

YOUR FREE READER'S COMPANION

The Gifted Test-Day Prep Kit

A companion to Gifted and Talented Test Prep Grade 3 · by Elena Marsh

A free printable companion to Gifted and Talented Test Prep Grade 3

By Elena Marsh · bookcompanion.co

What's in this kit

Thank you for picking up Gifted and Talented Test Prep Grade 3 for your child. The book gives you 150 practice questions across the three kinds of reasoning these tests measure — verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal (figural) — with a full written explanation for every single one.

This little kit is the part that goes around the practice: a calm plan, a way to talk through answers, and a test-day routine so the morning itself is the easy part. Print the pages you like and keep them on the fridge.

Inside you'll find:

1. A gentle 2-week plan — about ten minutes a day, using the book's three sections.
2. A parent's guide to the three question types, in plain language.
3. The "talk through the answer" script — how to turn a wrong answer into real thinking.
4. A test-day checklist and morning-of timeline.
5. Five calm phrases for a nervous child (and a nervous parent).
6. A progress and confidence tracker you can fill in together.

Nothing here needs an app, a login, or a screen. Print, write, and go at your child's pace.

A gentle reminder: this is preparation, not pressure. Ten relaxed minutes a day beats an hour of worry. A child who walks in curious and calm does better than one who walks in drilled and tired.

This kit and the book are independent study materials. They are not affiliated with or endorsed by the makers of the CogAT, NNAT, or OLSAT.

1. The gentle 2-week plan

You don't need months of cramming. Two calm weeks of short sessions is plenty to make the format familiar and take the surprise out of test day. Aim for about ten minutes, most days. If a day gets away from you, skip it — momentum matters more than perfection.

Day	Focus (from the book)	About
1	Verbal reasoning	Warm up, read a few together
2	Quantitative reasoning	Numbers and patterns
3	Nonverbal (figural)	Shapes, matrices, series
4	Verbal reasoning	Keep going
5	Mixed: pick 2 of each	Short and light
6	Rest or replay a favorite	Confidence, not pressure
7	Nonverbal (figural)	The one that feels newest
8	Verbal reasoning	Talk through the why
9	Quantitative reasoning	Explain one answer out loud
10	Nonverbal (figural)	Spot the rule together
11	Mixed review	Whatever felt hardest
12	Easy win day	Questions they enjoy
13	Light mixed review	Keep it short
14	Rest, early night	Read the test-day checklist

Stop each session while it's still going well. Ending on a "that was fun" beats pushing to a meltdown every time.

2. A parent's guide to the three question types

The book practices all three. Here's what each one is really measuring, so you can reassure your child that there's nothing to "get wrong" — it's just different kinds of thinking.

Verbal reasoning — how a child works with words and ideas: relationships between words, categories, and simple logic. Everyday version: "A puppy is to a dog as a kitten is to a _____?"

Quantitative reasoning — thinking with numbers and patterns, not just arithmetic: what comes next, what's missing, how two things relate. Everyday version: "2, 4, 6, 8, and then _____?"

Nonverbal (figural) reasoning — reasoning with pictures and shapes instead of words: matrices, odd-one-out, and series of figures. This one often feels the newest because there are no words at all. Everyday version: "Which shape finishes the pattern?"

If your child freezes on nonverbal puzzles, that's normal — it's the least familiar. The book uses clean black-and-white figures with one clear answer, so a few sessions is usually all it takes for it to "click."

3. The "talk through the answer" script

The most valuable part of the book isn't the questions — it's the explanation printed with every one. Here's how to use it so your child learns reasoning, not just answers.

When a question is missed, don't say "wrong." Try this, in order:

1. "Show me how you were thinking." Let them explain first. Half the time they'll catch it themselves.
2. "Let's read the explanation together." Read it out loud, slowly.
3. "What's the rule here?" Name the pattern in one sentence: "the shape rotates," "the words are opposites."
4. "Where would you see this again?" Find one more question of the same type and let them try it fresh.

Fill-in for one you worked through together today:

The question type was: _____

The rule we named: _____

What clicked for my child: _____

Praise the thinking, not the smart. "You found the rule" builds a child who keeps trying. "You're so smart" makes them afraid to be wrong.

4. Test-day checklist and morning-of timeline

Test day should be the boring part. Here's the routine that makes it so.

The night before

- ☐ Lay out clothes and anything the school asked you to bring.
- ☐ Put the book away — no last-minute cramming.
- ☐ Early night. Sleep matters more than one more practice question.

The morning of

- ☐ A calm, normal breakfast with some protein.
- ☐ Bathroom before you leave.
- ☐ Leave early enough that no one is rushing.
- ☐ One warm sentence in the car (see the next page).

What your child needs to hear, not "do your best":

Tell them the test is just puzzles, like the ones you've been doing together, and that their only job is to read carefully and try each one. That's it.

You are not allowed to bring the book or this kit into the test. The goal of these two weeks was to make the format familiar — and by now, it is.

5. Five calm phrases for a nervous child

Cut these out and keep one in your pocket. Kids borrow their calm from us.

1. "You've seen puzzles like these before. Your brain already knows what to do."
 2. "You don't have to get them all. Just read carefully and try each one."
 3. "If one is tricky, skip it and come back. That's the smart move."
 4. "However today goes, we're proud of how hard you worked."
 5. "After the test, we'll do something fun — this is the last busy part."
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Say number 5 and mean it. A child who knows there's ice cream and a park on the other side walks in lighter.

6. Progress and confidence tracker

Fill this in together at the end of each week. It's not a score sheet — it's a confidence sheet.

Week 1

Sections we practiced: ☐ Verbal ☐ Quantitative ☐ Nonverbal

The type that feels easiest now: _____

The type we'll do a little more of: _____

One thing my child figured out on their own: _____

How my child feels about test day (1 = nervous, 5 = ready): _____ / 5

Week 2

Sections we practiced: ☐ Verbal ☐ Quantitative ☐ Nonverbal

The type that feels easiest now: _____

Something my child said that made me smile: _____

How my child feels about test day (1 = nervous, 5 = ready): _____ / 5

If that last number went up even one point across two weeks, the kit did its job. Ready and calm beats perfect every time.

One last word from me

You picked up a practice book and a printable kit because you care — that's already the biggest thing. Your child doesn't need to be pushed; they need to feel that this is doable, and that you're in it together.

Work through the 150 questions at a pace that feels kind. Read the explanations. Name the rules out loud. Then close the book the night before and let them sleep.

They've got this. So do you.

— Elena