Key Stage 1 National Curriculum Assessments

Information and Guidance on the Expectations for 2025/2026

What we will cover

Key Stage 1 National Curriculum Assessments	Assessment and Reporting	Scaled Scores
Assessment Week	Reading	Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar
Maths	How to Help Your Child	Useful Websites

Welcome

- The purpose of this presentation is to share with you what will be happening in Year 2 with regards to assessments.
- End of KS1 assessments became non-statutory from the 2023/2024 academic year onwards.
- For the 2025/2026 academic year, our school will continue these optional assessments to support our ongoing teacher assessments.

Assessment and Reporting

- Children are described as working towards, working at and working at greater depth according to the Year 2 expectations of the new curriculum.

- The new curriculum is more rigorous and sets high expectations, which all schools have had to work hard to meet.

- As of 2016, test scores are now reported as ‘scaled scores’. In KS1 SATs, scaled scores are used to standardise test results. A scaled score of 100 or higher indicates that a child is meeting or exceeding the expected standard, while a score below 100 suggests they are working towards the expected standard.

The SAT Assessments

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

- Reading
- Maths
- English: Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (to support teacher-assessed level in Writing).

Our school will complete our assessments WC 18th May 2026

Assessment Week

Monday 18th May	Reading Paper 1
Tuesday 19th May	Reading Paper 2
Wednesday 20th May	English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper 1 – Spelling Paper 2 – Grammar
Thursday 21st May	Maths Paper 2 – Reasoning
Friday 22nd May	Maths Paper 1 - Arithmetic

The SAT papers

The children will take their papers the week commencing 18th May.
Assessments will be marked internally by teachers.

READING

TEST 1 – combined reading prompt and answer booklet

TEST 2 – more challenging separate reading booklet and reading answer booklet

All children sit BOTH tests

SPAG

TEST 1 – Spelling

TEST 2 – Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar

MATHS

TEST 1 – Arithmetic

TEST 2 – Reasoning

Reading

The Reading Test consists of two separate papers:

- **Paper 1** – consists of a combined reading prompt and answer booklet. The paper includes a list of useful words and some practice questions for teachers to use to introduce the contexts and question types to pupils. The test takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, but is not strictly timed.

- **Paper 2** – consists of an answer booklet and a separate reading booklet. There are no practice questions on this paper. Teachers can use their discretion to stop the test early if a pupil is struggling. The test takes approximately 40 minutes to complete, but is not strictly timed.

- The texts will cover a range of poetry, fiction and non-fiction.

The most crucial aspects of reading at the end of Key Stage 1 are:

- **Accuracy** (decoding familiar and unfamiliar words correctly)
- **Fluency** (speed and confidence)*
- **Comprehension** (drawing meaning from text)

*DfE guidance for fluency is that if a child can read 90 words per minute this gives teachers an indication to support their judgement of what is meant by fluent reading. The inference seems to be that children who can read at such speeds will be able to meet the **'Expected Standard'**.

Reading: Sample Questions

Questions are designed to assess the comprehension and understanding of a child's reading.
There are a variety of question types:

Multiple Choice

1 When Bella was learning to fly, she…

Tick **one**.

was lazy.	☐	did not try hard.	☐
did not give up.	☐	found it easy.	☐

1 mark

Find and Copy Questions

16 Look at the paragraph beginning *The greedy man began to climb the vine…*

Find and **copy one** word that means the same as *sparkle*.

_____

1 mark

Ranking/Ordering

7 Number the sentences below from 1 to 4 to show the order they happened in the story.

The first one has been done for you.

William sent Bella to get help.	☐
Fishermen came to rescue William.	☐
The boat hit some rocks.	☐
William went to sea on his boat.	1

1 mark

Open-Ended Questions

6 At the end of the story, Bella was happy. Why?

_____

_____

1 mark

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

The test consists of two separate papers:

- **Paper 1: Spelling** - pupils to spell 20 missing words within a test booklet. The test is expected to take approximately 15 minutes to complete, but is not strictly timed.

- **Paper 2: Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary** - a combined question and answer booklet focusing on pupils' knowledge of grammar, punctuation and vocabulary. Pupils will have approximately 20 minutes to complete the questions in the test paper, but it is not strictly timed.

Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling: Sample Questions

Spelling Paper

1. I need to _____ my holiday suitcase.
2. The _____ is dark at night.
3. The snail hid inside its _____.
4. My friend has a new _____ sister.

Within the assessment, the spelling words are read out to the children to fill into the gaps within the sentences. In this example, the missing spelling words are: **pack, sky, shell** and **baby**.

Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary Paper

8 Circle the **two** nouns in the sentence below.

You have left your pencil on the bench over there.

1 mark

19 Tick to show whether each sentence is written in the **past tense** or the **present tense**.

Sentence	Past tense	Present tense
Aziz gave out the paint pots.		
Aziz spills water on the table.		
Aziz needed some glue.		

1 mark

7 Why do the underlined words start with a **capital letter**?

On Saturday morning, Sarah and her family went on holiday to Scotland.

_____

_____

1 mark

Mathematics

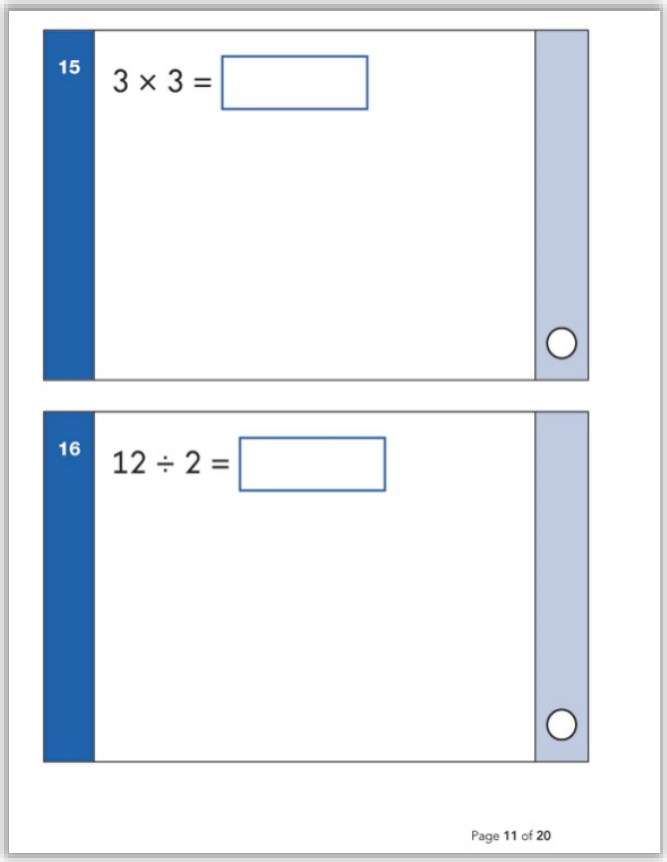
Children will sit two tests: **Paper 1 and Paper 2:**

- **Paper 1: Arithmetic** - lasts approximately 20 minutes (but this is not strictly timed). It covers calculation methods for all operations.

- **Paper 2: Reasoning** - lasts for approximately 35 minutes, which includes time for five aural questions. Pupils will still require calculation skills and questions will be varied including multiple choice, matching, true/false, completing a chart or table or drawing a shape. Some questions will also require children to show or explain their working out.

