Starting Year 5

A calm, parent-led check of the maths and English that matter for the year ahead.

Maths	**20 questions · 30 minutes**
English	**Reading, language and writing · 35–40 minutes**
You will need	**Pencil, ruler, paper, a quiet table**
Includes	**Answers, scoring guide and a 4-week plan**

01

Do the check

Maths first, a break, then English. No timer pressure.

02

Mark it together

Use the answer key and the strand table. Start with what worked.

03

Choose 2–3 things

Use the 4-week plan. Ten minutes, three times a week.

No app. No screen. No subscription. Print it, do it together, and use the answers to choose what to practise.

This is a conversation starter, not a test. Do it in two sittings, stop if your child is tired or upset, and use the results to choose two or three things to practise — not to label your child.

READ THIS FIRST

How to use this pack

A 60–70 minute check, done together, to find two or three things worth practising over the summer.

WHAT THIS IS

- A short, curriculum-aligned check of key maths and English skills.
- A way to start a conversation about what feels easy and what feels wobbly.
- A guide to what to practise next — with answers and a 4-week plan.

WHAT THIS IS NOT

- Not a validated diagnostic assessment.
- Not a NAPLAN paper, and not a prediction of NAPLAN results.
- Not a test to be timed, ranked or compared with other children.

> **The only rule**
>
> If your child is tired, anxious or upset, stop. A positive 20 minutes is worth more than a completed page.

HOW TO RUN IT

1. **Two sittings.** Maths first (30–35 min), then a break. English next (35–40 min).
2. **Set up.** Quiet table, pencil, ruler, scrap paper. No calculator.
3. **Read the question aloud** if needed. Say: “Have a go, then we'll look at it together.”
4. **Let them write in the spaces.** Working out matters more than a neat answer.
5. **Mark it together** using the answer key at the back. Celebrate what worked first.

HOW TO MARK IT

Give 1 mark per maths question. For English, use the answer key and the writing rubric. Then fill in the strand table on the scoring page. Use the **strand profile**, not the total score, to choose what to practise.

> **A note on “diagnostic”**
>
> This is a skills check, not a diagnosis. If you are worried about a learning difficulty, talk to your child's teacher. Do not use this pack to self-diagnose.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR CHILD IS STUCK

> **“What do you notice?”**
>
> Start with the information in the question, not the answer. “What do you know? What are you trying to find?”

> **“Have a go, then we’ll look.”**
>
> Let them attempt it. A wrong attempt is more useful than a blank page — it shows where the thinking broke down.

> **“Let’s leave it and come back.”**
>
> If frustration is rising, stop. Mark it as “not yet” and return after a break. Do not turn it into a lesson.

PRIVACY AND ATTRIBUTION

Please do not write your child's full name, school or date of birth in this pack. The optional feedback form asks for your email, your child's year level and your state — not your child's name. Data is stored in Australia and deleted after 12 months. Curriculum content descriptions are referenced from the Australian Curriculum v9.0, © ACARA, licensed CC BY 4.0. This resource is not endorsed by ACARA and is not a NAPLAN paper.

MATHS · 30 MINUTES

A · Number (part 1 of 2)

Show your working. If you get stuck, write what you know and move on. You can come back to it.

1 Write 47,308 in expanded form.

2 Round 6,847 to the nearest hundred.

3 3,456 + 2,789 = _____

4 8,002 − 4,675 = _____

Before you turn the page

Check: did you answer every part? Did you use units (cm, m, $)? Does your answer make sense?

MATHS · 30 MINUTES

A · Number (part 2 of 2)

Show your working. If you get stuck, write what you know and move on. You can come back to it.

5 7 × 8 = _____ and 56 ÷ 7 = _____

6 1/4 + 2/4 = _____. Which is larger: 3/5 or 2/3?

7 Write 0.75 as a fraction in simplest form.

8 A packet of pens costs $3.45. (a) How much do 2 packets cost? (b) How much change from $10?

Before you turn the page

Check: did you answer every part? Did you use units (cm, m, $)? Does your answer make sense?

MATHS · 30 MINUTES

B · Measurement & Geometry

Show your working. If you get stuck, write what you know and move on. You can come back to it.

9 A rectangle is 8 cm long and 5 cm wide. What is its perimeter?

10 What is the area of the same rectangle?

11 2.4 km = _____ m

12 How many minutes from 3:45 pm to 4:20 pm?

13 Label each angle as acute, right or obtuse: 45°, 90°, 120°.

14 How many lines of symmetry does a square have?

MATHS · 30 MINUTES

C · Patterns, Data & Chance

Show your working. If you get stuck, write what you know and move on. You can come back to it.

15 3, 7, 11, 15, _____. What is the rule?

16 2, 6, 18, 54, _____. What is the rule?

