COLIISTE DILLIE

Coláiste Bríde

Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.



15th November 2022

DAT Testing to Assist with Senior Cycle Subject Choice and Career Direction

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In the coming weeks, your daughter/ward will have the opportunity to participate in **Differential Aptitude Testing (DATs)**, as part of the school's Guidance Programme. DATs are designed for use in educational and vocational guidance and are used by guidance counsellors and all persons concerned with assessing the intellectual characteristics and educational or vocational aptitudes of adolescents.

DAT results can be used to produce a profile showing a pupil's **strengths** and **weaknesses**. This information can in turn assist students when making **subject choices** for the **Senior Cycle**. DAT results can also help to **identify career areas** that may be of interest to your daughter in the future.

The DATs have been scheduled for **all Third Year students** to take place as follows:

Day and Date	Time	Venue
Monday 28th November 2022	08:45-15:45	Sports Hall

If your daughter/ward requires any accommodations to participate effectively in the DATs, please notify the Guidance Counsellor as soon as possible. Furthermore, if for any reason you would prefer your daughter/ward not to participate in testing please inform the school.

To prepare parents/guardians and pupils for the DATs I am providing you and your daughter with:

- 1) DAT Questions and Answers Sheet
- 2) Sample DAT Questions and Solutions.

I encourage both you and your daughter/ward read this information <u>before</u> DAT testing commences.

Most questions should be answered and addressed in the accompanying material. However, if you have any additional queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Aisling McDonald

Aisling McDonald

(Guidance Counsellor)

Principal: Ms. K. O'Sullivan Deputy Principal: Mr. N. Moynihan Deputy Principal: Ms. R. McConville

Web: www.colaistebride.ie Email: office@colaistebride.ie Telephone: (053) 9234245





DATs – Questions and Answers

Parents/Guardians should **read this information in conjunction with their daughter/ward** to aid their understanding of what the DATs are and to assist them in preparing to partake in testing.

Question	Answer	
• What does DATs stand for?	DATs stands for Differential Aptitude Tests .	
• What is an Aptitude?	An ability in a certain area.	
• What type of people use DATs?	Guidance Counsellors and people who are concerned with assessing the intellectual characteristics and education or vocational aptitudes of adolescents.	
Why should I participate in the DATs?	DATs help to show your strengths and weaknesses in certain areas. This knowledge can assist you when making subject choices for the Senior Cycle and may also help to identify career areas that may be of interest to you in the future.	
• Can I fail the DATs?	No! It is impossible to fail the DATs. Therefore, nobody should be worried/anxious about participating in them.	
• Can I prepare/study for the DATs?	No! You arrive on the day and simply do your best.	
How much do the DATs cost?	Nothing! The school will pay for all material required for the DATs (DAT books, answer sheets, corrections, etc.)	
• When are the DATs being held?	The DATs have been scheduled to take place in the Sports Hall from 08:45-15:45 on Monday 28th November 2022, for all Third Year students .	
What if I am absent for the DATs?	If you are absent on the day you will miss out on participating in the DATs as well as the educational and career assistance that the results may provide. Missing the	

		DATs is not the end of the world as there are many other ways in which you	
		are encouraged to be guided in relation to making good decisions about Senior	
		Cycle subject choice and your future career!	
•	How many tests are in the DATs?	The DATs are made up of <u>8 different tests</u> .	
•	What are the names of the 8 tests and what does each test	1)Verbal Reasoning (measures how well you can understand ideas expressed in	
	measure?	words), 2)Numerical Reasoning (measures how well you can understand ideas	
		expressed in numbers), 3)Abstract Reasoning (measures how well you can	
		understand ideas that are not expressed in words or numbers), 4)Perceptual Speed	
		and Accuracy (measures how fast and how well you can do thepaperwork that is	
		so important in all offices, scientific laboratories, stores, warehouses and wherever	
		records are made, filed or checked), 5)Mechanical Reasoning (measures how	
		easily you can grasp the common principles of physics as you see then in everyday	
		life), 6)Space Relations (measures how well you can think in three dimensions),	
		7)Spelling (measures how well you can recognise correct and incorrect spellings	
		of common English words), 8)Language Usage (measures how well you can use	
		the English language)	
•	What do I need to bring with me on the day?	Each student should bring a HB PENCIL (as long as the lead in the pencil is	
	· ·	dark it's suitable), a pencil sharpener and an eraser. You must have your own	
		equipment. No sharing allowed. Calculators are not permitted.	
•	Do I get back the results of my DATs? When?	Yes. Every student will be given feedback in relation to how they perform in the	
	·	DATs. The results and their meaning will be explained by the guidance counsellor.	
		DAT results will be returned around the same time that students are asked to	
		make their Senior Cycle subject choices.	
•	Will we do any sample questions before we begin the	Yes. On the day students will be given clear instructions by the guidance	
	DATs?	counsellor. Everyone will be given an opportunity to complete a number of sample	
		questions (similar to those provided) before they begin each of the DAT tests.	
•	Who do I contact if I have any further questions about	Students and parents/guardians can contact Ms. Mc Donald in/ at the school on	
	the DATs?	053-9234245 with any further queries.	



