

Key Stage 1 Reading

The new reading test for Year 2 pupils is made up of two separate papers:

- Paper 1 consists of a selection of texts totalling 400 to 700 words, with questions interspersed
- Paper 2 comprises a reading booklet of a selection of passages totalling 800 to 1100 words.

Children will write their answers in a separate booklet

Each paper is worth 50 per cent of the marks, and should take around 30 minutes, but children are not be strictly timed, as the tests are not intended to assess children's ability to work at speed. **The texts in the reading papers cover a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry**, and get progressively more difficult towards the end of the test. Teachers have the option to stop the test at any point that they feel is appropriate for a particular child.

There are a variety of question types:

- Multiple choice
- Ranking/ordering, e.g. 'Number the events below to show in which order they happened in the story'
- Matching, e.g. 'Match the character to the job that they do in the story'
- Labelling, e.g. 'Label the text to show the title'
- Find and copy, e.g. 'Find and copy one word that shows what the weather was like in the story'
- Short answer, e.g. 'What does the bear eat?'
- Open-ended answer, e.g. 'Why did Lucy write the letter to her grandmother? Give two reasons'

Key stage 1 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Children taking Key Stage 1 SATs sit two separate papers in spelling, punctuation and grammar:

- Paper 1: a 20-word spelling test taking approximately 15 minutes and worth 20 marks.
- Paper 2: a grammar, punctuation and vocabulary test, in two sections of around 10 minutes each (with a break between, if necessary), worth 20 marks. This will involve a mixture of selecting the right answers e.g. through multiple choice, and writing short answers.

In May 2016, following the KS1 SATs spelling paper accidentally being made available on the Department for Education website before the test, Schools Minister Nick Gibb removed the requirement on schools to administer the Key Stage 1 grammar, punctuation and spelling test for 2016.

In 2017 the KS1 SPaG test remains optional, so schools can choose whether to administer it to their pupils.

Key Stage 1 Maths

The new Key Stage 1 Maths test is made up of two papers:

- Paper 1: arithmetic, worth 25 marks and taking around 15 minutes.
- Paper 2: mathematical fluency, problem-solving and reasoning, worth 35 marks and taking 35 minutes, with a break if necessary. There are a variety of question types: multiple choice, matching, true/false, constrained (e.g. completing a chart or table; drawing a shape) and less constrained (e.g. where children have to show or explain their method).

Children are not allowed to use any tools such as calculators or number lines.

When will the KS1 SATs take place?

The new-style KS1 SATs are due to be administered in May 2017. Unlike KS2 SATs, KS1 SATs don't have to be administered according to a nationally-set timetable in a specific week. Schools are free to manage the timetable and will aim to administer the tests in the classroom in a low-stress, low-key way; some children won't even be aware they've taken them!

How will the tests be marked?

Although the tests are set externally, they are marked by teachers within the school. Instead of the old national curriculum levels, children are given a scaled score. Their raw score - the actual number of marks they get - is translated into a scaled score, where a score of 100 means the child is working at the expected standard. A score below 100 indicates that the child needs more support, whereas a score of above 100 suggests the child is working at a higher level than expected for their age. The maximum score possible is 115, and the minimum is 85. Teacher assessments are also used to build up a picture of your child's learning and achievements. In addition, your child will receive an overall result saying whether they have achieved the required standard in the tests (your child's actual results won't be communicated to you). The Department for Education aims for 85 per cent of children to reach the expected standard (this is a higher standard than was expected before 2016).

What can parents do to help their children?

- Ensure that your child attends school.
- Keep your child calm - do not get worked up about the tests as this will make your child stressed.
- Do lots of reading with your child, remembering to ask your child questions about the books that you read together.
- Read non-fiction books with your child (as well as fiction book) - visit the local library for non-fiction books and help your child learn about the Year 2 science topics of plants, animals (including humans) and materials (and their uses).
- Ensure that your child has a good breakfast before coming to school each day.
- Ensure that your child writes sentences using their weekly spelling words - this will not only help them learn to spell the words correctly but also know the meaning of the words.
- Encourage your child to use their school computing logins and passwords to access websites such as BBC Bitesize, London Grid for Learning (LGfL), Purple Mash, Big Cat Reading and Mathletics - direct links to these sites can be accessed through the school website at:

<http://www.rgreeninf.brent.sch.uk/parent-information/useful-links>

Sample Papers

Sample test materials can be accessed through the website addresses listed below:

- **Reading:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2016-key-stage-1-english-reading-sample-test-materials-mark-scheme-and-test-administration-instructions>
- **Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2016-key-stage-1-english-grammar-punctuation-and-spelling-sample-test-materials-mark-scheme-and-test-administration-instructions>
- **Maths:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2016-key-stage-1-mathematics-sample-test-materials-mark-schemes-and-test-administration-instructions>