



THE  
DOON  
SCHOOL

# Admission Tests and Interview

A guide to what we are looking for from our candidates and how the admissions process works.



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SCHOOL

# Our Mission

- To attract and develop **exceptional boys** and teachers
- from **all backgrounds**
- to serve a **meritocratic** India.



# What we are looking for in prospective pupils:

- General proficiency in English and Mathematics.
- Curiosity, enthusiasm and a desire to learn.
- Great contribution to a classroom, team, house and society.
- A willingness to question what they know and look beyond themselves.



# What we are NOT looking for:

- Trained parrots who have been at the receiving end of tutors to help them 'crack' the admissions test and interviews.
- All the practice you need is online and parents should invest their time rather than their money to help their child prepare for admission.
- If you think your child needs a tutor to get into The Doon School then it indicates you might like to consider choosing another school.

# Admissions timeline:

- Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> 2019 is testing day at 5 centers
- Interviews are in the second and third week of November.
- Offers will be made in the first week of December.
- Financial aid applications will be reviewed in December.

# Admissions tests:

- English, Mathematics, Reasoning & Case Study. No Hindi test. A Hindi placement test will be done on arrival to ascertain the level of proficiency in the language.
- We are looking for evidence of how boys think and whether they are able to express their thoughts clearly.
- Opportunities will be provided for boys to show their understanding and creativity and whether they can apply what they know to new situations.



# English

- Are they able to read and follow instructions?
- Can they choose appropriate task based language?
- Can they express themselves clearly?
- Do they have a sense of logic, cause and effect, willingness to take a risk, some spark of creativity?
- Are they able to engage with what they read?



# Preparation:

- For Class 7
  - [BBC Bitesize website for KS2](#)
  - Cambridge Examinations (International) [Primary Checkpoint](#)
- For Class 8
  - [BBC Bitesize website for KS3](#)
  - Cambridge Examinations (International) [Checkpoint and Secondary 1](#)



# Preparation : BBC Bitesize website for KS2



# Preparation: BBC Bitesize website for KS2

The screenshot shows the BBC Bitesize KS2 website interface. At the top, there's a blue header with the text "KS2 Bitesize" in white. Below this, a navigation menu on the left includes icons and links for "Home", "English", "Maths", and "Science". A "More Bitesize" link and the "bbc" logo are also present. The main content area is titled "Home > English > Writing" and features a cartoon character holding a book. The "Writing" section includes a definition: "Writing is an important part of communicating with others. You need to write in a way your reader can easily understand what you are trying to tell them." Below this, there are three sections: "Argument", "Explanation", and "Instructions". Each section has a small image and a row of four interactive buttons: "Play" (game controller icon), "Read" (book icon), "Watch" (play button icon), and "Quiz" (question mark icon). The "Argument" section features a photo of two teddy bears. The "Explanation" section features a photo of a robot. The "Instructions" section features a photo of a person wearing headphones.

**KS2 Bitesize**

**Home**  
**English**  
**Maths**  
**Science**

More Bitesize  
**bbc**

**Home > English > Writing**

**Writing**  
Writing is an important part of communicating with others. You need to write in a way your reader can easily understand what you are trying to tell them.

**Argument**

**Explanation**

**Instructions**

**Play** **Read** **Watch** **Quiz**

# Preparation: BBC Bitesize website for KS2

The screenshot shows the BBC Bitesize KS2 website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with icons and links for Home, English, Maths, and Science. The main content area has a yellow header with the breadcrumb trail 'Home > English > Writing > Instructions'. Below this is a page indicator 'Page: 1 2 3 4 5' and 'Previous'/'Next' buttons. The section title is 'What's needed?' with a 'Print' button. The text explains that instructions often list needed items like ingredients or tools. Below the text is an illustration of a table assembly project with labels: 'Table top', 'Table legs', 'Screws', and 'Screwdriver'.

**KS2 Bitesize**

Home > English > Writing > Instructions

Page: 1 2 3 4 5 Previous Next

### What's needed?

Print

Many instructions involve putting things together, for example, a recipe has ingredients and a model has lots of parts. It's useful to list all the things the reader will need or require, including any tools, at the start of the instructions.

Table top

Table legs

Screws

Screwdriver





# Mathematics:


- Do they understand numbers, angles, proportion and shape?
- Can they turn a visual representation into words?
- Can they spot patterns and make connections?
- Can they represent and interpret data?


# Preparation: BBC Bitesize website for KS2

**KS2 Bitesize**


 Home


 English

 Maths

 Science

More Bitesize






Home > Maths > Shape, space & measures > Angles

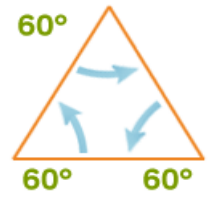
Page: 1 2 3 4 5 6

Previous Next

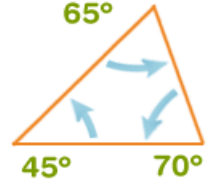
 Print

### Adding up angles

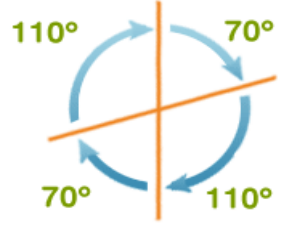
- The three angles inside a triangle always add up to **180°**. This is shown by **a** and **b** in the example.
- All angles at a point always add up to **360°**. This is shown by **c** in the example.



