

The Essential Year 7 Maths Bookshelf

A parent's guide to the best Year 7 Maths workbooks for independent study

One question we hear from parents again and again is: "Which books should my child have at home so they can work through topics on their own?" We recently received exactly this message from Natalia, a parent of one of our Year 7 students:

"It would be very useful if you could share which textbook we can buy for these topics. Right now Leia has to rely either on you or on me. She needs to be able to come home, open a book and try to understand new material herself."

Natalia, parent of a Year 7 student

It is a completely valid concern. Good independent study habits start with having the right resources, ones that explain topics clearly, give plenty of practice, and don't require a tutor or parent to decode them. At **Greenhill Academics**, our tutors work with Year 7 students every week. These are the three workbooks we recommend most.

Why your child needs a workbook at home

The jump from primary to secondary maths catches a lot of families off guard. Topics move faster, classes are larger, and the curriculum assumes a level of independence that many Year 7 students haven't yet built. Schools don't always send textbooks home, which leaves your child relying on lesson notes, school portals, or whatever they can find online.

That's not enough. Without a proper book to open, there's no way to build genuine self-study skills. A good workbook gives your child something concrete to sit down with at the kitchen table, a structured path through each topic, at their own pace, on their own terms. That habit of independent study is the foundation of every strong maths student, and Year 7 is exactly the right time to build it.

What to look for

Not all workbooks do the same job. There are three things a good Year 7 Maths workbook should deliver, and most books only do one or two of them well.

SELF-STUDY

Proper explanations, worked examples and method notes, so your child can genuinely learn something new without being talked through it first.

PRACTICE

Plenty of questions at the right level, with answers in the back. This is what builds fluency once the method is understood.

PROBLEM-SOLVING

Questions that require reasoning, not just calculation. Starting these early builds the thinking that pays off at GCSE.

The ideal setup uses two or three books together: one to learn from, one to practise with, and one to stretch into problem-solving when your child is ready.

Our top 3 recommendations

These are the three books our tutors recommend most often to parents of Year 7 students. Between them, they cover self-study, practice and reasoning, and they cost under £30 altogether.

1**BEST FOR SELF-STUDY****~£14**

CGP KS3 Maths, Year 7 Student Book

CGP

- ✓ Covers the full Year 7 curriculum with detailed notes
- ✓ Fully worked examples for every topic
- ✓ Prior knowledge check opens each section
- ✓ Review exercise to consolidate each section
- ✓ Challenge questions with worked solutions
- ✓ Answers and a free online edition included

This is the book that directly answers Natalia's question. Your child can open it, find the topic they're covering in class, read the explanation, and have a go at the questions, all without needing anyone else in the room.

268 pages · ISBN 9781789087864 [Available on Amazon →](#)

2**BEST FOR PRACTICE****~£7**

CGP Year 7 Targeted Workbook

CGP

- ✓ Pure practice, no lengthy explanations
- ✓ Questions targeted at every Year 7 Maths topic
- ✓ Each section runs warm-up, practice, then review
- ✓ All answers included
- ✓ Works brilliantly alongside the Student Book
- ✓ Understand first, then drill until it is automatic

Your child reads the explanation in Book 1, then does the exercises in Book 2. That separation of learning and practice mirrors how the best students study. At roughly £7, it's excellent value.

ISBN 9781789083168 [Available on Amazon →](#)

3**BEST FOR PROBLEM-SOLVING****~£6**

Collins KS3 Maths, Year 7 Workbook

Collins

- ✓ Focuses on problem-solving and reasoning
- ✓ Questions that ask your child to think, not just calculate
- ✓ Covers numbers, algebra, fractions, angles and more
- ✓ Structured term by term to follow the school year
- ✓ Best for students comfortable with the basics
- ✓ The most concise of the three at 80 pages

This is the book for students who need to develop the kind of thinking that GCSE maths rewards. At roughly £6, it's a small investment for a skill that compounds over time.

80 pages · ISBN 9780007562667 [Available on Amazon →](#)

How to use the three books together

Buying three books and leaving them on a shelf helps nobody. Here's how our tutors suggest using them.

1 Start with the Student Book, ideally a week ahead

Use it when your child meets a new topic at school, or better, just before. Reading ahead by even a week means they walk into the lesson already familiar with the vocabulary and methods, which makes everything in class land more easily.

2 Move to the Targeted Workbook for extra practice

This is where fluency is built. If your child can do the warm-up questions quickly and accurately, they're ready to move on. If not, that's a sign the topic needs more time, and that's perfectly fine.

