Here is a themed set of probing questions designed to identify how much of the **Year 3 and Year 4 National Curriculum (England)** Oscar can do independently and how much with teacher help. The questions move from easier Year 3 skills into more challenging Year 4 concepts without feeling like a test.

Talk each through with him in turn.

Encourage him to explain how he worked things out rather than just giving answers.

🚜 Farm Maths

Counting and Place Value

1. There are **27 sheep** and **15 cows**. How many animals are there altogether?
2. A farmer buys **100 eggs**. He sells **38**. How many are left?
3. Which number is bigger: **407 or 470**? How do you know?
4. What is **10 more** than 386? What is **100 less** than 386?

Multiplication

5. There are **6 chickens** in each pen. There are **7 pens.** How many chickens?
6. Each cow has **4 legs.** How many legs do **12 cows** have?
7. A field has **9 rows** of carrots with **8 carrots** in each row. How many carrots?

Division

8. A farmer has **36 apples** and puts them equally into **4 baskets.** How many apples in each basket?
9. There are **45 eggs**. They are packed into boxes of **5.** How many boxes are needed?

Fractions

10. A pizza is shared between **4 farmers** equally. What fraction does each get?
11. If you eat **3 out of 8** apples, what fraction did you eat?

🚗 Vehicle Maths

Money

1. A toy tractor costs **£18**. You pay with **£20**. How much change do you get?
2. A bicycle costs **£145** and a scooter costs **£89**. How much do they cost altogether?

Measurement

3. A bus travels **125 km** in the morning and **238 km** in the afternoon. How far altogether?
4. A car uses **5 litres** of petrol each day. How much does it use in **7 days**?

Multiplication

5. Four cars each have **5 seats.** How many seats altogether?
6. Nine buses each carry **48 passengers.** About how many passengers is that?

🚀 Space Maths

Large Numbers

1. Earth is about **365 days** from one birthday to the next. How many days are there in **2 years**?
2. Count forwards from **998** to **1,010**.
3. Count backwards from **500** in steps of **25**.

Times Tables

4. There are **8 planets**. If each planet had **7 moons**, how many moons would there be?
5. A spaceship has **12 windows** on each side. There are **4 sides.** How many windows?

Fractions and Decimals (Year 4)

6. Half of **36** stars are shining. How many is that?
7. One quarter of **48** meteors are red. How many?
8. Which is bigger: **0.5 or 0.3**?

🕑 Time Maths

1. School starts at **8:45 am** and finishes at **3:15 pm.** How long is the school day?
2. What time is it **45 minutes after 2:20 pm**?
3. What time was it **30 minutes before 6:10 pm**?
4. How many minutes are there in **3 hours**?
5. How many seconds are there in **2 minutes**?
6. A film starts at **4:35 pm** and ends at **6:10 pm.** How long is it?

🧑‍🤝‍🧑 People's Ages

Addition and Subtraction

1. Mia is **8 years old**. Her brother is **5 years older**. How old is he?
2. Dad is **42**. Mum is **39**. How old are they altogether?
3. Grandma is **68**. Grandad is **71**. Who is older and by how many years?

Multiplication

4. There are **6 families** with **4 children** in each family. How many children?
5. A class has **24 children**. They stand in **4 equal rows.** How many are in each row?

Reasoning

6. Sam says, "If I double my age of **9**, I will be **19**." Is Sam correct? Explain.
7. Ava is **10** now. How old will she be in **15 years**?

Challenge Problems (Upper Year 4)

1. A farmer collects **248 eggs on Monday**, **176 on Tuesday**, and **195 on Wednesday**. How many eggs altogether?
2. Four astronauts each collect **36 rocks**. How many rocks altogether?
3. A train leaves at **9:37 am** and arrives at **12:18 pm.** How long is the journey?
4. A family has **£200**. They spend **£67** on bikes and **£48** on helmets. How much money is left?
5. A rocket has **96 fuel tanks** arranged equally into **8 sections.** How many tanks are in each section?

What these probes assess

- Number and place value
- Mental arithmetic
- Addition and subtraction
- Multiplication and division (including times tables to 12×12)
- Fractions
- Time
- Money
- Measurement
- Reasoning and problem solving
- Explaining mathematical thinking

This progression should give you a clear picture of whether Oscar is working securely within Year 3 expectations, meeting Year 4 expectations, or ready for more advanced work.