17 A column graph shows books read: Mon 5, Tue 8, Wed 6, Thu 9, Fri 7. (a) How many more on Thursday than Monday? (b) How many books in total?

18 A spinner has 4 equal sections: red, blue, green and yellow. What is the probability of landing on red? Is it certain, likely, unlikely or impossible?

19 Three friends share $24.60 equally. How much does each person get?

20 A school buys 6 boxes of pencils. Each box has 24 pencils. The pencils are packed into 8 packets. How many pencils are in each packet?

ENGLISH · READING

NARRATIVE

The Magpie's Collection

Mia and her grandfather, Pop, had a small garden behind the shed. Pop grew tomatoes, beans and a lemon tree. Mia liked to dig, but she mostly liked to collect: smooth stones, bottle caps and feathers.

One Saturday, a magpie landed on the fence. It was black and white with a bright eye. It tilted its head, then swooped down and picked up a shiny bottle cap. It flew to the gum tree and dropped the cap into a nest.

“Magpies collect shiny things,” said Pop. “They decorate their nests.”

Mia decided to help. She put out a saucer of water and a few shiny buttons. The magpie came back. It took a button, then a piece of foil, then a red bead. Each time, it returned to the nest.

On Sunday, Mia could not find her favourite silver hair clip. She searched everywhere. Then she looked up. The clip was in the nest, shining in the sun.

“That's my clip!” she said.

Pop laughed. “The magpie doesn't know it's yours. It thinks it's treasure.”

Mia thought about the nest. It was full of things that mattered to the magpie: a bottle cap, a bead, a piece of foil. She decided to leave the clip there. She could find another one.

The next week, the magpie brought something new: a small blue button. It dropped it on the path near Mia's feet. Then it flew away.

Mia put the button in her pocket. It was a trade.

Words to know

magpie
a black-and-white Australian bird known for collecting shiny objects

treasure
something valuable to the person who owns it

trade
an exchange

While you read

Ask: What do you think will happen next? Why? Which word tells you how the character feels?

Read first, then answer

Read the whole text once. Then turn the page and answer the questions. You can look back at the text as often as you like.

ENGLISH · READING QUESTIONS

The Magpie's Collection

Answer in full sentences where you can. Use evidence from the text.

1 Where does the story take place?

2 What does the magpie collect?

3 Why does Mia put out buttons and foil?

4 What does “treasure” mean in the story?

5 Why does Mia decide to leave the hair clip in the nest?

6 What is the main message of the story?

7 How does the author show that the magpie is intelligent?

8 What might happen next? Give one idea.

Parent observation

Did your child look back at the text? Did they use evidence? Did they answer in a full sentence? Note one thing that surprised you — it is more useful than the score.

ENGLISH · READING

INFORMATION REPORT

Why Do Leaves Fall?

Deciduous trees lose their leaves in autumn. This is a survival strategy. In winter, the ground is cold and water can freeze. A tree with leaves loses water through tiny holes called stomata. Without leaves, the tree can save water and energy.

Before the leaves fall, the tree takes back nutrients. The green pigment chlorophyll breaks down. Other pigments, like yellow and orange, become visible. That is why leaves change colour.

A layer of cells forms at the base of each leaf stalk. This layer cuts off the leaf from the tree. Eventually, the leaf falls.

Evergreen trees keep their leaves. Their leaves are often needle-shaped and covered in wax. This helps them survive cold, dry conditions.

Fallen leaves are not waste. They break down and return nutrients to the soil. Insects and worms help this process. In a forest, fallen leaves are part of a cycle.

Words to know

deciduous	**stomata**	**chlorophyll**
trees that lose their leaves in autumn	tiny holes in leaves that let water out	the green pigment in leaves

While you read

Ask: What is the main idea? Which sentence tells you? What does the word “deciduous” mean?

Read first, then answer

Read the whole text once. Then turn the page and answer the questions. You can look back at the text as often as you like.

ENGLISH · READING QUESTIONS

Why Do Leaves Fall?

Answer in full sentences where you can. Use evidence from the text.

1 What is the main idea of the text?

2 What are stomata?

3 Why does the tree take back nutrients before the leaves fall?

4 Why do leaves change colour?

5 How are evergreen leaves different from deciduous leaves?

6 Why are fallen leaves important?

> **Parent observation**
>
> Did your child look back at the text? Did they use evidence? Did they answer in a full sentence? Note one thing that surprised you — it is more useful than the score.

ENGLISH · LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS

Spelling, grammar and punctuation

Write the corrected word or sentence. One mark per question.

