

The 2017 National Tests

A Parent's Guide



Key Stage 1 – Year 2

Contents

Mathematics test

Paper 1 – Arithmetic

Paper 2 – Reasoning

Results

English tests

The Reading test

Paper 1 – English Reading (lower demand)

Paper 2 – English Reading (higher demand)

The Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test

Paper 1 – Spelling

Paper 2 – Grammar, punctuation and vocabulary

Marking and Results

Introduction

2016 saw an overhaul of the national curriculum tests (commonly referred to as SATs) for both Year 2 and Year 6 children to match the newly updated national curriculum. This guide provides information on what parents/carers can expect and how they can support their children in the run-up to the tests.

About the tests

The first thing to say about the Key Stage 1 tests is that your child may be completely unaware that they are taking them. We have considerable flexibility in how we implement the tests and much of it will feel like a normal classroom day; teachers will do their best to ensure that children are not at all concerned about the tests. To allow this, the tests do not need to be taken on a specific day, but can be throughout the month of May near the end of Year 2, with pupils either individually, in groups or all together as a class. There are six papers altogether across English and mathematics.

Mathematics test

There are two papers in the mathematics test for Year 2.

Paper 1 –
Arithmetic
20 minutes
(approx)
25 marks

Paper 1 – Arithmetic

The arithmetic paper will test your child's number and calculation skills. It has 25 questions, some of which will require children to know some basic number facts, such as the number bonds (adding two single-digit numbers) and the $2\times$, $5\times$ and $10\times$ tables. Towards the end, there are some more challenging calculations such as missing number problems or finding simple fractions of quantities.

Arithmetic Paper – Example Questions

Starter questions: $3 + 7 =$

$8 \times 10 =$

Challenging questions: $65 + \square = 93$

$\frac{3}{4}$ of 40 =

Paper 2 –
Reasoning
35 minutes
35 marks

Paper 2 – Reasoning

The second mathematics paper requires reasoning – using maths to solve problems. The first five questions in this paper will be read to your child, before they move on to the rest of the paper. But don't worry – if they find anything difficult to read, then help will be available.

The questions in this paper will often include some background explanation, such as using money to buy fruit or measuring drinks.

The questions in this paper will often include some background explanation, such as using money to buy fruit or measuring drinks.

As with the arithmetic paper, the earlier questions will be more straightforward; questions towards the end will offer more challenge. Not all children will reach them or complete them – and that's fine; nobody expects a perfect score! Some of these questions may also require more than one step and so will be worth up to 2 marks.

Reasoning Paper – Example Questions

Starter question: **Sita puts 2 shoes in each of these 7 boxes. How many shoes are there altogether?**

Challenging question: **Complete the number sentence:** $3 \times 8 = 2 \times \square$

Marking and Results Your child's teacher will mark the test and their marks (the total out of 60 marks) will be converted into a scaled score and each child will receive an overall result indicating whether or not they have achieved the required standard of the test. A wide range of evidence is taken into account when teachers assess in KS1 – teacher assessment is not purely based on the test result; it is used to inform their judgement.

English tests

There are two tests for English: Reading; and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS).

The Reading test

Paper 1 –
English Reading
(lower demand)
30 minutes
(approx)
20 marks

Paper 1 – English Reading (lower demand)

The first paper contains short texts with two or three questions to answer. Many of these will require either single-word answers or ticking a box.

Reading – Paper 1 – Example Questions

Extract from short text: **Ants are insects that you can often see in a garden, in a park or just on the pavement. They usually live underground.**

Retrieval question: **Find and copy two places you might see ants.**

Explanation question: **What kind of animal is an ant?**

Paper 2 –
English Reading
(higher demand)
40 minutes
(approx)
20 marks

Paper 2 – English Reading (higher demand)

In Paper 2, children will read two different texts and use these to answer questions in a separate booklet. Most children will take this paper, but teachers will not expect all children to complete the whole task. If your child finds reading more of a challenge at this stage, then his/her teacher will stop the test at an appropriate time. The questions in the booklet contain a mix of tick-box and 'circle the correct answer' questions, with some that require a written answer. Some questions require simple retrieval of information from the text; others will ask your child to explain something in more detail.

Reading – Paper 2 – Example Questions

Retrieval questions: **Why did the king want to have blackbirds?
When were plastics first made?**

Explanation question: **Why can plastics be dangerous when they melt?**

The Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test

Paper 1 –
Spelling
15 minutes
(approx)
20 marks

Paper 1 – Spelling

The spelling paper requires children to spell 20 words. Each word is read out as part of a sentence, which is printed in the answer booklet. Your child will be asked to write the missing word into the gap. The words in the test will be based on the familiar phonics patterns taught in Key Stage 1, in increasing difficulty. All words to be spelled are repeated more than once.

Spelling Paper – Spelling Examples

Starter words: Hannah ran **faster** than Lee.
Yesterday it was very **sunny**.

Challenging words: I saw a beautiful **rainbow**.
The school garden is a **peaceful** place to sit.

Paper 2 –
Grammar,
punctuation and
vocabulary
20 minutes
(approx)
20 marks

Paper 2 – Grammar, punctuation and vocabulary

The second paper assesses grammar and punctuation. 2016 will be the first time that this is tested in Year 2, and the questions will refer both to children's knowledge of grammatical terms (such as *noun* and *verb*) and use of words in the right context. Some questions will also require children to put in the appropriate punctuation marks to sentences, or to change the tense of a sentence.

Grammar, punctuation and vocabulary paper – Example Questions

Starter question: **Write the missing punctuation mark in this sentence:**
Can you play my favourite tune

Challenging question: **Change the verb in this sentence to the past tense:**
My brother smiles for his picture.

Marking and Results

All the tests will be marked by our Y2 teachers, in school. Your child's score will be converted to a scaled score to allow it to be compared to others'. Scaled scores will normally range between 80 and 130. The scale will be set so that reaching a score of 100 will indicate that your child is working at the expected standard for the end of Key Stage 1. Higher scores indicate more advanced attainment, with lower scores suggesting that your child may need some additional support to catch up with his or her peers. Scores will be provided for reading and mathematics, with a single score for grammar, punctuation and spelling. These results then inform the teacher, together with other evidence, such as progress in books, and will be reported to you in writing.

Teachers must refer to the **interim teacher assessment frameworks** to fulfill their statutory duty to report at the end of the key stage.

The frameworks contain a number of 'pupil can' statements such as, 'The pupil can write a narrative about their own and others' experiences (real and fictional), after discussion with the teacher using sentences with different forms in their writing (statements, questions, exclamations and commands).

To demonstrate that pupils have met a standard, teachers will need to have evidence that a pupil demonstrates consistent attainment of all the statements within the standard and all the statements in any preceding standard(s).

The frameworks contain 3 standards, which will be used to report to parents:

- **working towards the expected standard**
- **working at the expected standard**
- **working at greater depth within the expected standard**

Pupils will be grouped into 4 categories; the 3 categories above plus an additional category for those pupils that do not meet the 'working towards' standard. (There are a set of guidelines to inform teachers about the pre-working towards the expected standards).

Further information:

Dalton School Website (Videos for parents):

<http://www.daltonschool.co.uk/parents/sats-info-2016>

Department for Education (Video for Parents):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4T7cToOXfk>

Department for Education (General Guidance for schools):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/teacher-assessment-key-stage-1-and-key-stage-2>