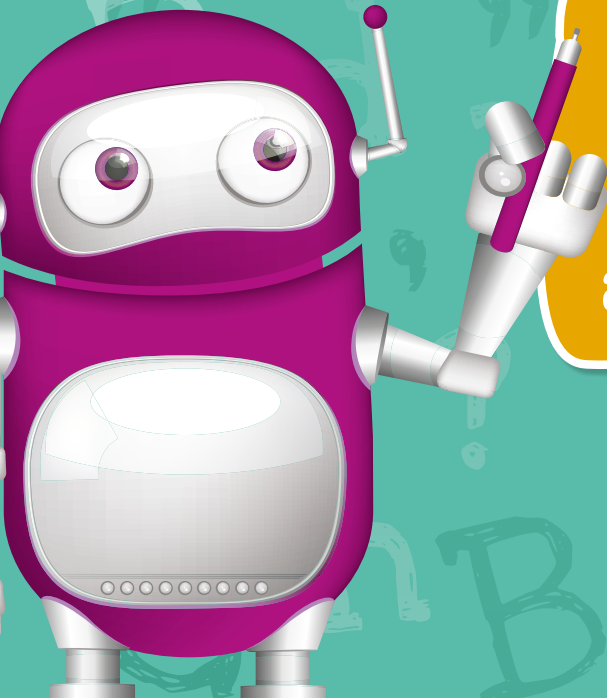


 SCHOLASTIC

# The Parent's Guide

to the

# National Curriculum Tests



Your essential  
pocket guide  
to the **Year 2**  
and **Year 6 SATs**

# The National Curriculum tests

This pocket guide contains everything you need to know about the new tests and how to support your child through them at home.

The SATs are broken down into the following areas:

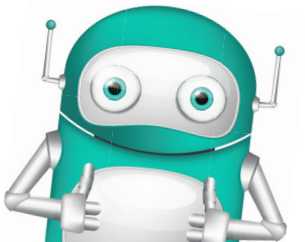
- Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling
- Reading
- Maths

Some children in Year 6 will also be required to take part in Science sampling.

For more information about the tests and a selection of free practice activities, please visit **[www.resource-bank.scholastic.co.uk](http://www.resource-bank.scholastic.co.uk)**.

## How you can help your child with the tests:

1. Get to know the structure and coverage of the test.
2. Talk to your child and their teacher and try to identify areas that they find particularly difficult.
3. Get to know the terminology used in the tests.



# How the tests are scored

**The government use a scaled scoring system to show how your child has performed in the tests.**

## How will the scaled scores affect my child?

Your child will receive a scaled score. This will take the form of a number that can be compared to the national standard.

## What will the scaled scores look like?

The national standard will be represented by a scaled score of 100. Your child will receive a number that will be either above or below this.

## Why have scaled scores been introduced?

Scaled scores allow results to be reliably compared between years. Although the SATs are designed to be as similar as possible from year to year, slight variations in difficulty are unavoidable. On the new scale, the national standard will always be represented by a scaled score of 100.

# What parents need to know about the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling tests

**Both the Year 2 and the Year 6 Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling tests have two papers.**

There will be one spelling paper that will be read out to your child and another separate question and answer booklet focusing on grammar, punctuation and spelling.

## Spelling

Your child will be given an answer booklet containing 20 sentences with one word missing from each. Full versions of the sentences will be read aloud to your child from a transcript. Your child will then have to fill in the missing words in the sentences in the answer booklet.

The test administrator will read out the sentences in the following format:

The word is **tree**.

*Key Stage 1 sample test question*

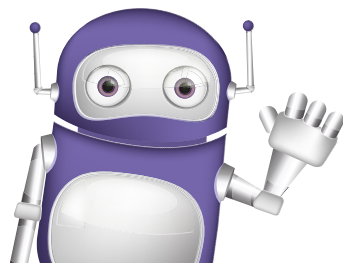
There was a big **tree** in the garden.

The word is **tree**.

Your child will then have to fill in the missing word in the answer booklet, as shown:

There was a big tree in the garden.

All example questions in this booklet are taken from the National Curriculum assessment sample materials. © 2015. DfE.



# What parents need to know about the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling tests

## Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

For the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling paper, your child will receive a question booklet, which they will work through independently and write their answers in. Unlike in the Spelling paper, the questions will not be read out by the test administrator.

The questions can take two forms:

*Key Stage 1 sample test questions*

- 1 Selected response** – children must choose from a range of possible answers.

Tick the word that completes the sentence.

We were \_\_\_\_\_ on our projects.

Tick **one**.

- |         |                                     |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| worked  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| works   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| working | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| work    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

- 2 Constructed response** – children need to write a short answer of their own.

