



What tests do children take at the end of Year 2?

There are papers in:

- Reading (2 papers, 40 marks, about 70 minutes)
- Mathematics (2 papers, 60 marks, about 55 minutes)
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling (2 papers, 40 marks, about 35 minutes)

How are the tests marked?

At Key Stage 1, the teachers in your child's school will mark the SATs papers. The mark your child gets in each test is called the 'raw score' (out of 40 for Reading, out of 60 for Mathematics, out of 40 for Grammar, punctuation and spelling). This 'raw score' for each test will be translated into a 'scaled score', which will show how well your child has done against the expected standard. Children need to achieve a scaled score of 100 to meet the expected standard. Above 100 means they are exceeding the expected standard; below 100 means they are still working towards the expected standard.

Will my child be given a Level?

No. The system of levelling related to the previous National Curriculum and has been replaced with standardised scaled scores. The Department for Education has said that the expected national standard score of 100 at Key Stage 1 will be broadly equivalent to a Level 2b under the previous system.

Are there any example questions I can look at?

Yes. The Department for Education has produced some sample papers for the Key Stage 1 SATs tests that you can download.

Key Stage 1 Reading

What happens in the Reading test?

There are two papers in the Reading test, each worth 20 marks. Each may include fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Children answer comprehension questions to show their understanding of the texts.



In Paper 1, children are given a booklet that contains a selection of short texts to read (between 400 and 700 words). There are questions to answer at various points within each text with space for children to write their answers. The test lasts approximately 30 minutes.

In Paper 2, children are given a booklet of longer texts (between 800 and 1100 words) and questions in a separate answer booklet. The test lasts approximately 40 minutes. Paper 2 is more challenging than Paper 1, but in each paper easier questions appear at the beginning and more difficult ones later on.

What kinds of questions are there?

There will be a mixture of question types. In some, your child will need to choose an answer (selected responses). For others, they will need to write their own answer (short and extended responses).

Examples of **selected response** questions include:

- Multiple choice, *e.g. What is Lucy looking for in the story? Tick one of the boxes below.*
- Ranking/ordering, *e.g. Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story.*
- Matching, *e.g. Match the character to what they do in the story.*
- Labelling, *e.g. Label the text to show the title.*

Examples of **short response** questions include:

- Find and copy, *e.g. Find and copy one word that shows how Lucy is feeling.*
- Short response, *e.g. What does Lucy eat?*

Examples of **extended response** questions include:

- Open-ended response, *e.g. Why did Lucy write the letter to her grandmother? Give two reasons.*

What can I do to help my child be ready for the test?

Try these activities:

- Check out our [fun ideas for ages 6-7](#) to find language games and activities to play together.
- Choose a book from the [Oxford Owl free eBook library](#) to read together.
- Read our [top tips for ages 6-7](#) to find ways to help develop your child's reading skills.
- Play games and print out activity sheets in our [kids' activities](#) section.

Key Stage 1 Mathematics

What happens in the Mathematics test?

There are two papers in the Mathematics test. One focuses on simple arithmetic and is worth 25 marks. One focuses on mathematical reasoning and is worth 35 marks. In each paper the questions appear in order of difficulty.



In **Paper 1: arithmetic**, children answer 25 context-free questions to test their fluency with number and calculation skills. They may not use calculators, rulers or any number apparatus to help them. In the test booklet, space is provided for children to use for working out, but they should write their answers in the answer box. The test lasts approximately 20 minutes, so children with good mental arithmetic skills will have a better chance of completing all the questions.

In **Paper 2: reasoning**, children answer questions to test their understanding of number, measures, geometry and statistics. The teacher will read the first 5 questions and children must listen and write their answer in their booklet. After this children have approximately 30 minutes to read and answer the remaining questions in the booklet. Some questions involve a problem-solving context. Some questions prompt children to show their working and are worth 2 marks. Children may use rulers, but are not allowed calculators or any other number apparatus.

What kinds of questions are there?

In **Paper 1: arithmetic**, all the questions will be context-free calculations, for example:

$$17 - 6 = []$$

$$[] + 5 = 9$$

$$8 \times 10 = []$$

$$35 \div 5 = []$$

$$65 + [] = 93$$

$$\frac{3}{4} \text{ of } 40 = []$$

3 Seb writes an answer to the calculation below.

$$48 - 21 = [27]$$

Now write an addition to check Seb's answer.

$$[] + [] = []$$

4 Write a digit in each box to make the sum correct.

$$5 [] + [] = [6] [5]$$

In **Paper 2: reasoning**, there will be a mixture of question types. In some, your child will need to choose an answer (selected responses). For others, they will need to write, draw or complete a table to give their answer (constructed responses), sometimes in a problem-solving context. In some questions, children can gain an extra mark for showing their working.

Examples of **selected response** questions include:

- **Multiple choice**, e.g. *Look at the shapes. Tick the hexagon. One shape is in the wrong place on the sorting grid. Draw a cross on it.*
- **True/False or Yes/No**, e.g.
Do these calculations have the same answer? Write yes or no next to each.
 $8 + 2$ and $2 + 8$
 8×2 and 2×8
 $8 - 2$ and $2 - 8$
 $8 \div 2$ and $2 \div 8$

Examples of **constructed response** questions include:

- **Constrained question**, e.g.
Complete the number sentence below.
 $3 \times 8 = 2 \times []$
- **Less constrained question**, e.g.
Amy plants 4 rows of carrots. There are 3 carrots in each row. A rabbit eats two of the carrots. How many carrots are left? Show your working.

What can I do to help my child be ready for the test?

Try these activities:

- Read our [maths top tips](#) for ages 5-7 to find ways to help develop your child's maths skills.
- Read our Maths [Jargon Buster](#).
- Play games and print out activity sheets in our [fun activities](#) section.

Key Stage 1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling

What happens in the English grammar, punctuation and spelling test?

There are two papers in the English grammar, punctuation and spelling test. The first paper is an aural spelling test. The second test includes questions on grammar, punctuation and vocabulary. In each paper the questions appear in order of difficulty. Both are worth 20 marks.



In **Paper 1: spelling**, children are given an answer booklet containing 20 sentences with a missing word in each sentence. For each sentence, your child's teacher will read aloud the missing word, then the whole sentence, and then the missing word again. Children must spell the missing word correctly, including any necessary capital letters or apostrophes, to gain a mark. The test will last approximately 15 minutes.

In **Paper 2: questions**, children are given a booklet containing various questions that assess their understanding of grammar, punctuation and vocabulary. The test will last approximately 20 minutes.

What kinds of questions are there?

There will be a mixture of question types. In some, your child will need to choose an answer (selected responses). For some, they will need to write their own answer (constructed responses).

Examples of **selected response** questions include:

- **Multiple choice**, e.g.
Tick one box to show where a comma should go in the sentence below.
Circle the verbs in the sentence below.
Underline the sentence that uses capital letters correctly.
- **Matching**, e.g.
Draw lines to match the words that have the same meaning.

Examples of **constructed response** questions include:

- **Complete / correct / rewrite**, e.g.
Complete the sentence below with the missing punctuation mark.
- **Write**, e.g.
Write one word to complete the sentence below in the past tense.
Write a command including the word 'Look'.
- **Explain**, e.g.
The sentence below has an apostrophe missing. Explain why it needs an apostrophe.

What can I do to help my child be ready for the test?

There are a lot of handy hints, tips and links to activities and games on our website