1 Correct the spelling: “becaus”, “freind”, “beautiful”.

2 Add capital letters and punctuation: “on saturday mia and pop went to the garden”

3 Add the apostrophe: “the magpies nest” and “the girls books” (the books belong to the girls).

4 Choose the correct verb: “The magpie collect / collects shiny things.”

5 Write the past tense: “Mia digged / dug in the garden.”

6 Give a synonym for “shiny”.

7 What does the prefix “un-” mean in “unhappy”? What does “re-” mean in “reappear”?

8 Choose the correct word: “Their / There / They're nest was in the tree.”

> **What to look for**
>
> Apostrophes (singular vs plural), subject–verb agreement, tense consistency, and punctuation at the start and end of sentences. If two or three of these are wrong, that is your English focus for the summer.

ENGLISH · WRITING · 20 MINUTES

Writing prompt

> **Your task**
>
> Write a story about a character who finds something unusual in their backyard. Your story should have a beginning, a problem and an ending.

BEFORE YOU WRITE

- A clear beginning, middle and end
- At least two characters
- A problem or surprise
- Descriptive words
- Full stops, capital letters and paragraphs

PARENT NOTE

Let your child plan for 3 minutes, then write for 20 minutes. Do not correct spelling during the writing. Use the rubric on the scoring page afterwards.

PLAN IT FIRST · 3 MINUTES

BEGINNING	PROBLEM / MIDDLE	ENDING

FOR PARENTS

Scoring and next steps

Use the strand profile, not the total score. A low total with one weak strand is a different problem from a low total across the board.

MATHS · 20 MARKS

STRAND	QUESTIONS	SCORE	/ TOTAL
Number	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		/ 8
Measurement & Geometry	9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14		/ 6
Patterns, Data & Chance	15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20		/ 6

ENGLISH · 38 MARKS

SECTION	SCORE	/ TOTAL
Reading 1 · The Magpie's Collection		/ 8
Reading 2 · Why Do Leaves Fall?		/ 6
Language conventions		/ 8
Writing (rubric)		/ 16

WHAT THE BANDS MEAN

BAND	SCORE	WHAT TO DO
Secure	75–100%	Keep extending with richer problems and longer texts.
Developing	50–74%	Target the weakest strand with 10 minutes of practice, 3 times a week.
Needs support	Below 50%	Start with the prerequisite skill; talk to the teacher if it persists.

> **Do not over-read the total**
>
> This is a short check, not a standardised test. Use it to choose two or three things to practise — not to compare your child with others.

WRITING RUBRIC · 4 MARKS PER CRITERION

CRITERION	1 · STARTING	2 · DEVELOPING	3 · SECURE	4 · STRONG
Ideas	Idea is unclear or off topic	Idea is present but general	Clear idea with some detail	Original, well-developed idea
Structure	No clear beginning/middle/end	Some structure; weak ending	Clear beginning, middle and end	Well-paced; effective opening and ending
Vocabulary	Simple, repetitive words	Some descriptive words	Precise words; some variety	Vivid, deliberate word choice
Sentences & punctuation	Frequent errors; hard to read	Some variety; noticeable errors	Varied sentences; mostly accurate	Controlled sentences; accurate punctuation

YOUR 4-WEEK PLAN

WEEK	FOCUS	WHAT TO DO
Week 1	Number facts and place value	10 minutes of number facts, 3 times; read for 20 minutes daily.
Week 2	Fractions and decimals	Use measuring cups, money and number lines; write three short paragraphs.
Week 3	Measurement and geometry	Measure rooms, cook, build; practise reading comprehension.
Week 4	Problem solving and writing	One mixed problem set; one full story; review the checklist.

Answer key — remove these pages before giving the pack to your child.

MATHS · ANSWERS AND WORKING

Maths answer key 1 of 2

Q	ANSWER	WORKING
1	40,000 + 7,000 + 300 + 8	47,308 = 4 ten-thousands + 7 thousands + 3 hundreds + 0 tens + 8 ones.
2	6,800	The tens digit is 4, so round down: 6,800.
3	6,245	6 + 9 = 15; carry 1. Work right to left: 6,245.
4	3,327	Regroup from the thousands: 8,002 − 4,675 = 3,327.
5	56 and 8	7 × 8 = 56; the inverse fact is 56 ÷ 7 = 8.
6	3/4; 2/3 is larger	1/4 + 2/4 = 3/4. 3/5 = 0.6; 2/3 ≈ 0.667, so 2/3 is larger.
7	3/4	0.75 = 75/100 = 3/4.
8	(a) $6.90 (b) $3.10	$3.45 × 2 = $6.90; $10.00 − $6.90 = $3.10.
9	26 cm	P = 2 × (8 + 5) = 2 × 13 = 26 cm.
10	40 cm²	A = length × width = 8 × 5 = 40 cm².

Answer key — remove these pages before giving the pack to your child.

