

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

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**مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية**

ص.ب. ٥٢٢٣٢ - دبي - الإمارات العربية المتحدة

maryscol@emirates.net.ae : بريد الكتروني

هاتف : ٣٣٧٠٢٥٢ ٤ ٩٧١ +

www.stmarysdubai.com : موقع ويب

فاكس : ٣٣٦٨١١٩ ٤ ٩٧١ +

OUR REF : .....

TRN : 104153998000003

DATE: Friday 04 September 2026

To: **Parents of Students in Years FOUR, SIX EIGHT & TEN ONLY -**

**GL CAT4 EXAMINATION** - In the approved KHDA Calendar (dates already scheduled)

Dear Parents,

**Greetings from St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai.** It is that time of the year for our students to complete the GL Cognitive Ability Test CAT4 which is mandated by KHDA for the year groups mentioned above. As part of our commitment to the National Agenda targets, and with a view to tracking progress and identify gaps in learning, our school will participate compulsorily in the GLS-CAT4 exams.

GL Education, one of the leading research organizations in the world, develops this test and provides a range of Assessment services in many countries and works in close tandem with the KHDA here in Dubai. These are KHDA-mandatory assessments and are also part of your Parent-School Contract.

***The entry fee is AED 85/- for the test , the exact amount of which must be paid ONLY VIA THE SKIPLY APP NO LATER THAN 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026. Please email a copy of the SKIPLY receipt to your child's class teacher. This amount has been included in the Parent Contract as well.***

**CAT4** is designed to assess the four main abilities that underpin intellectual development and influence attainment. It measures four areas of reasoning:

- Quantitative
- Verbal
- Non-verbal and
- Spatial, a skill important for success in STEM subjects and an ability that is not measured by any other reasoning test for schools.

**CAT4 is an assessment of reasoning that helps identify pupils' developed abilities and likely academic potential.** *CAT4* is not about knowledge recall and requires no preparation, offering all students the same opportunity to show their underlying ability.

## What is CAT4?

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) is a diagnostic assessment that is designed to help students and their teachers understand how they learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how students think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning. While many tests focus on a child's attainment in core subjects, CAT4 is designed to give schools a much broader, more rounded view of each child, their potential and how they learn. Results help teachers decide about the pace of learning that is right for a student and whether additional support or challenge is needed.

Tasks involve thinking about shapes and patterns (Non-Verbal Reasoning), words (Verbal Reasoning), numbers (Quantitative Reasoning) and some questions are answered by mentally generating and transforming visual images (Spatial Ability).

CAT4 is based on years of research and development. The current edition took five years to develop and the involvement of 25,000 students across the UK. It is a well-known assessment in schools; teachers value its ability to provide an understanding of what a child is capable of rather than defining them by their understanding of a body of knowledge in particular subjects.

## How are CAT4 Results used?

CAT4 provides teachers with information that can form the basis for discussions about how best a student can learn and reach his or her potential in school.

Teachers are provided with an individual profile of learning preference along with a range of indicators of likely future performance. Used with other information (such as results from Key Stage 2 SATs, for example), these data can support teaching and learning for all children.

### **Can students practice for CAT4?**

GL strongly advises against any kind of practice ahead of a CAT4 test as this will alter the reliability of test scores. The point of CAT4 is that it is not a test of learnt knowledge and it needs to be as unaffected as possible by any external factors, such as practice. Think of it like an eye test; if you practice ahead of an eye test and memorise the card, your diagnosis may not be correct, and valuable information may be missed.

CAT4 is a timed assessment and is administered under formal conditions. However, each section of the assessment includes introductory information with practice examples, and these will familiarise the children with the style and format of the questions. These sections are not timed and may be repeated.

### **Is additional time allowed for children with SEND?**

CAT4 is a timed assessment, and additional time is not permitted as this will affect the reliability of the results. CAT4 is not just about what and how it tests but how the questions are answered within a set time frame. The timed element makes it diagnostically very powerful.

CAT4 subtests are generously timed, and most children reach the final questions, however there may have been a minority of students during the standardisation process who would have obtained higher scores if they had been given more time. Therefore, giving extra time to a particular student could give an inflated view of their relative ability when comparing their results with the CAT4 norms.

### **SAMPLE QUESTIONS TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF QUESTION TYPES**

<https://www.tests.com/practice/cognitive-abilities-practice-test>

**SCHEDULE FOR CAT-4 EXAMINATIONS CAN BE FOUND IN OUR KHDA APPROVED CALENDAR CIRCULAR.**

Yours sincerely,



**Mr. Paul Asir Joseph  
( Principal )**