3 Save the Collins workbook for a weekend stretch

Pick a topic your child covered earlier in the term and try the reasoning questions. These are harder, and your child might not get them all right straight away. That's the point. Sitting with a problem that doesn't immediately yield an answer is exactly the skill that separates a Grade 7 from a Grade 5 at GCSE.

4 Watch where they get stuck

If your child consistently gets stuck on the same types of questions, that's useful information. It tells you exactly where they need support, whether from a teacher, a tutor, or simply more time with the material.

What Year 7 Maths actually covers

Parents sometimes assume Year 7 maths is just a repeat of primary school. It isn't. A typical course covers number work including negative numbers, factors, multiples and primes, algebra where students start forming and solving simple equations, fractions, decimals and percentages in more depth, ratio and proportion, a much bigger geometry section covering angle rules, constructions, area and volume, and finally statistics and probability.

That's a lot of ground. Because schools move through it at pace, students who fall behind on one topic often find the next one harder to follow. A workbook gives your child a way to go back and fill those gaps without waiting for the teacher to revisit them.

Why physical books still matter

Apps, videos and AI tools can be genuinely helpful in the right context. But physical workbooks offer something screens don't: the ability to work through problems with a pencil, show full working, and build the muscle memory that comes from writing maths by hand.

A textbook also forces your child to read an explanation, sit with it, understand it, and then apply it, which is exactly the skill they'll need for every exam from Year 7 through to A Levels. Half the material in Year 7 maths is content most students are capable of understanding themselves. They just need something to work from.

Meet some of our Year 7 Maths tutors

Our KS3 maths tutors are hand-matched to each student based on subject need and learning style. Here are some of the tutors who work with Year 7 students regularly.



Holly Oxford Mathematics (MMath, in progress) · KS2 to A Level

Holly is reading for an MMath in Mathematics at Exeter College, Oxford, and has tutored since the age of fifteen. She teaches Maths from KS2 and KS3 through to A Level, with clearly structured lessons that map out what a course covers so students can track their progress. Much of her teaching centres on building confidence alongside competence, especially for girls finding their feet in the subject.



Karol Cambridge Natural Sciences · PGCE · 5,000+ hours tutoring

Karol studied Natural Sciences at the University of Cambridge and is completing a PGCE in Science there. He has over 5,000 hours of tutoring experience across more than ten years, teaching Maths from KS3 through to GCSE and A Level. He gives each new student a diagnostic assessment to identify gaps, and his teacher training makes him particularly good at helping reluctant learners build motivation and confidence.



Maisie Oxford Molecular Biochemistry (MSci) · KS2 to A Level Maths

Maisie is a final-year Molecular Biochemistry student at Oxford, with First-Class marks and an academic scholarship in every year of study. She teaches Maths from KS2 and KS3 through to A Level and has several years of tutoring and mentoring experience. She has particular experience working with neurodivergent students, helping them apply their own ways of thinking to academic challenges.

Frequently asked questions

What is the best maths workbook for a Year 7 student in the UK?

The CGP KS3 Maths Year 7 Student Book is the most comprehensive option for self-study, with detailed notes, worked examples, and answers included. For pure practice alongside it, the CGP Year 7 Targeted Workbook is the natural companion. Most students benefit from having at least two books, one to learn from and one to practise with.

Do Year 7 students need a maths textbook at home?

Yes, and more than you might expect. Schools don't always provide textbooks for students to take home, which can leave your child without a reliable reference when doing homework or revising. A good workbook fills that gap and builds the self-study habit that becomes essential at GCSE and beyond.

How can I help my child study Year 7 maths independently?

Start by giving them the right resources, a workbook with clear explanations and answers so they can check their own work. Encourage them to read ahead of what's being covered in class, even by a few days. And when they get stuck, let them sit with the problem for a while before jumping in.

Is Year 7 maths much harder than primary school?

The topics build on primary school foundations, but the pace is faster and the expectations for independent work are higher. Algebra, angle rules, and ratio are introduced properly for the first time, and students are expected to show full working. A workbook helps smooth that transition.

Are CGP books good for KS3 maths?

CGP is widely regarded as the strongest publisher for KS3 maths workbooks in the UK. Their books are clearly written, well-structured, and include full answers. The Year 7 Student Book and Targeted Workbook together cover learning and practice comprehensively, and at around £21 for the pair, they represent solid value.

Does your child need more support alongside the right books?

The right books give your child the tools to study independently. But if they're consistently getting stuck on specific topics, or you want someone to help them build genuine confidence and strong habits from the start, get in touch and we'll match you with a tutor who knows exactly what Year 7 students need.

BOOK YOUR FIRST LESSON

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