National Reference Test

Each year 300x schools in England...

Test English
Test Maths

1 of 2 one hour tests

Around 30x Year 11s selected to take...

National test results

Taken into account for GCSE awarding

GCSE grades 9 to 1

GCSE marks

Key Stage 2 results
The National Reference Test was introduced in 2017. Information from the tests will provide an additional source of evidence to support the awarding of GCSEs.

Annual tests in maths and English are taken by a sample of year 11 students in February and March each year. The test questions remain largely the same from year to year. We are not able to provide individual feedback to students or schools and the results are not used for accountability purposes.

Each year, around 300 schools in England take part in the tests. Legislation requires that these schools take part. At each school, around 30 students take an English paper and another 30 students take a maths paper. The tests will take an hour to complete and will be administered and invigilated by the National Foundation for Educational Research.

We publish national test results towards the end of August each year. Over time, the tests have the potential to provide a valuable additional source of evidence that will be taken into account when GCSEs are awarded.