



KS2 Tests

Parent & Carer Guide

Introduction – what are key stage 2 tests?

At the end of year 6 children sit national curriculum assessments in the following subjects:

- English grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- English reading
- Mathematics

These are widely referred to as SATs, which stands for Standard Assessment Tests.

These tests help measure the attainment of pupils in relation to the standards set out in the national curriculum and help teachers and parents identify where pupils may need additional support in a certain subject areas.



When do they take place?

The KS2 tests take place on scheduled dates set by the Standards and Testing Agency (STA).

For the academic year 2025 to 2026, the KS2 tests are scheduled to take place from Monday 11 May to Thursday 14th May.

Monday 11 May 2026	Tuesday 12 May 2026	Wednesday 13 May 2026	Thursday 14 May 2026
GPS: Grammar paper Spelling paper	Reading paper	Maths paper 1: Arithmetic Maths paper 2: Reasoning	Maths paper 3: Reasoning

What do the tests look like?

Grammar, punctuation and spelling

The key stage 2 English **grammar, punctuation and spelling** test comprises two components, which will be presented to pupils in two separate papers. The test is administered on paper. The spelling test is administered aurally by a test administrator.

Component	Description	Number of papers	Number of marks	Timing of component
Paper 1: questions	grammar, punctuation and vocabulary	1	50	45 minutes
Paper 2: spelling	spelling (20 words)	1	20	15 minutes (not strictly timed)
	Total	2	70	60 minutes

Grammar, punctuation and spelling

The following content domains are tested in paper 1:

- **Grammatical terms/ word classes**
- **Functions of sentences**
- **Combining words, phrases and clauses**
- **Verb forms, tense and consistency**
- **Punctuation**
- **Vocabulary**
- **Standard English and formality**

Grammar, punctuation and spelling

Example questions:

What does the **prefix anti-** mean in the word anticlockwise?

Tick **one**.

never

opposite

before

without

Explain why the word they makes the meaning of the sentence unclear.

When Kate and Ravi met the other tennis players, they were excited.

1 mark

Circle the most **formal** option in each underlined pair below to complete the passage.

The basketball club was set up / established by a group of friends last year.

They invited / got people who were interested in the game to join.

Now they play / compete in their local league.

Grammar, punctuation and spelling

Example questions:

Complete the passage below with the **simple past** of the verbs in the boxes.

I _____ my violin to school. I _____ it last week.

Insert a **semi-colon** in the correct place in the sentence below.

We have been learning about the Vikings they were a fascinating civilisation.

Draw a line to match each sentence to its **form**.

Sentence	Form
Are you coming to the film night at school	question
What a shame you can't come	command
Don't worry about it	statement
There will be another one next term	exclamation

1 mark

Reading

The key stage 2 English **reading** test comprises a single component. The test is administered on paper and the total testing time is 60 minutes. The testing time includes times for reading and responding to questions; there will not be separate reading time.

Component	Description	Number of papers	Number of marks	Timing of component
Paper 1: English reading test	reading booklet and separate answer booklet (a selection of texts 1500-2300 words)	1	50	60 minutes
	Total	1	50	60 minutes



Reading

The English reading test will focus on the comprehension elements of the national curriculum. The tests will, over time, sample from each area of the content domain. Here are the content domains:

- Give/ explain the meaning of words in context
- Retrieve and record information/ identify key details from fiction and non-fiction
- Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph
- Make inferences from the text/ explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text
- Predict what might happen from details stated and implied
- Identify/ explain how information/ narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole
- Identify/ explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases
- Make comparisons within the text

Reading

Example questions:

An intriguing game

Which word is closest in meaning to *intriguing*?

Tick **one**.

- exciting
- popular
- challenging
- interesting

'It's just a rock. They're all rocks, you can...'

What made Tom realise that what he was looking at wasn't actually a rock?

Write **two** things.

1. _____
2. _____

Read the sections: ***A challenging upbringing*** and ***An intriguing game***.

Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Phiona left school once she had learnt to read.		
Phiona grew up in a place called Katwe.		
Phiona discovered chess before her brother.		
Phiona walked six kilometres a day to learn about chess.		



Reading

Example questions:

Look at the section: *Coaching a champion*.

Find and copy one word which tells us that Robert was enthusiastic about football.

Look at page 7.

How did Geoff work out that the lights were buttons?

Write one way.

What impressions do you get of Tom's and Geoff's personalities?

Write **one** impression for **each** boy, using evidence from the text to support each answer.

	Impression	Evidence
Tom	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Geoff	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Mathematics

The key stage 2 **mathematics** test comprises two components, which will be presented to pupils as three separate test papers. The first component is an arithmetic paper. The second component is administered as two papers; there are no significant differences in format between the two papers. The test is administered on paper and the total testing time is 110 minutes.

Component	Description	Number of papers	Number of marks	Timing of component
Paper 1: arithmetic	arithmetic assessing pupils' confidence with the range of mathematical operations	1	40	30 minutes
Paper 2 and 3: mathematical reasoning	mathematical fluency, solving mathematical problems and mathematical reasoning	2	70 overall 35 per paper	80 minutes 40 minutes per paper
	Total	3	110	110 minutes



Mathematics

The following are the content domains, which are the relevant elements from the national curriculum programme of study for mathematics.

- Number and place value
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division (calculation)
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Ratio and proportion
- Algebra
- Measurement
- Geometry- properties of shapes
- Geometry- position and direction
- Statistics

How are the tests marked?

KS2 tests are externally marked, and marks are returned to schools in July. If a pupil takes each paper for the subject they will receive: a raw score, a scaled score and either 'NS' (expected standard not achieved) or 'AS' (expected standard achieved).

	2025 Pass Marks (raw score)		
	GPS	Reading	Maths
Expected Standard (scaled score 100+)	35	28	58
Greater Depth (scaled score 110+)	54	40	95

How are we preparing them in school?

- Pupils are taught the full range of content required for each test within the school curriculum.
- Homework is used to reinforce key skills and consolidate learning.
- Regular practice tests are administered throughout Year 6, enabling pupils to become familiar with the assessment format and allowing staff to analyse outcomes to identify areas for further development.
- Targeted interventions are scheduled to provide additional support for identified pupils.
- We also support children's wellbeing through PSHE lessons, where they learn strategies for managing test pressure, building resilience and looking after their mental health.

How can you help them at home?

- **Ensure regular attendance**, as this is essential for maintaining progress and building confidence.
- **Establish a consistent routine** that allows time for homework, relaxation and adequate sleep.
- **Promote healthy habits** by encouraging a balanced diet, particularly during periods of increased effort and concentration.
- **Provide a calm, quiet space** where your child can complete their homework and practice their reading.
- **Offer reassurance and encouragement.** If your child finds something challenging, remind them that this is part of learning and that they can always seek support from an adult at school.



[www.gov.uk/STA.](http://www.gov.uk/STA)



Support

If you need any further information to support your child at home, please speak to your class teacher or Assistant Head Teacher.
