

Name _____ Date _____ Time taken _____

What this sheet trains

Divided attention - holding a second rule in mind while your main attention is busy elsewhere. This is the skill behind listening to a teacher while taking notes, or checking your working while solving the next step.

Strategy: anchor and sweep. Give the main task your focus and let the second task run as a quick, automatic check - do not swap your full attention back and forth.

1 Read and tally

Main task: read the passage once. Second task: the counting rule below.

Counting rule

Every time you read the word chip or chips, make one tally mark in the box at the foot of the page. Do not go back and re-read. One pass only.

A silicon wafer that becomes a phone chip may be patterned in Taiwan, but there is a good chance the chip is finished in Penang. The island has spent half a century building what the industry calls back end work: cutting the wafer into individual chips, bonding them onto a substrate, sealing each chip in plastic or ceramic, and testing it at temperature before it is shipped. None of this is glamorous, and for years it was treated as the low-value end of the business, a matter of cheap hands rather than difficult engineering.

That assumption has aged badly. As transistors stopped shrinking as quickly as they once did, performance gains began coming instead from stacking several chips in one package and wiring them together with connections finer than anything on a circuit board. Packaging moved from the end of the process to the middle of the design, and yield at this stage now decides whether an expensive wafer becomes a saleable chip or scrap. Penang firms that once assembled parts to a customer's drawing run test engineering and failure analysis of their own, work that cannot be moved at short notice because it lives in experienced staff rather than in equipment.

That is a strong position and a narrow one. The state's advantage rests on a dense cluster of suppliers, toolmakers and technicians within an hour's drive, an arrangement that took decades and cannot be built quickly elsewhere, which is why governments offering subsidies to attract chip plants are making a slower bet than they admit. The risk for Penang is different: specialising deeply in one stage of somebody else's chip means prosperity depends on decisions taken in boardrooms with no stake in the island, and an industry can leave faster than it arrives.

Tally here - one mark per chip or chips

Make the marks as you read, then write your total before turning the page.

Total

1 Questions - cover the passage first

Answer from memory. Do not look back at the passage.

My tally total

From page 1

Q1. What kind of work in the semiconductor industry does Penang specialise in?

Q2. Why did packaging become more important as transistors stopped shrinking quickly?

Q3. Why can another country not easily copy Penang's position by offering subsidies?

Q4. What risk does the writer see in a region specialising so deeply in one stage?

2 Grid sweep with a running count

Main task: cross out targets. Second task: keep a count in your head.

Rules - read both before you start, then start the timer

Main: cross out every number that is a multiple of 9.

Second: count - silently, no marks - how many numbers end in 0. Write the total in the box only when you have finished the whole grid.

79	27	22	65	37	11	16	50	99	13	85	91	96	14	43	95
56	76	85	19	91	61	56	67	11	46	64	62	94	42	36	15
96	74	81	24	44	89	89	71	12	47	64	11	71	71	60	44
36	54	92	93	23	66	62	78	93	88	31	76	20	60	33	55
24	47	89	59	30	36	60	93	67	43	16	17	67	32	77	95
20	99	45	97	56	70	84	54	91	39	72	32	80	56	29	21
49	12	55	60	62	39	29	33	55	92	31	29	27	91	43	68
26	41	45	14	79	20	14	80	10	17	54	19	63	29	76	49

Stop the timer when the grid is finished, not when you write the total.

Numbers ending in 0

Write it once the grid is done

3 Copy and total

Main task: copy each row of digits. Second task: keep a running total.

Rules

Main: copy each four-digit group into the box beside it, in order.

Second: add the second digit of every row to a running total as you go.

Write the running total in the box at the end of each row - from memory, not by going back and adding up at the end.

	Copy here	Running total
7 4 9 5		
4 7 9 2		
7 9 3 4		
3 6 4 6		
5 5 7 3		
2 5 5 2		
8 1 4 4		
7 8 6 4		
4 7 5 8		
6 4 9 5		
9 6 6 6		
7 5 1 8		

4 Bridging - answer in a sentence each

Where this shows up outside the sheet.

Q1. Which of your two tasks slipped first in this exercise, and what was the text doing when it happened?

Q2. Which of your commitments outside school competes hardest with revision, and how do you handle it?

Q3. When you reread a paragraph you lost, do you restart the whole page or push on? Which works better?

Answer key

Task 1 · tally
chip or chips

8

Task 2 · crossed out
multiples of 9

15

Task 2 · counted
ending in 0

13

Task 3 · final total
second digits

67

Task 1 - suggested answers

Q1. Back end work: cutting wafers into chips, bonding and sealing them into packages, and testing them before shipping.

Q2. Gains now come from stacking and connecting several chips in one package, so packaging decides overall performance and yield.

Q3. The advantage lies in a dense local cluster of suppliers and experienced staff, which takes decades rather than money to build.

Q4. Its prosperity depends on firms with no local stake, and such an industry can leave faster than it arrived.

Notes for the parent or teacher

- Mark the two tasks separately. A student who scores well on the main task and loses the count has not failed - that is the normal pattern, and it is the thing worth discussing.
- Do not prompt or remind during a task. The reminder is the skill.
- An untimed run is a valid run. Record the time only if the student wants to beat it next week.
- Repeat the sheet after a week rather than straight away. Spacing is what makes the gain stick.
- This is attention practice, not an assessment. It does not diagnose anything, and no sheet of this kind should be read as a measure of ability.