

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 hospital or hospitals, make one tally mark in the box at the foot of the page. Do not go back and re-read. One pass only.

A patient arriving at a Dutch hospital after being treated overseas is often swabbed before being shown to a ward. The swab is tested for bacteria that no longer respond to the usual antibiotics, and until the result returns the patient is nursed alone. The practice looks excessive, and it is expensive, but the Netherlands reports some of the lowest rates of resistant infection in Europe. Doctors prescribe antibiotics sparingly, farmers have cut their use in livestock, and every hospital sends its figures to a national programme that publishes them.

Resistance is not something a drug does to a patient; it is something a population of bacteria acquires. In any large colony a few cells happen to carry a mutation, or a small loop of borrowed DNA, that lets them survive the drug. Kill the rest and those few inherit the space. The more widely a drug is used, the sooner the survivors become the ordinary form. That is why a hospital is such a dangerous place for the process to begin: antibiotics are concentrated there, patients are already weakened, and staff move from bed to bed. One resistant strain can cross a hospital ward in days.

The Dutch figures are held up as proof that discipline works, and broadly they are, but the credit is easy to misplace. Prescribing rules are written nationally; the hard part is persuading thousands of clinicians inside each hospital to follow them while a worried parent waits. No country can hold the line alone either, because resistant bacteria travel in people, food and water, and a hospital that admits an infected traveller has done nothing wrong. A programme measuring only its own hospitals may look successful long after the contest has moved somewhere its hospital returns cannot see.

Tally here - one mark per hospital or hospitals

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 is done with a patient who arrives in a Dutch hospital after treatment abroad?

Q2. How does heavy use of an antibiotic make a resistant strain become the common one?

Q3. Why might a country's own infection figures understate the risk it faces?

Q4. How fair is the writer's claim that national discipline deserves only part of the credit?

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 8.

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.

84	94	89	48	11	57	70	91	41	47	65	12	15	85	68	65
68	29	54	65	11	68	64	91	16	36	24	22	73	57	64	48
20	95	30	92	49	87	67	22	89	79	33	56	50	46	46	10
60	28	77	95	10	93	32	22	52	84	77	34	72	44	35	36
44	82	55	66	69	86	41	75	26	20	92	20	14	89	68	12
76	55	59	61	49	18	71	41	77	81	52	84	78	12	96	64
84	48	35	26	22	53	70	25	65	59	28	37	99	50	96	34
42	98	22	28	48	20	76	29	78	45	83	52	64	86	10	18

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
6 8 5 3		
3 7 5 5		
8 3 1 9		
4 8 7 2		
4 8 5 7		
2 3 3 6		
6 1 8 8		
1 8 4 3		
1 4 8 1		
5 9 3 6		
8 3 2 2		
5 5 1 9		

4 Bridging - answer in a sentence each

Where this shows up outside the sheet.

Q1. Of the two jobs in this task, which one slipped first, and what was happening in the passage at that moment?

Q2. Which subject in your current timetable demands two kinds of attention at the same time?

Q3. When revision gets dense, do you prefer to split a session or run one task at a time? Why?

Answer key

Task 1 · tally
hospital or hospitals

8

Task 2 · crossed out
multiples of 8

15

Task 2 · counted
ending in 0

13

Task 3 · final total
second digits

67

Task 1 - suggested answers

Q1. They are swabbed for resistant bacteria and nursed away from other patients until the result arrives.

Q2. The drug removes the cells that cannot survive it, leaving the few resistant ones to multiply into the space.

Q3. Resistant bacteria arrive from elsewhere in travellers, food and water, so domestic measures cannot keep them out.

Q4. It is reasonable: rules still depend on daily clinical choices, and no country controls what crosses its borders.

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.