Maths: Sample Questions

Maths Paper 1: Arithmetic

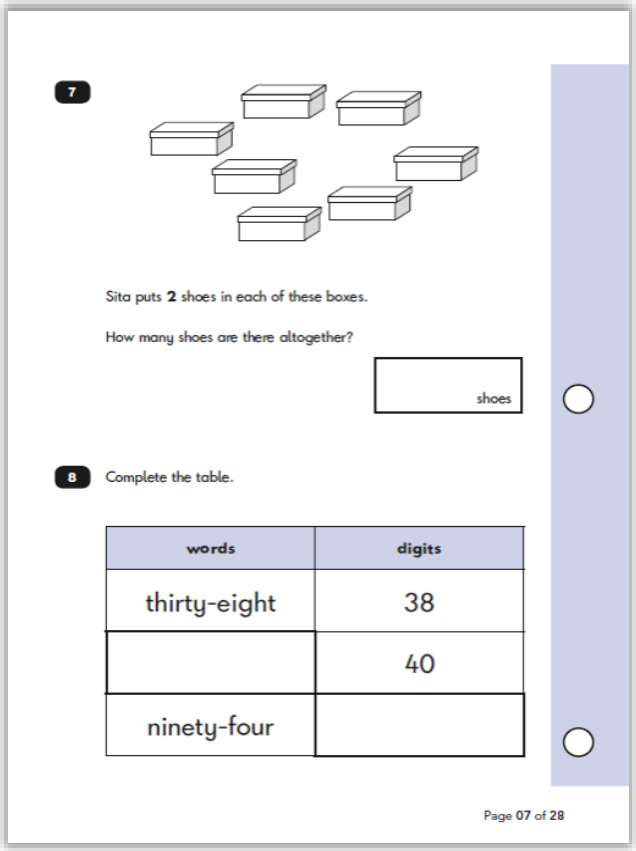


15 $3 \times 3 =$ ☐

16 $12 \div 2 =$ ☐

Page 11 of 20

Maths Paper 2: Reasoning



7

Sita puts **2** shoes in each of these boxes.

How many shoes are there altogether?

☐ shoes

8 Complete the table.

words	digits
thirty-eight	38
	40
ninety-four	

Page 07 of 28

Administering the Assessments

- Children will sit the tests in small groups either in class, the KS1 intervention room or the library, very similarly to their practice tests.
- Tests will occur during the week commencing 18th May 2026.
- Adults will be available to read questions (apart from on the reading paper) and encourage children during the assessments.

How to Help Your Child

- First and foremost, support and reassure your child that there is nothing to worry about and that they should always just try their best. Praise and encourage!
- Ensure your child has the best possible attendance at school.
- Support your child with any homework tasks.
- Reading, spelling and arithmetic (e.g. times tables) are always good to practise.
- Talk to your child about what they have learnt at school and what book(s) they are reading (the character, the plot, their opinion).
- Make sure your child has a good sleep and healthy breakfast every morning!

How to Help Your Child with Reading

Listening to your child read can take many forms:

- First and foremost, focus on developing an enjoyment and love of reading.
- Enjoy stories together – reading stories to your child is equally as important as listening to your child read.
- Read a little at a time but often, rather than rarely but for long periods of time!
- Talk about the story before, during and afterwards – discuss the plot, the characters, their feelings and actions, how it makes you feel, predict what will happen and encourage your child to have their own opinions.
- Look up definitions of words together – you could use a dictionary, the Internet or an app on a phone or tablet.
- All reading is valuable – it doesn't have to be just stories. Reading can involve anything from fiction and non-fiction, poetry, newspapers and magazines.
- Visit the local library - it's free!

How to Help Your Child with Writing

- Practise and learn weekly spelling lists – make it fun!
- Encourage opportunities for writing, such as letters to family or friends, shopping lists, notes or reminders, stories or poems.
- Write together – be a good role model for writing.
- Encourage use of a dictionary to check spelling.
- Remember that good readers become good writers! Identify good writing features when reading (e.g. vocabulary, sentence structure, punctuation).
- Show your appreciation: praise and encourage, even for small successes!

How to Help Your Child with Maths

- Play times tables games.
- Play mental maths games including counting in different amounts, forwards and backwards.
- Encourage opportunities for telling the time.
- Encourage opportunities for counting coins and money e.g. finding amounts or calculating change when shopping.
- Look for numbers on street signs, car registrations and anywhere else.
- Look for examples of 2D and 3D shapes around the home.
- Identify, weigh or measure quantities and amounts in the kitchen or in recipes.
- Play games involving numbers or logic, such as dominoes, card games, draughts or chess.

Useful websites

Reading and SPAG

Year 2 English - England - BBC Bitesize
Crickweb | KS1 Literacy
Words and Spelling, English Games for 5-7 Years - Topmarks
Learning to Read, English Games for 5-7 Years - Topmarks

Maths

Year 2 Maths - England - BBC Bitesize
Addition and Subtraction Games
Times Tables Games for 6 to 7 year olds
Multiplication and Division Games for KS1 Children
Problem Solving Games
Fun Maths Games about Shapes, Symmetry and Co-ordinates for Kids
Free Maths Games about Measuring Weights, Length and Telling the Time
Fun data handling games for children
Maths: Age 6–7 (Year 2) | Oxford Owl - Activity ideas and support for home

Past papers

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials#key-stage-1-past-papers