This guide explains the basic system requirements needed to use AQA Stride at your school. It also shows you how to make sure the system will run smoothly for your teachers and students.

Your teachers and students will use the Area9 RHAPSODE™ platform to access AQA Stride. This platform works through a web browser, making the setup process easy.

# Minimum system requirements

The minimum system requirements for teachers (Rhapsode Educator™) and students (Rhapsode Learner™) are outlined below (April 2024).

For the very latest changes please use the following web address: **https://help.area9lyceum. com/technical-requirements/what-are-the-system-requirements-to-run-area9-rhapsode/**

### Browsers

In general, the platform supports the two latest versions of major browsers:

- Edge (recommended for best performance)
- Chrome (recommended for best performance)
- Firefox
- Safari

### Can students take the test on a mobile phone?

The tests are taken through a web browser so can be accessed on any device, including mobile phones. However, we recommend using a device with a larger screen wherever possible – for example, a laptop or desktop computer, a Chromebook or a tablet.

Using a smaller screen to take the tests means that students may find it harder to access some of the questions – particularly those that involve scrolling or images/graphs. They may not be able to complete as many questions in the time allowed and may not have as positive an experience of the test as they otherwise would.

We know that not all schools or students have the same access to devices, so recognise that in some situations a mobile phone may be the only way to take the tests. We'd recommend that if this is the case you test the experience on a mobile before setting the tests for your students.

### Rhapsode Learner (End User)

- Screen Size: 4.5″+ (5″+ recommended)
- NB: Clients must know their target audience and devices and review content accordingly

- Win10+ with 4GB+ RAM (8GB+ recommended)
- macOS 11+ with 4GB+ RAM (6GB+ recommended)
- Android 11+ with 2GB+ RAM (Devices from 2019+ recommended)
- iOS 14+ with 2GB+ RAM (Devices from 2019+ recommended)
- Internet bandwidth: 10Mbit/s+ bandwidth (20MBit/s recommended, depends on content type)

### Rhapsode Educator (Instructor/Teacher)

- Screen Size: 10″+ (tablet size)
- Some features, like analytics, are best viewed on 14″+
- Win10+ with 8GB+ RAM (12GB+ recommended)
- macOS 11+ with 6GB+ RAM (8GB+ recommended)
- Android 11+ with 4GB+ RAM (Devices from 2019+ recommended)
- iOS 14+ with 3GB+ RAM (Devices from 2019+ recommended)
- Internet bandwidth: 10Mbit/s+ bandwidth (20MBit/s recommended, depends on usage)

Please contact us at **stridemaths@aqa.org.uk** if you have any questions.

# Initial setup checks

We recommend you run the following four setup checks:

## Check 1: Can students access the AQA student domain?

Please make sure that you, your teachers, and students can access the following AQA domain. This is where your students will take their tests:

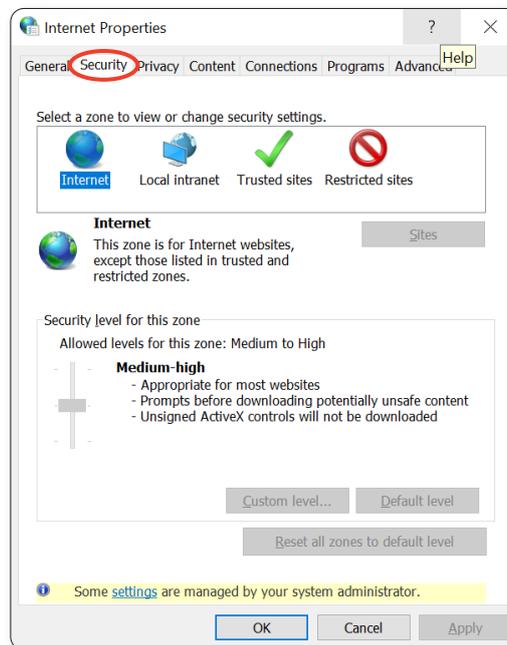[http://student-stride.aqa.org.uk](http://student-stride.aqa.org.uk)

If you're having trouble accessing the AQA domain, it may be because of your school's or your Multi Academy Trust's (MAT's) firewall settings. Please ensure the AQA domain is accepted in your firewall settings by following these steps:

**Step 1**
For a Windows 10 device, click on the Windows icon in the bottom-left corner of the screen and then search for 'Internet Options'.
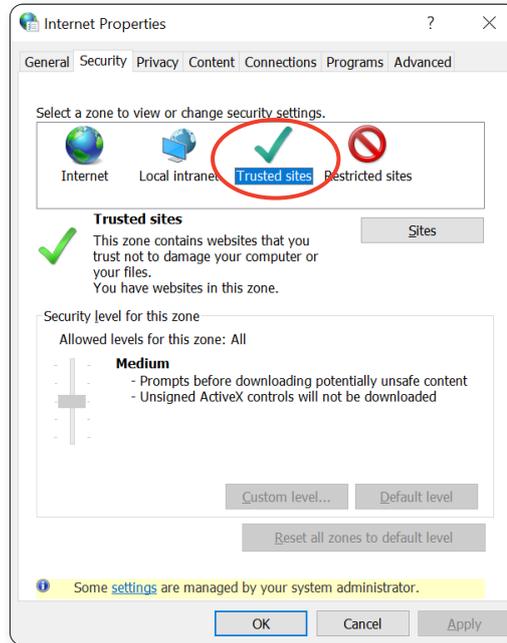
**Step 2**
Once you've found it, click on the 'Security' tab from the new window.