Why do the underlined words start with a capital letter?

King Fred had a party at Greystone Palace on Sunday afternoon.

They are the names of a person, a place and a day of the week.

They are proper nouns.

# Your grammar and punctuation glossary

**The easiest way to help your child with the new Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling tests is to get to grips with the terminology yourself.**

## Key Stage 1 (Year 2)

- 1 co-ordinating conjunctions:** Conjunctions used between words, phrases, clauses and sentences of equal importance.  
E.g. *and, or, but*.

**How you can help:** Give your child two sentences and ask them to join them together using a co-ordinating conjunction.

- 2 subordinating conjunctions:** Conjunctions that join together a main clause and a subordinate clause. E.g. *when, if, that, because*.

- 3 homophones:** Words that have the same sound but different meanings and spellings. E.g. *their/there/they're*.

**How you can help:** Try writing down a selection of words that sound the same on pieces of paper and ask your child to pair up the homophones.

- 4 noun phrases:** A phrase that includes a noun and acts as a noun in a sentence. E.g. *My Dad's green coat*.

- 5 past and present progressive:** A verb form that shows an action that was or is in progress. E.g. *She was running. She is running*.

**How you can help:** Write down a sentence in the present progressive form. Then ask your child to copy it out, but to change it into the past progressive.

# Your grammar and punctuation glossary

## Key Stage 2 (Year 6)

- 1 **active and passive voice:** In active sentences, the subject is doing the action to the object. In passive sentences, this is reversed and the focus is on the object. E.g. Active – *He threw the ball.* Passive – *The ball was thrown.*

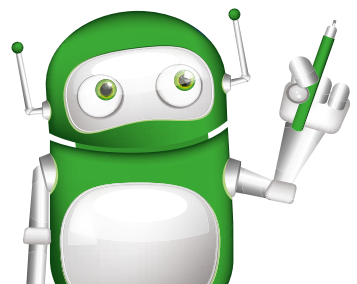
**How you can help:** Write down five sentences that use either the passive or active voice. Ask your child to label whether they are active or passive.

- 2 **synonyms and antonyms:** Synonyms are words that mean the same as a given word. Antonyms are words that mean the opposite of a given word. E.g. *angrily* is an antonym of *calmly*; *elderly* is a synonym of *old*.

- 3 **modal verbs:** Verbs that are used to change the meaning of other verbs. E.g. *will, would, can, could, may, might, shall, should, must* and *ought*.

**How you can help:** Make sure your child is familiar with the modal verbs given here and knows what they all mean.

- 4 **subject and object:** The subject is the person or thing doing the verb and the object is the person or thing that has the verb done to it. E.g. *Samira hit the ball.* *Samira* is the subject and *the ball* is the object.



# What parents need to know about the Reading tests (Year 2)

**There are two papers in the Reading test in Key Stage 1.**

## Paper 1

This paper will last approximately 30 minutes and consists of one booklet that will contain reading passages and questions.

## Paper 2

The second paper will take approximately 40 minutes and consists of separate reading and answer booklets.

The questions on these papers can take three forms:

**1 Selected response questions.** These sorts of question types could include multiple choice, ranking/ordering, matching or labelling.

Which word in the text best describes what worker ants are like?

Tick **one**.

sleepy  noisy

busy  fast

**2 Short response questions.** This could involve finding and copying something from the text or providing a short answer of their own.

What joins the rooms in an ant nest together?

Tunnels

**3 Extended response questions.** These types of questions require a slightly longer written answer.

How did Frog think they could get home?

He thought they could float home using a balloon.

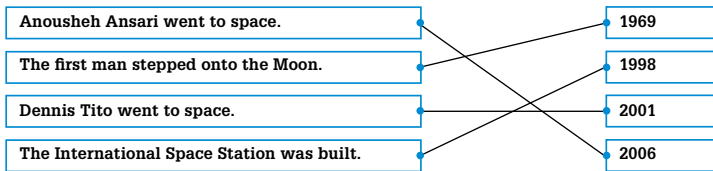


# What parents need to know about the Reading tests (Year 6)

## The Key Stage 2 Reading test only has one paper.

The total testing time (including reading) will be 60 minutes. Your child will be given a reading booklet and a separate answer booklet. The questions on this paper can take three forms:

- 1 Selected response questions.** These sorts of question types could include multiple choice, ranking/ordering, matching or labelling. Match the events below to the year in which they happened.



- 2 Short response questions.** This could involve finding and copying something from the text or providing a short answer of their own. Look at Anousheh's blog entry for 25th September. Find and copy a group of words that shows that Anousheh wrote her blog for others to read.

*Well my friends*

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- 3 Extended response questions.** These types of questions require a slightly longer written answer.

