each pupil in a class during the current school year, as well as average class performance; for mathematics, performance on content areas and process skills is included as well as overall performance. Class reports for reading include performance on content areas and text type and process subscales is included as well as overall performance.

- A School Report that summarises the performance of all pupils at each class level in a school as well as across all classes.

Key features:

- The Scoring System is a **one-time purchase**, supplied via email, that can be installed on multiple computers if necessary.

- Once the System database has been loaded to a central server, the System can be accessed by multiple users.

- The System can be accessed at Administrator or User (Teacher) level.

- Pupils identified as exempted do not contribute to class averages or distributions of Sten scores.

- Pupil names can be imported (or exported) on a spreadsheet, using existing electronic records.

- Performance is represented graphically so that schools can interpret performance with reference to the theoretical normal curve.

Minimum Requirements:

To use the Scoring System, you must have at least a stand-alone desktop computer or laptop that:

- runs on Windows XP(SP3), VISTA, Windows 7 or Windows 10 and has at least 1 GB of RAM, and

- has a screen resolution of at least 1024 X 768

PRICE LIST *(Sample Sets are available – please refer to order)*

New Drumcondra Primary Reading and Maths Tests/Triail Mhatamaitice

Test Booklets (Levels 1–6, pack of 5)	€10.00
Scoring Booklets (Levels 1 and 2)	€5.00
Scoring Stencils (Levels 3–6)	€2.00
Answer Sheets (Levels 3–6, pack of 25 - Reading/Maths combined on same sheet))	€10.00
Answer Sheet Machine-Scoring Service (charged per pupil per subject)	€1.00
Administration Manual (Level 1)	€10.00
Administration Manual (Level 2)	€10.00
Administration Manual (Levels 3–6)	€15.00
Lámhleabhair Riaracháin (Leibhéil 1–6)	€5.00

Drumcondra Primary Tests Scoring System Software

For calculating standardised scores and generating reports for Reading, Maths, TGD-R and TGD-G	€30.00

Drumcondra Primary Spelling Test

Test Booklets (Levels 1–6, pack of 25)	€8.00
Administration Manual (Levels 1–6)	€13.00

Triail Ghaeilge Dhroim Conrach do Bhunscoileanna Rialta (TGD-R)

Test Booklets (Levels 1–3, pack of 5)	€6.50
Lámhleabhar, Leibhéal 1	€6.50
Lámhleabhar, Leibhéal 2	€8.00
Lámhleabhar, Leibhéal 3	€8.00

Drumcondra Tests of Early Literacy

Screening Test Booklets (pack of 5)	€6.50
Administration Manual	€12.00
Diagnostic Display Booklet	€20.00
Diagnostic Scoring Booklets (pack of 5)	€6.50

Drumcondra Tests of Early Numeracy

Screening Test Booklets (pack of 5)	€6.50
Administration Manual	€12.00
Diagnostic Display Booklet	€10.00
Diagnostic Materials Set	€12.00
Diagnostic Scoring Records (pack of 5)	€4.00

Triail Ghaeilge Dhroim Conrach do Bhunscoileanna Gaeltachta agus Lán-Ghaeilge (TGD-G)

Leabhráin na Triailach (Leibhéil 1–4, pacaí de 5)	€6.50
Stionsail Scórála (Leibhéil 1–4)	€8.00
Lámhleabhar, Leibhéal 1	€6.50
Lámhleabhar, Leibhéal 2	€8.00
Lámhleabhar, Leibhéal 3	€8.00
Lámhleabhar, Leibhéal 4	€8.00

Drumcondra Post-Primary Test of English Reading Literacy and Mathematics

Test Booklets (pack of 5)	€20.00
Manual	€12.00
Answer Sheets (packs of 25 - Reading/Maths combined on same sheet)	€40.00
Answer Sheet Machine-Scoring Service (charged per sheet scored)	€2.00

Drumcondra Reasoning Test

Answer Sheet (includes cost of scoring and reporting)	€4.00
Test Booklet (provided free of charge if requested with answer sheets)	N/A
Administration manual (provided free of charge if requested with answer sheets)	N/A

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE TEST DEPARTMENT

66 Richmond Road,
Drumcondra,
Dublin 3

Phone: (01) 8377 614

Email: tests@erc.ie

Website: https://tests.erc.ie