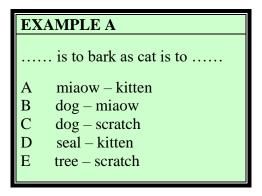
FOUR SAMPLE DAT QUESTIONS AND SOLUTIONS

Sample 1) <u>VERBAL REASONING</u>

Instructions:

This is a test to see how well you can reason with words. Each sentence has two words missing – the first word and the last word. Each answer choice has a pair of words that is related to the words in the sentence in some way. The first word of the pair should fit at the beginning of the sentence so that the first two words in the sentence are related to each other in a certain way. The second word of the pair should fit at the end of the sentence so that the second two words in the sentence are related to each other in the same way as the first two words. Choose the pair of words that you feel *best* completes the sentence.

Look at **EXAMPLE** A.



In order to choose the correct answer for *Example A*, look carefully at each pair of words. Only one pair of words will complete the sentence so that the first two words are related to each other in the same way as the last two words.

Solution:

Answer *A* is wrong because *miaow* and *bark* are not related in the same way as *cat* is related to *kitten*. Answer *C* is wrong because although a *dog* barks and a cat *scratches*, the actions are not the same type.

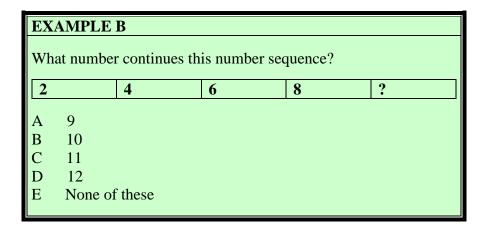
Answer *D* is wrong because although a *seal* barks, *cat* and *kitten* are not related in the same way. Answer *E* is wrong because *tree* and *bark* are not related in the same way as *cat* is related to *scratch*. The answer is *B* because *dog* and *bark* are related in the same way as *cat* and *miaow*.

Sample 2) NUMERICAL REASONING

Instructions:

This is a test to see how well you can reason with numbers. Read each problem carefully. If necessary, work out your answer on rough paper. You may not use a calculator. Look at the possible answers listed and decide which answer is *best*.

Look at **EXAMPLE B**.



Solution:

In Example B, the correct answer is 10 because when you count by 2s, 10 follows 8 in the counting sequence.

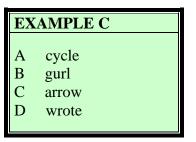


Sample 3) **SPELLING**

Instructions:

Read each group of four words. Decide which word is *not* spelled correctly.

Look at **EXAMPLE** C.



Solution:

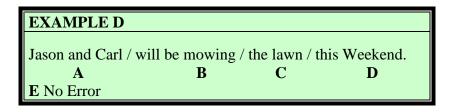
In EXAMPLE C, the word gurl is not spelled correctly. Gurl should be spelled girl.

Sample 4) LANGUAGE USAGE

Instructions:

This test consists of sentences that are divided into four parts. In many of the sentences, one of the four parts contains an error in either punctuation, capitalisation, or grammar. You are to decide which one of the four parts, if any, contains the error.

Look at **EXAMPLE D**.



Solution:

In Example D, the error is in part D. The word weekend should not have a capital letter.