Based on what you have read, what does the last paragraph suggest might happen to the explorers next? Use evidence from this paragraph to support your prediction.

*I think they might be attacked by a strange creature because it says there was a 'constant menace' coming from 'the gloom of the trees'.*

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# What parents need to know about the Maths tests (Year 2)

## Key Stage 1

There are two papers in the Mathematics test for Year 2.

### Paper 1: Arithmetic

The arithmetic paper will test your child's number and calculation skills.

The test includes a range of number sentences such as:

- **Number bonds (adding two single-digit numbers):**  
 $89 + 10 = \boxed{99}$
- **Adding three numbers:**  $15 + 3 + 3 = \boxed{21}$
- **Multiplication and divisions (x2, x5 and x10):**  $2 \times 0 = \boxed{0}$   
 $12 \div 2 = \boxed{6}$
- **Missing number problems:**  $\boxed{4} + 5 = 9$
- **Simple fractions of quantities:**  $1/4$  of 20 =  $\boxed{5}$

### Paper 2: Mathematical Reasoning

The second Mathematics paper requires children to solve problems.

Your child will need to answer questions in context and decide what is required to find a solution. The questions will gradually get more difficult – though not all children will be expected to complete all of them. Examples:

- **Reasoning (fractions):** Sita cuts a pizza into four equal slices. She eats one slice. What fraction of the pizza does she eat?  $\boxed{1/4}$
- **Reasoning (adding three numbers):** Sam is collecting cards. He wants to collect 100 cards. Last week he collected 50 cards. This week he collects 30 cards. How many more does he need?  $\boxed{20}$

# What parents need to know about the Maths tests (Year 6)

## Key Stage 2

There are three papers in the Mathematics test for Year 6.

### Paper 1: Arithmetic

The first is an arithmetic paper that will test your child's number and calculation skills. The test requires children to know some number facts, such as multiplication tables (and the related division facts); others test the use of calculation methods.

There are also some more challenging calculations such as those using fractions, or examples of calculations with larger numbers. Examples:

- **Multiplying decimals:**  $1.52 \times 6 = 9.12$
- **Calculating fractions:**  $1/4 \times 1/8 = 1/32$

### Papers 2 and 3: Mathematical Reasoning

Each of these two papers cover a wide range of mathematical knowledge with questions arranged in order of difficulty. Geometry and statistics questions are included alongside calculation and number problems. Examples:

- **Roman numerals:** Here is a number written in Roman numerals: CXV. Write the number in figures  $115$
- **Multi-step problem:** A bag of five lemons costs £1. A bag of four oranges costs £1.80. How much more does one orange cost than one lemon?  $25p$

# Key Maths skills explained (Year 2)

Use the following information to familiarise yourself with the trickier items from the Maths curriculum for Year 2.

**1 Fractions** In Year 2, your child should be able to recognise, find and write various fractions. They should also be familiar with equivalent fractions.

**How you can help:** Make sure your child can work out  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a length, shape or quantity. For example,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 6 = 3. Remind them that  $\frac{2}{4}$  is equivalent to  $\frac{1}{2}$  and so on.

**2 Measurement** Your child will need to be familiar with time and money. They should also be able to choose and use correct units for length (cm or m), mass (g or kg), temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and capacity (ml or l).

**How you can help:** Ask your child spontaneous questions, such as *How can I make 36p using these coins? What time is it now? Which is further – 30km or 35km?*

**3 Geometry** Your child will need to be able to identify how many sides and vertices (corners) different 2D shapes have, and the number of faces and edges that various 3D shapes have.

**How you can help:** Point out different everyday items and ask your child to describe their shapes. Ask how many corners and edges they have.

**4 Statistics** Your child needs to be able to make and interpret simple tally charts, tables, pictograms and block graphs.

**How you can help:** Try drawing simple graphs and charts with your child. Make sure they know the difference between the various types of chart.

# Key Maths skills explained (Year 6)

Use the following information to familiarise yourself with the trickier items from the Maths curriculum for Year 6.

**1** **Number** Your child should be able to read and compare numbers up to 10,000,000. They should be able to round numbers in their heads and calculate intervals across zero.