### Step 3

Once you have clicked the 'Security' tab, identify and click on the 'Trusted sites' option.



### Step 4

Click on 'Sites'. This will open a new window.

### Step 5

Input the full AQA domain and click 'Add'.

https://student-stride.aqa.org.uk/learner.html?s=QVlUR9FN0cTO1EzX4UjMuNGboRGc1JXc

You have now added the AQA domain as an exception in your school's firewall settings.

> ⓘ **Please remember:** These changes will need to be made by a system administrator and must be applied to all the PCs or other devices that students will use to access the tests.

> ✓ **Check** that all PCs/devices to be used by students will be able to access the AQA domain.

## Check 2: Can teachers access the AQA teacher domain?

Teachers will need access to a different AQA domain to administer the assessments.

**https://teacher-stride.aqa.org.uk**

If you need to add the AQA teacher domain as an exception in your firewall settings, please use the full domain below.

**https://teacher-stride.aqa.org.uk/educator.html?s=QVlUR9FN0cTO1EzX4UjMuNGboRGc1JXc**

> ✓ **Check** that all PCs/devices to be used by teachers will be able to access the AQA domain.

## Check 3: Are users receiving system emails?

You will have been set up as a user in Rhapsode. Please check your inbox or possibly your junk email for a welcome message from **stride@aqa.org.uk**.

If you haven't received it yet, or it's in your junk email, please add the following email addresses to your domain's list of safe senders to ensure that all users can receive and access emails from these addresses:

**stride@aqa.org.ukarea9.dk**
**mg.rhapsode.com**
**mg.area9lyceum.com**
**Area9lyceum.com**

> ⓘ **Note:** If your school is part of a MAT, it may also be necessary to add these to any safe sender lists managed by your MAT.

> ✓ **Check** emails from the above addresses are in all safe sender lists applicable to you, the teachers, and the students. Check that student email accounts are receiving system emails, since they're sometimes subject to stricter protocols than school staff.
>
> **Check** all devices that students will be using so you're confident they'll be able to access the assessments and receive emails.
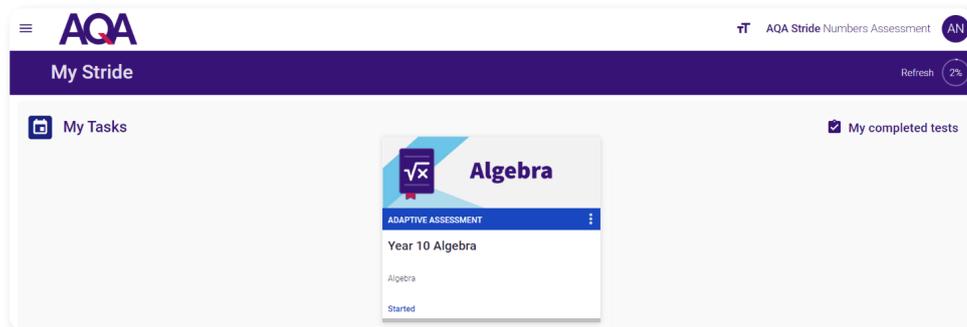
# Check 4: Set up and take a test on a typical student device.

## Step 1: Ask your school administrator to assign you a test

As a final step, we recommend you check to make sure the tests work on the devices your students will typically use to access them.
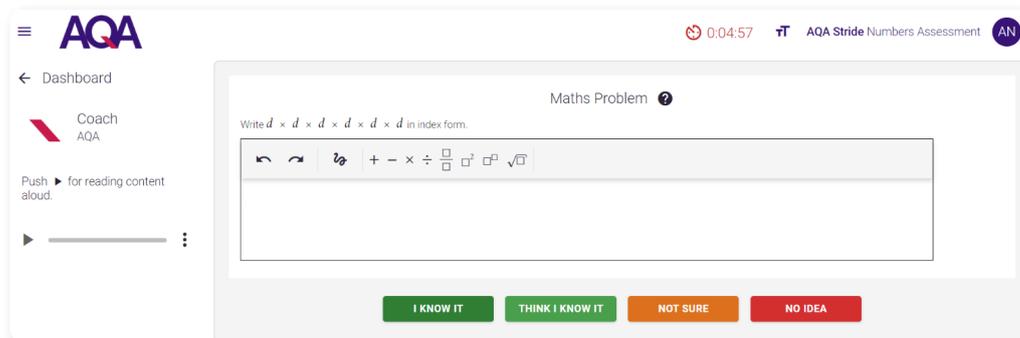
Ask your Stride administrator for AQA Stride to add you to a class and assign you a test.

You can access your assigned test by opening the card on your dashboard. Your responses will be captured as you work your way through the questions. Please don't worry about getting the answers correct, we're simply checking that the system is working as it should.



## Step 2: Complete the test

Once all questions are answered, including the 'level of confidence' assessments on each question, you can click 'Next' and finish your test.



> **Note:** The test can be assigned multiple times so your login can be used to repeat this test across multiple devices if you wish.

> **Check** you can register, access the test, and navigate your way to the end by providing responses.
>
> **Check** that all relevant devices can complete a test.

## Any questions? Contact us.

If you have any questions about accessing or completing the test, please contact the team by emailing **stridemaths@aqa.org.uk**.