



KS 2 SATs: A parents' guide

What are SATs?

At the end of Y6, English schoolchildren sit national tests in Reading, Maths and Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG). These tests are both set and marked externally and the results are 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.

KS2 reading

The reading test is a single paper with questions based on three passages of text. Your child will have an hour, including reading time, to complete the test. There will be a selection of question types, including:

- Ranking/ordering, for example, 'Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story'
- Find and copy, e.g. 'Find and copy a word that suggests what the weather is like in the story'
- Short constructed response, for example: 'What does the bear eat?'

From 2018 the Department for Education has announced that the reading content of KS2 SATs will be closely linked to the curriculum to ensure children are drawing on their knowledge when answering reading comprehension questions.

KS2 grammar, spelling and punctuation

The SPAG test consists 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 includes two sub-types of questions:

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

KS2 maths

Children sit three papers in maths:

- Paper 1 (arithmetic, 30 minutes),
- Papers 2 and 3 (reasoning, 40 minutes each).

Paper 1 consists of fixed response questions (children have to give correct answers to calculations). Papers 2 and 3 involve question types including multiple choice

Do all children have to take SATs? In England, the tests are compulsory for all seven year olds (KS1 SATs in Y2) and 11 year olds (KS2 SATs in Y6).