

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [ACCESS I.](#)

**Sent:** Monday, November 17, 2014 3:46 PM

**Subject:** RE: Freedom of Information Act

Thank you for your request for information from Durham University. Please see our response below.

**1. Does the University believe its 11+ selective tests are robust and provide a fair test when the same tests are administered on separate days during an admissions year?**

The Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM), at Durham University, produce robust, fair selection assessments which are designed to give reliable measures of cognitive ability. We do not hold any evidence which suggests that this is not the case.

Please see the following quote which is taken from a statement that was issued on 11/09/2014 to schools using our assessments in Reading:

The Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring at Durham University, who developed the 11+ assessment, have confirmed that 'we are confident that this 11+ test is a fair and robust assessment. We have every confidence in the process of morning and afternoon assessment sessions. CEM have rigorous data analysis processes which we are confident would identify any questions showing bias to either morning or afternoon candidates.'

**2. Are the tests robust enough to handle children taking multiple different tests in different areas, and such an activity has no effect on the integrity of testing?**

Information not held.

**3. Does the University accept children taking an 11+ test can remember content?**

Information not held.

**4. Does the University believe children cannot remember content in enough detail to enable them to pass information to late sitters (directly or indirectly) to make a significant difference to late sitters' scores, or would information provide an unfair advantage in areas where children are ranked by score?**

Information not held.

**5. Does the University believe that even if children can remember content and this is passed on to late sitters it would not provide any advantage to them and this is why their tests are taken on separate dates?**

Information not held.

**6. Does the University accept its tests are not robust enough for use on multiple dates, if children can remember content, that includes a single synonym (matching word) on the test being disclosed in areas where children are ranked by score?**

Information not held.

**7. Would stating the title of a comprehension section provide an unfair advantage to late sitters?**

Information not held.

- 8. Would passing on content gleaned from children sitting a test affect the integrity and robustness of a test, knowing the same test is used on later dates in areas that rank children on score?**

Information not held.

- 9. Would discussion or publication on a website of an overview of an 11+ test gleaned from children constitute a breach of the University's copyright?**

Information not held.

- 10. Would publication of an overview of the 11+ tests on a website by a person who has not seen the test be a breach of confidentiality?**

Information not held.

- 11. Does the University insist of children who sit their tests sign a confidentiality clause?**

Durham University does not ask children to sign a confidentiality clause.

- 12. Content gleaned from children is collated by elevenplusexams.co.uk. Does the University regard this as a breach of copyright or confidential data?**

Information not held.

- 13. Does the publication of past content as follows constitute copyright infringement or a breach of confidentiality:**

<http://www.elevenplusexams.co.uk/forum/11plus/viewtopic.php?f=11&t=14423>

Information not held.

- 14. Who owns the copyright of the tests supplied to schools or local authorities? Is it the University or the school/local authority?**

Durham University owns the copyright of the tests it produces.

- 15. Are questions on tests the confidential information of the University or its clients?**

The questions included in the assessments are considered to be confidential information by both the University and its clients. The University's clients are held under contractual obligations to hold the content of the assessments to a certain degree of confidentiality.

- 16. Is the University aware of any of its 11+ tests being compromised within the last 2 years? If so, how?**

Durham University is aware that there have been discussions about test content, but hold no evidence which suggests that this has resulted in the assessments being compromised.

- 17. Has the University taken legal action against any person or organization for copyright infringement or breach of confidence relating to its actual 11+ selective tests used in the last 2 years?**

No.

- 18. Is the University considering taking legal action against any person or organization for copyright infringement or breach of confidence relating to its actual 11+ selective tests used in the last 2 years?**

Information not held.

**19. Has the University authorized any organization to take legal action against any person or organization for copyright infringement or breach of confidence relating to its actual 11+ selective tests used in the last 2 years on its behalf?**

No.

**20. Once children sit an 11+ test and children discuss content, does the University accept that the information has entered the public domain?**

Information not held.

Should you wish to appeal any decision concerning the release of information by the University please see, [http://www.dur.ac.uk/foi/info\\_requests/complaints/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/foi/info_requests/complaints/) for details of our review procedures.

Yours sincerely,

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Deputy information and Data Protection Manager  
Governance and Executive Support  
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