

Changes to Key Stage 1 and 2 SATs in 2016

From 2016 the way children are assessed at the end of Year 2 and Year 6 is going to alter to reflect the changes to the National Curriculum. To support the school with this change, we have published below the information given to us by the Department of Education. This information is shared with all schools to give teachers an indication of how the New Curriculum will be assessed from 2016. As you will see from the guidance, the alterations reflect areas of the curriculum that have changed; therefore the questions are more challenging.

Changes to KS1 SATs in 2016: what parents/carers need to know...

In the summer term 2016, children at the end of Key Stage 1 will sit new SATs papers. That means that if your child is in Year 2, they will be among the first pupils to take the new test. SATs have been overhauled in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 to reflect the changes to the national curriculum, which was introduced from September 2014.

At the end of Year 2, children will take SATs in:

- Reading
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Maths

Key Stage 1 Reading

The new reading test for Year 2 pupils will involve 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% of the marks, and should take around 30 minutes, but children will 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 will cover a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry, and will get progressively more difficult towards the end of the test. Teachers will have the option to stop the test at any point that they feel is appropriate for a particular child.

There will be 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 Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation

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

- Paper 1: a grammar and punctuation written task, taking approximately 20 minutes, and worth 15 marks. Children will be provided with a prompt and stimulus for a short piece of writing, with a clear text type, audience and purpose. Handwriting will be worth four per cent of the 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.

- Paper 3: a 20-word spelling test taking approximately 15 minutes and worth 10 marks.

Key Stage 1 Maths

The new Key Stage 1 maths test will comprise 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 will be 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 will not be able 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 2016.

How will the tests be marked?

Although the tests are set externally, they will be marked by teachers within the school. Instead of the old national curriculum levels, children will be given a standardised score – although this may not be communicated to parents. Teacher assessments will also be 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. The Department for Education aims for 85% of children to reach the required standard.

Changes to KS2 SATs in 2016: what parents/carers need to know...

With a huge overhaul planned to coincide with the introduction of the new national curriculum, how are SATs changing from summer 2016? Read on for the most up-to-date information.

In the summer term of 2016, children in Year 2 and Year 6 will be the first to take the new SATs papers. These tests in English and maths will reflect the new national curriculum, and are intended to be more rigorous. There will also be a completely new marking scheme to replace the existing national curriculum levels.

At the end of Year 6, children will sit tests in:

- Reading
- Maths
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar

These tests will be both set and marked externally, and the results will be used to measure the school's performance (for example, through reporting to Ofsted and published league tables). Your child's marks will be used in conjunction with teacher assessment to give a broader picture of their attainment.

Key Stage 2 Reading

The reading test will be a single paper with questions based on three passages of text. Your child will have one hour, including reading time, to complete the test.

There will be a selection of question types, including:

- Ranking/ordering, e.g. 'Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story'
- Labelling, e.g. 'Label the text to show the title of the story'
- Find and copy, e.g. 'Find and copy one word that suggests what the weather is like in the story'
- Short constructed response, e.g. 'What does the bear eat?'
- Open-ended response, e.g. 'Look at the sentence that begins Once upon a time. How does the writer increase the tension throughout this paragraph? Explain fully, referring to the text in your answer.'

Key Stage 2 Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

The grammar, punctuation and spelling test will consist of two parts: a grammar and punctuation paper requiring short answers, lasting 45 minutes, and an aural spelling test of 20 words, lasting around 15 minutes.

The grammar and punctuation test will include two sub-types of questions:

- Selected response, e.g. 'Identify the adjectives in the sentence below'
- Constructed response, e.g. 'Correct/complete/rewrite the sentence below,' or, 'The sentence below has an apostrophe missing. Explain why it needs an apostrophe.'

Key Stage 2 Maths

Children will sit three papers in maths:

- Paper 1: arithmetic, 30 minutes
- Papers 2 and 3: reasoning, 40 minutes per paper

Paper 1 will consist of fixed response questions, where children have to give the correct answer to calculations, including long multiplication and division. Papers 2 and 3 will involve a number of question types, including:

- Multiple choice
- True or false
- Constrained questions, e.g. giving the answer to a calculation, drawing a shape or completing a table or chart
- Less constrained questions, where children will have to explain their approach for solving a problem

Key Stage 2 Science

Not all children in Year 6 will take science SATs. However, a number of schools will be required to take part in science sampling: a test administered to a selected sample of children thought to be representative of the population as a whole. (Monday 6th to Friday 17th June is the science sampling test period in which your child might sit the tests.) For those who are selected, there will be three papers:

- Biology: 25 minutes (22 marks)
- Chemistry: 25 minutes (22 marks)
- Physics: 25 minutes (22 marks)

It sounds very intimidating, but these are 'questions in a physics/chemistry/biology context', for example:

- Biology: 'Describe the differences in the life cycle of an amphibian and a mammal'
- Chemistry: 'Group a list of materials according to whether they are solid, liquid or gas'
- Physics: 'Predict whether two magnets will attract or repel each other, based on where the poles are facing'

When will KS2 SATs take place in 2016?

The Year 6 KS2 SATs will be administered in the week commencing 9 May 2016.

How will Key Stage 2 SATs be marked?

The previous national curriculum levels have been scrapped, and instead children will be given scaled scores. You will be given your child's raw score (the actual number of marks they get), alongside their scaled score and whether they have reached the national average. The score needed to reach the national average has yet to be announced.

[You may wish to visit the Department for Education website for further information.](#)