**a**



**b**



**c**

# Preparation: BBC Bitesize website for KS2

The screenshot shows the BBC Bitesize website for KS2. The header features the 'KS2 Bitesize' logo. A left sidebar contains navigation links for Home, English, Maths, and Science, each with an icon. Below these is a 'More Bitesize' link and the BBC logo. The main content area has a yellow breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Maths > Shape, space & measures > Angles'. A cartoon fish character is next to the trail. Below the trail is a white box titled 'Angles - Quiz'. It contains three questions with radio button options.

**KS2 Bitesize**

Home English Maths Science

More Bitesize

**Home > Maths > Shape, space & measures > Angles**

**Angles - Quiz**

- How many degrees are there in one full turn?  
☐ 180  
☐ 90  
☒ 360
- Imagine you're facing north. You turn clockwise through 90 degrees. Which direction are you facing now?  
☒ East  
☐ South  
☐ West
- Imagine the capital letter M. What letter does it look like when it's rotated 180 degrees?  
☐ E  
☒ W  
☐ M





# Reasoning and Case Study

- Can they read an article and understand the order of events?
- Can they distinguish fact from opinion and judgment?
- Can they recognise the roles and responsibilities of people involved?
- Can they justify their own view?
- Do they have a sense of ethics and empathy?

# P is for Plagiarism: Kolkata Schools Warn Students

KOLKATA: If you have to teach them well, you better start young. Taking this oft-repeated advice to heart, a number of schools in the city have started to instruct pupils about what constitutes plagiarism, and are also taking steps to guard against this malpractice by installing anti-plagiarism software.

Anti-plagiarism steps have, so far, been taken mostly at institutes of higher learning, most notably by the IITs and IIMs, where the copy-pasting of PhD theses has been a vexed issue. Now that schoolkids are also becoming increasingly dependent on the internet for homework or project work, the problem has started early.

At The Heritage School, students have strictly been asked to adhere to the rules. "We have told them that they should read the relevant information two or three times and then express the idea in their own words," said principal Seema Sapru. "The students have been asked to try to integrate information from several sentences into one sentence in their own words. If information is taken from the public domain, such as websites, it has to be recorded — including the date on which each website has been accessed. URLs should be mentioned. The same rules are to be followed for copying passages from CD-ROMs, DVDs, emails and journals."

What happens if a student is suspected to have been dishonest? The final decision is to be taken by the principal. "The matter will be investigated and the student given a chance to reply to the accusations. If found guilty, parents will be informed and appropriate action taken. If a student plagiarises, s/he will be suitably penalised for the entire assignment," the principal said. The school has subscribed to the Turnitin software to check for plagiarism.





# Reasoning and Case Study

Examples of what we might ask students to think about:

- **Plagiarism is the act of taking another person's work and claiming it as your own.** What is wrong with doing this? What harm can be caused by plagiarising? Is copying someone's answer and submitting it different from copying a 2000 INR note and using it?
- **Schools are now asking students to submit their work electronically so that it can be checked against a global database of work.** Is this fair? Do you think that all students have the same understanding of what is right and wrong? Where do our ideas of what is right and wrong come from?
- **Students in schools and universities are being caught cheating, copying and plagiarising.** What do you think is a suitable consequence for someone found to be plagiarising in school? Under what circumstances should a student should be asked to leave a school for plagiarism? What about an employee at work, is it something that a person should lose their job over? Are there some people who need to be more honest than others because of their jobs?



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# Supporting Documentation

- School reports
- Representational certificates

# School Reports: what to look for

- Schools report in all sorts of ways.
- Evidence of student engagement in the classroom and of consistent practice and improvement.
- Evidence of having an impact at school.
- Correspondence between the scores in our tests and their English and Maths scores in school.
- STAs and ECAs come through the reports.



# Representational certificates

- Evidence of competing at district, state or national level.
- We are not looking for piles of participation certificates and models that boys made with their robotics activity.

# Group Discussion

- A conversation with a group of 4 boys.
- Looking for boys who can listen to others, share an opinion and find out what others think i.e. teamwork
- Demonstrate critical reasoning.
- Recognition of divergent views.
- Prepared to make a guess and apply what they know to something unfamiliar.
- Not afraid of being wrong.

# What we asked last year:

- What they had learned from what they have read.
- Why do we read?
- To read out loud and talk about the material. How does it relate to an 11 year old boy in India?
- To make an estimate of some area or volume of an object in the room.



# What we asked last year:

- To draw a map of the world or India.
- To stop before they had finished and to make improvements to another child's work.
- Comment on what the other child had done well and what they had done to improve it.
- What they enjoy doing with their time.

# Allocating a place:

- A weighting of 70% will be allocated to the admissions tests and the school reports.
- A weighting of 30% will be allocated to the group discussion.
- Cut-offs will be fixed after re-marking those on the boundary.
- The final result will be a pass to the interview and an offer of a place.
- We will not be publishing the results because a range of 2% may have 30 boys in it.
- Hence the school will not be negotiating with 30 sets of parents who believe that their son deserves a place more than others.





# What we are looking for in parents:

- Do you believe your child is almost perfect?
- Do you like rules and regulations until your child breaks them?
- Are you happy gossiping about the school to anyone, but reluctant to talk to the head?
- Do you go off the deep end when someone criticises your child?
- Are you an expert because you went to school?



# What we are looking for in parents:

- Are you prepared to work with the school and pull your weight?
- Can you strike a balance between being a Velcro parent and a ghost?
- Can you support your child and support the school through difficult times?
- Can you suppress your frustrated ambitions and let your child be himself?
- Will you deflect rumour and find out the facts from the school?