MidYis Testing – A guide for parents

What is Midyis testing?

MidYIS stands for Middle Years Information System and is currently operating in over 3000 secondary schools. MidYIS is an hour test taken in the first term at school. The test is designed to measure, as far as possible, ability and aptitude for learning rather than achievement. MidYIS is not an IQ Test as it is designed to provide a measure of 'typical' performance.

What is involved in the test?

- Vocabulary test – 10 min
- Maths test – 24 min
- Skills test contains three sections listed below: Proof-reading – approximately 4-5 x 1-minute exercises looking at spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- PSA – Perceptual Speed & Accuracy – this includes several 30-second bursts at comparing typed text with a 'hand-written' version. It goes on to ask the students to speedily compare strings of letters, numbers and symbols. The proof-reading and PSA are combined to give the "Skills" score. Non-verbal reasoning – Several 5-minute sections of exercises looking at cross-sections, block counting and pictures.

The Overall MidYis is formed from the Vocabulary and Maths scores only.

What do the components relate to?

The Vocabulary component of the test is a useful guide for most subjects but especially for English, Social Subjects and some Modern Languages. The Maths score is linked to most subjects but is particularly important when predicting Maths, Statistics, ICT, Design Technology and Economics. The Maths section has been designed with the emphasis on speed and fluency, rather than knowledge of Maths. The Non-verbal score is important when predicting Maths, Science, Design Technology, Geography, Art and Drama. It provides a measure of the pupil's ability in visualizing 3-D shapes, spatial aptitude, pattern recognition and logical thinking.

Quick Reference

Student Report

Your child's performance is shown in 4 different scales:

1. The Band (A to D, A being the highest) into which the student's score falls.
2. Standardised Score
3. The stanine into which the pupil's score falls.
4. Percentile
5. Overall Midyis Score

Overall MidYIS Test Score

In the case of all subjects the overall MidYIS score gives a better prediction (has the strongest correlation) of later academic achievement than any of the separate section scores.

- Scores over 130 identify students in the top 2 percent nationally

- Scores over 126 identify students in the top 5 percent nationally

- Scores over 120 identify students in the top 10 percent nationally

- A score of 100 is the median (middle) score nationally. Most student's score between 85 and 115.

Definitions Bands

Your child has been given a Band from A (high performance) to D (low performance).

Each Band contains 25% (a quarter) of the pupils in the nationally representative sample.

Percentile

Percentage of the nationally representative sample scoring less than this student.

Standardised Score

Score standardised against a nationally representative sample, where the sample mean is set to be 100.

- 95% of pupils will score between 70 and 130.
- Pupils scoring over 130 are in the top 2½ percent of the national sample.
- Pupils scoring less than 70 are in the lowest 2½ percent of the national sample.

Stanines

- A 'Stanine' is a statistical term that means "standard of".
- A MidYIS Test score in Stanine 1 is a score in the lowest 4% of the nationally-representative sample.
- Stanine 5 is a score in the middle 20% of the nationally-representative sample.
- Stanine 9 is in the top 4% of the nationally-representative sample.

What is this data used for?

Identifying "hidden" strengths in your child

- This could include high non-verbal or skills scores
- Confirm perceived strengths/areas for development

This data is only one source of evidence about student achievement and will be used with care alongside other school assessments. The rest of your child's education does not depend on the result of this assessment.

Example: How to interpret the Individual Pupil record

The Individual Pupil Record (IPR) is shown to the right, here is a visual breakdown of how an example student fared on the various sections of the MidYIS baseline test.

The graphical representation of the data is perhaps the easiest way to compare your child's performance across the sections of the assessment and relative to the national average.

1. The score for each section of the test is displayed on the chart as a diamond.

2. The 95% confidence band/limit of the student's result is shown as an error bar either side of the diamond.

3. The overall score is displayed at the far right of the chart. It has a smaller confidence limit as it is composed of scores from more than one section.

4. The average of the nationally representative sample is shown by the horizontal line at 100.
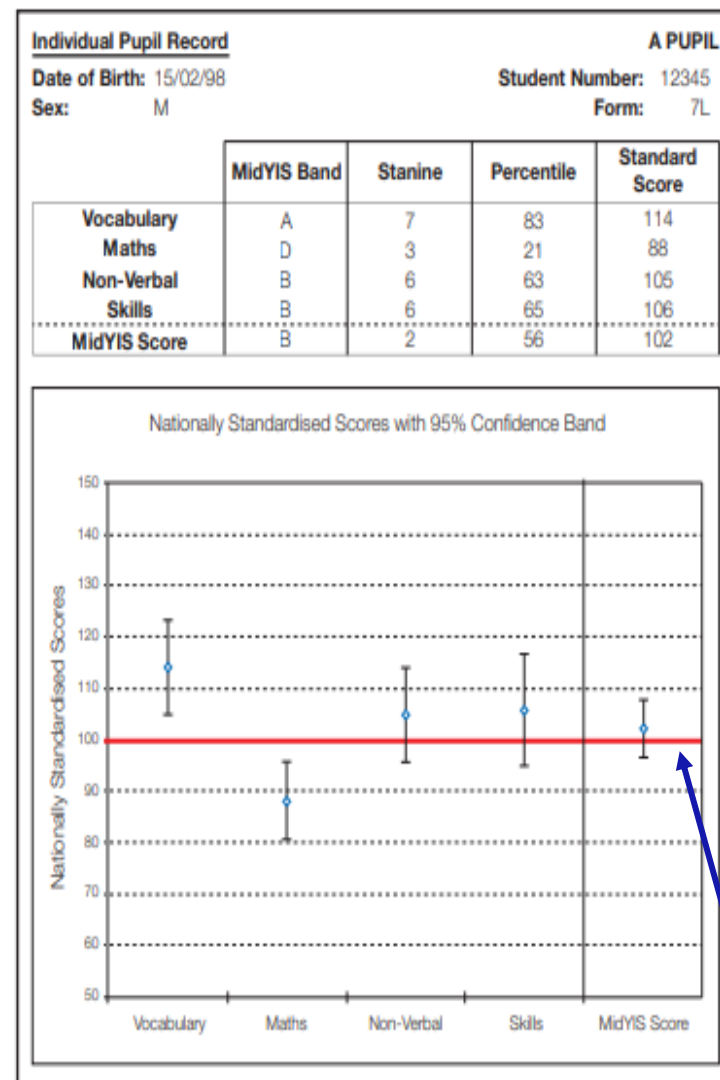
Vocabulary: This student has achieved a well above average score of 114 on the Vocabulary section, placing the pupil in Band A, the top 25% of all performances nationally. The student performed better than 83% of the sample.

Maths: In contrast their Maths Score at 88 is below average and falls at the top end of Band D, the lowest 25% of all students' performance.

Non-verbal and Skills: With roughly equal scores on these sections of 105 and 106 respectively, the student has an above average performance which falls into Band B, the second highest quarter of all scores.

Overall Performance: The Overall score provides a summary measure of the student's performance on the test. A roughly average overall performance has been achieved here with a score of 102.

Example

The average of the nationally representative sample is shown by the horizontal line at 100.