



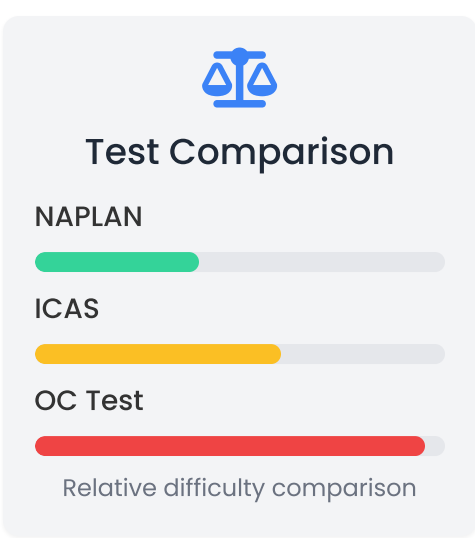
OC Test Preparation Guide

A comprehensive guide for parents and students preparing for the OC test

Understanding the OC Test Challenge

The OC test is going to be the most difficult exam that your children will experience up to this point in their academic journey. Unlike NAPLAN tests or ICAS exams which are typically shorter and less demanding, the OC test requires significant mental and physical stamina.

Most students who have only experienced NAPLAN or similar assessments have not yet faced a test as challenging as the OC. Those previous exams tend to be shorter (typically one hour or less) and are generally less emotionally and physically taxing.



Building Test Tolerance

The primary goal during your preparation period should be to build your child's tolerance for extended test conditions. Many students struggle with the OC test because they haven't developed the necessary mental resilience and stamina.

💡 **Key Recommendation:**

If your child is not accustomed to completing full-length tests covering English, Mathematics, and Thinking Skills multiple times per week, focus on building this capacity during your preparation period.

🧠

Mental Resilience

⌚

Focus Duration

🔋

Energy Management

Many students perform poorly in the exam not because they lack knowledge, but because they lose energy or focus midway through the test. Building mental endurance is crucial for success.

Exposure to Challenging Questions

The OC test often serves as the first significant "reality check" for many students. Even children who perform well in regular school assessments or NAPLAN may find the OC test considerably more challenging.

📈 Question Difficulty Progression

● Standard OC Book Questions

Too easy for actual test preparation

● Year 6 ICAS Questions

Better preparation than Year 4 questions

● Selective School Level Questions

Appropriate challenge level for OC preparation

● Year 6–7 Selective Questions

Ideal for thinking skills preparation

⚠️ **Avoid the Reality Check Trap**

Many students practice with relatively easy questions throughout their preparation and then face a shock when confronted with the actual difficulty of the OC exam. It's better for your child to experience this challenge during practice rather than on exam day.

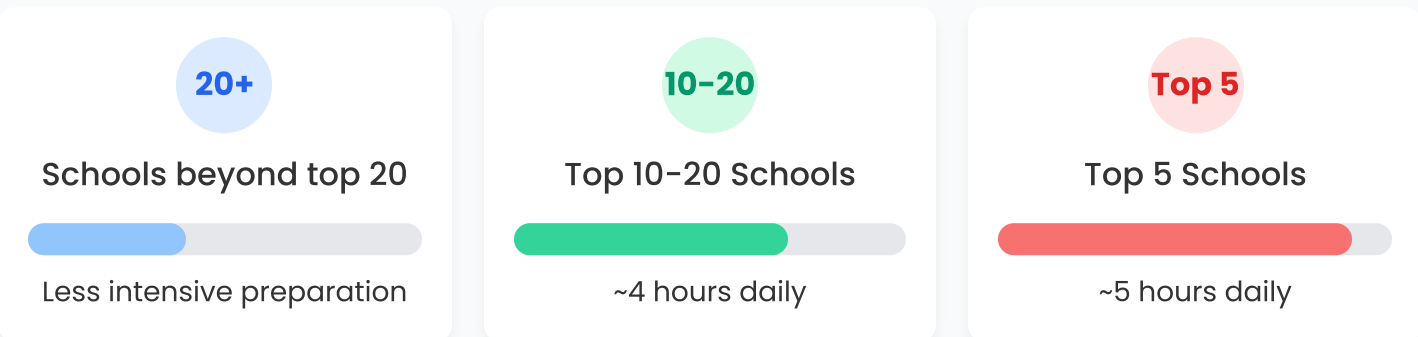
Study Schedule Recommendations

As you progress in your preparation, gradually increase the duration and intensity of study sessions. This is not about forcing your child to sit at a desk for hours without purpose, but rather building their capacity for sustained focus.

📅 **Practice Test Frequency:**

Aim for at least 3–4 trial tests per week during intensive preparation periods. This helps develop exam readiness and the stamina required for the actual test.

Recommended Daily Study Hours by Target School



🕒 Sample 5-Hour Study Schedule (Top 5 Schools)

⚙️ Morning Session (3h)

✓ English practice (1h)

✓ Mathematics practice (1h)

✓ Review & correction (1h)

🌙 Evening Session (2h)

✓ Thinking Skills practice (1h)

✓ Full practice test simulation (1h)

Expected Performance Levels

The level of performance required varies considerably depending on which OC class you're targeting. Here's what to aim for in practice tests:

School Ranking	English	Mathematics	Thinking Skills
🏆 Top Tier (1–3)	<div><div></div></div> 90%+	<div><div></div></div> 90%+	<div><div></div></div> 80–85%+
🦋 Rank 4–10	<div><div></div></div> 85%+	<div><div></div></div> Near 100%	<div><div></div></div> 70–80%
🐇 Rank 11–20	<div><div></div></div> 70–80%	<div><div></div></div> 70–80%	<div><div></div></div> 65–70%

📌 It's important to understand that competition is heavily concentrated in the top 10–15 schools. There have been cases of students scoring in the top 10% across all three subjects and still not securing places in the top five OC classes.

The Importance of Consistent Preparation

✓

Multiple Term Preparation

✓ Maintain momentum through holidays

✓ Avoid extended breaks near exam

✓ Continue with intensive practice

✓ Prevent skill deterioration

✗

Minimal Preparation (1 Term)

✗ Last-minute cramming ineffective

✗ Unlikely to impact top-tier results

✗ Not enough time to build stamina

✗ Limited opportunity to close knowledge gaps

For students who have been preparing consistently over multiple terms, it's crucial to maintain momentum throughout the entire preparation period, including school holidays. Taking extended breaks close to the exam can lead to skill deterioration and loss of exam readiness.

Final Advice

★

Key Points to Remember

📄 **Increased Difficulty**

OC test difficulty is now comparable to what the Selective Schools test was five years ago

🧠 **Mental Resilience**

Focus on building capacity for sustained concentration and test endurance

📋 **Consistent Practice**

Regular practice with appropriately challenging materials is essential

🎯 **Targeted Preparation**

Match study intensity to your target school's requirements

“The way to prevent things like that happening, I would recommend you to do difficult questions in the lead-up... so they're not getting a reality check on the day of the exam because often what happens is kids practice with really easy questions all the way up until OC and then when they sit the OC exam they get absolutely shattered.”