Your child will also need to be familiar with long multiplication and long division:

$124 \times 26$  becomes

$$\begin{array}{r} \phantom{1} \phantom{2} \\ \phantom{1} \phantom{2} \phantom{4} \\ \times \phantom{2} \phantom{6} \\ \hline \phantom{7} \phantom{4} \phantom{4} \\ \phantom{2} \phantom{4} \phantom{8} \phantom{0} \\ \hline \phantom{3} \phantom{2} \phantom{2} \phantom{4} \\ \phantom{1} \phantom{1} \end{array}$$

Answer: 3224

$432 \div 15$  becomes

$$\begin{array}{r} \phantom{2} \phantom{8} \cdot \phantom{8} \\ \phantom{1} \phantom{5} \overline{) 4 \phantom{3} \phantom{2} \cdot \phantom{0}} \\ \phantom{3} \phantom{0} \phantom{2} \\ \hline \phantom{1} \phantom{3} \phantom{2} \\ \phantom{1} \phantom{2} \phantom{0} \\ \hline \phantom{1} \phantom{2} \phantom{0} \\ \phantom{1} \phantom{2} \phantom{0} \\ \hline \phantom{0} \end{array}$$

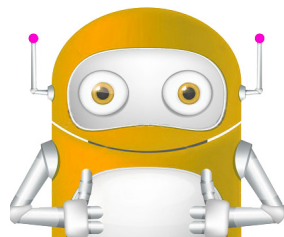
Answer: 28.8

Children will need to know the order in which to carry out operations.

**How you can help:** Remind your child to use BIDMAS to remember the correct order – Brackets, Indices, Division, Multiplication, Addition, Subtraction.

**2** **Fractions** Your child should be able to add and subtract fractions.

**How you can help:** Make sure your child knows that to add and subtract fractions, they must have the same denominator (the bottom number). So...  $1/2 + 1/3$  becomes  $3/6 + 2/6 = 5/6$



# Key Maths skills explained (Year 6)

Your child should be able to multiply fractions together.

**How you can help:** Remind your child that to multiply fractions, they must first multiply the top numbers by each other and the bottom numbers by each other. So...  $5/6 \times 2/3 = 10/18$ .  $10/18$  can be simplified to  $5/9$ .

Your child also needs to know how to divide fractions by a whole number.

**How you can help:** Remind your child that to divide a fraction by a whole number, they must multiply the fraction by one over the whole number. So...  $2/3 \div 5 = 2/3 \times 1/5 = 2/15$

## 3 Ratio and proportion

Your child needs to know that proportion is the fraction of a whole and that ratio compares amounts.

**How you can help:** Make sure your child knows the difference between ratio and proportion. Ask them simple questions like: *What proportion of the days of the week begin with an 'S'? What is the ratio of blue cars to red cars in this street?*

4 **Algebra** Children need to be able to use simple formulas and to solve simple equations.

**How you can help:** Use the simple formula for the area of a rectangle to practise ( $a = \text{length} \times \text{width}$ ). Try making up simple equations for them to solve (e.g.  $b - 11 = 25$ ). Make sure your child knows that they need to do the same to both sides of the equation.

5 **Area and volume** Your child must be able to calculate the area and volume of several shapes.

**How you can help:** Familiarise your child with the basic formulas for area: Rectangle/Square = length x width. Triangle =  $1/2$  base x height. Parallelogram = height x width.

# What parents need to know about the Science tests

## Who will sit the Science tests?

The Science tests will only be taken by a small sample of children in Year 6. It is quite likely that your child will not take the Key Stage 2 Science test.

The government will randomly select a sample of approximately 9,500 pupils from 1,900 schools (roughly five pupils per school) to take the tests.

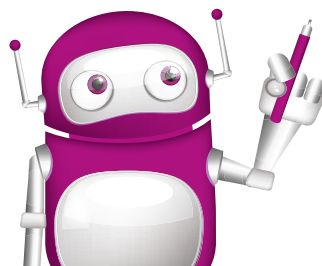
The next Science sampling test will take place in 2020.

## What is the format of the Science tests?

The test will consist of three papers – Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each paper will take approximately 25 minutes and will be worth 22 marks.

## What happens to the results?

Science sampling test results will be reported as national data only. Neither your child nor the school will receive individual results for pupils. The tests are just a way for the government to gather information about performance in Science across the country.



# How to support your child at home

Help your child succeed with Revision Guides, Practice Books and National Test Practice Papers from Scholastic. Each book is 100% in line with the SATs format and perfectly complements what children are being taught in school.

## 1) Revise

Recap, revise and practise everything that your child needs to know in the lead-up to the tests.

Revision Guides available for English and Maths for Years 2–6



## 2) Practise

Practice makes perfect! Extra activities to really hone your child's English and Maths skills at home.

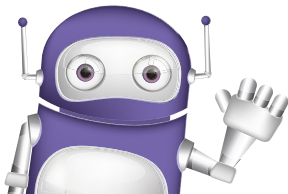
Practice Books available for English and Maths for Years 1–6



## 3) Prepare for the tests

Boost confidence and skills with practice test papers, exactly matched to the real test format.

National Tests available for Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, Reading and Maths for Years 2–6



Find these books and more at  
[www.scholastic.co.uk/homelearning](http://www.scholastic.co.uk/homelearning)