



The Benefits of Mock Exams in Competitive School Admissions

Mock Exams

Yellowbird Education have seen demand grow for the Mock Exam that they offer within their larger portfolio of educational holiday workshops.

With fierce competition for limited places at top London schools, families and children alike are required to be meticulous in their preparation for challenging admissions. But should valuable preparation time be spent sitting “mock” exams or is time better spent elsewhere?

Demand would suggest that children and parents are both keen benefit from the process of a child sitting a Mock Exam. Experiencing the structure of mocks can help to alleviate unnecessary nervous associated with pressured assessments that children, as young as 7 years old, are confronted with.

Independent School exams have trends that their papers reflect. Giving children the chance to familiarise themselves with these will give them a beneficial head start understanding exactly ‘what’ is expected of them at each stage of the exam day.

The aim of mock exams is to build children’s confidence that they are able to succeed in the run up to their actual exams. Encouraging children to ask questions in a group situation enables them to benefit from greater understanding and reassurance that they know what to expect – the fear attached to the “unknown” cannot be underestimated in children at this young age.

Parents too are using these mock exams as a chance to gain a snapshot of their child’s progress throughout the year. Each marked exam comes with detailed feedback for them to obtain a picture of where attention and revision advice is required and more importantly which schools to aim for.

Reasoning Mock Exams.

Yellowbird are thrilled that together with a Verbal and Non-Verbal reasoning Specialist, Natasha Twine, they have been able to extend their mock exam to include this new arguably leading method of testing in many London school entrance exams.

Again the aim of the Mock reasoning exam is to expose and therefore familiarise children to a range of things they may encounter in an exam situation. The core

elements included in the Reasoning Mocks are combined discipline papers, working in restricted time conditions, multiple choice answering and accurate completion of computer marked answer sheets.

There are also key concepts that define Reasoning Papers and Mock Exams provide a chance to introduce these – Alphabetical and numerical pattern recognition, Alphabetical code breaking, 2D and 3D pattern recognition etc.

Whilst the introduction of Reasoning exams is to bring creativity into the admissions process and to eliminate the opportunity to retain learnt knowledge, Yellowbird shows that extending 'mock' preparation to this key element ensures a child performs to the best of their ability.