MATHS · ANSWERS AND WORKING

Maths answer key 2 of 2

Q	ANSWER	WORKING
11	2,400 m	1 km = 1,000 m, so 2.4 × 1,000 = 2,400 m.
12	35 minutes	3:45 to 4:00 is 15 minutes; 4:00 to 4:20 is 20 minutes; 15 + 20 = 35.
13	acute, right, obtuse	Acute < 90°; right = 90°; obtuse is between 90° and 180°.
14	4	Vertical, horizontal and two diagonal lines.
15	19; add 4 each time	The difference between terms is 4.
16	162; multiply by 3 each time	2 × 3 = 6; 6 × 3 = 18; 18 × 3 = 54; 54 × 3 = 162.
17	(a) 4 (b) 35	9 − 5 = 4; 5 + 8 + 6 + 9 + 7 = 35.
18	1/4; unlikely	One red section out of four equal sections = 1/4. It is possible but less than an even chance.
19	$8.20	$24.60 ÷ 3 = $8.20.
20	18 pencils	6 × 24 = 144 pencils; 144 ÷ 8 = 18.

Common errors to watch for

Place value alignment; regrouping across zeros; mixing up perimeter and area; not reading the question twice.

Answer key — remove these pages before giving the pack to your child.

ENGLISH · ANSWERS

English answer key 1 of 2

Q	ANSWER / SAMPLE RESPONSE
R1.1	In a small garden behind the shed, near a gum tree.
R1.2	Shiny things — bottle caps, buttons, foil, a bead and a hair clip.
R1.3	She wants to help the magpie and attract it back to the garden.
R1.4	Something the magpie values and wants to keep, even if it is not valuable to people.
R1.5	She understands that the magpie values it, and she decides she can find another one.
R1.6	A reasonable answer: respect the way others see the world; small acts of kindness; sharing; seeing things from another point of view.
R1.7	It watches, takes shiny objects, returns to the nest, and later brings a button to Mia — almost like a trade.
R1.8	Any plausible prediction, e.g. Mia and the magpie keep exchanging small objects; Mia finds another clip; the magpie brings more treasures.
R2.1	Why deciduous trees lose their leaves, and how this helps them survive.
R2.2	Tiny holes in leaves through which the tree loses water.
R2.3	So it can reuse the nutrients and save energy for winter.

Answer key — remove these pages before giving the pack to your child.

ENGLISH · ANSWERS

English answer key 2 of 2

Q	ANSWER / SAMPLE RESPONSE
R2.4	Chlorophyll breaks down, so other pigments such as yellow and orange become visible.
R2.5	Evergreens keep their leaves; their leaves are often needle-shaped and covered in wax.
R2.6	They break down and return nutrients to the soil; they are part of the forest cycle.
L1	because, friend, beautiful
L2	On Saturday, Mia and Pop went to the garden.
L3	the magpie's nest; the girls' books
L4	collects
L5	dug
L6	bright, glossy, gleaming, sparkling (any suitable synonym)
L7	un- = not; re- = again
L8	Their

Marking tips

Read the piece aloud once. Do not correct every spelling — focus on the four rubric criteria. A strong Year 5/7 response has a clear idea, paragraphs, varied sentences and accurate basic punctuation.

WRITING · PARENT RUBRIC

Read the piece once for meaning, then once for accuracy. Give 1–4 for each criterion. A total of 10–16 is strong for a first draft; 6–9 is developing; below 6 suggests a focus on sentence structure and paragraphing.

WHAT A STRONG RESPONSE LOOKS LIKE

The back gate creaked. Under the lemon tree, Mia found a small door no taller than her knee. It was painted blue and had a tiny brass handle. She opened it. Inside was a garden no bigger than a dinner plate, with a path of pebbles and a tree the size of a spoon. A beetle in a waistcoat looked up. “You’re late,” it said.

OPTIONAL NEXT STEP

Want us to mark it and send a plan?

We will mark the maths and English, identify two or three priorities, and send a 2–3 page personalised report with a 4-week plan.

The A$29 report

- Marked maths and English, with strand profile.
- Two or three priorities — not a list of everything.
- A 4-week plan you can actually do at home.
- 48-hour turnaround during January.

Scan to request the report
or visit `startingyear.com.au` and choose Year 5

Opens the report request form.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

This is v0.1. Your feedback shapes v0.2. Three questions:

1. What worked well?
2. What was confusing or too hard?
3. Would you pay A$29 for a marked report and plan? Why / why not?

Email `hello@startingyear.com.au` or use the QR form.

Privacy

We collect your email, your child's year level and your state. We do not collect your child's name, school or date of birth. Data is stored in Australia and deleted after 12 months.

HOW IT WORKS

01
Send the answers
A photo or scan of the completed pages is fine. No need to post anything.

02
We mark it
Maths, reading, language and writing, using the same guide in this pack.

03
Get the plan
A 2–3 page report and a 4-week plan within 48 hours.

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