2025 national curriculum tests

Key stage 2

English reading test mark schemes

Reading answer booklet



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1. Introduction

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) is responsible for the development and delivery of key stage 1 and 2 statutory and optional tests. STA is an executive agency of the Department for Education.

The 2025 tests assess the national curriculum. This test has been developed to meet the specification set out in the <u>test framework</u>¹ for English reading at key stage 2. It assesses the aspects of comprehension that lend themselves to a paper test.

A new test and new mark schemes will be produced each year.

Key stage 2 tests are marked by external markers, who receive training to ensure the mark schemes are applied consistently and fairly. The mark schemes are provided to show teachers how the tests are marked. The pupil examples are based on responses gathered from the test trialling process.

Scaled score conversion tables are not included in this document. Conversion tables will be produced as part of the standards maintenance process. <u>Scaled score conversion tables</u>² for the 2025 tests will be published in July 2025. The standards confirmation meeting will take place in July 2025.

2. Structure of the test

The key stage 2 English reading test comprises:

- · a reading booklet containing three texts that increase in demand throughout the booklet
- a reading answer booklet containing questions (50 marks).

I www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-english-reading-test-framework

² www.gov.uk/guidance/scaled-scores-at-key-stage-2

3. Content domain coverage

The 2025 test meets the specification set out in the test framework. Table 1 sets out the areas of the content domain that are assessed in the test.

Table 1: Content domain coverage for the 2025 key stage 2 English reading test

	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2 f	2g	2h
	Give or explain the meaning of words in context.	Retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.	Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.	Make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.	Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.	Identify and / or explain how information or narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole.	Identify and / or explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.	Make comparisons within the text.
Qu.			Sec	ction 1: A Life	-changing Ga	ime	I	
1		1						
2	1							
3				1				
4				2				
5		1						
6	1							
7				1				
8				1				
9	1							
10		1						
11		1						
12	1							
13		1						
Qu.			l	Section 2:	In the Cave		I	
14		2						
15							1	
16				1				
17	1							
18		1						
19				1				
20			2					
21				1				
22				1				

	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2g	2h
	Give or explain the meaning of words in context.	Retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.	Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.	Make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.	Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.	Identify and / or explain how information or narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole.	Identify and / or explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.	Make comparisons within the text.
23			1					
24		1						
25		1						
26				3				
27				1				
Qu.				Section 3: L	ongbow Girl		T	
28		1						
29				1				
30				1				
31		1						
32				1				
33				1				
34				2				
35a		1						
35b		1						
36		1						
37				2				
38				3				
39								1
40	1							
Total	6	15	3	24			1	1

4. Explanation of the mark schemes

The number of marks available for each question is given at the side of the page in the reading answer booklet. Incorrect or unacceptable answers are given a mark of 0. No half marks are awarded.

The mark scheme for each question contains acceptable points, which are indicated either by a numbered list or a square bullet point (if there is only one possible answer). These must be treated as marking principles, not the exact response a pupil needs to give.

They also contain examples of some frequently occurring correct answers given by pupils in the trials. These are shown in italics and are introduced by round bullet points. Many pupils will, however, have different ways of wording an acceptable answer. In assessing each answer, markers focus on the content of what has been written and not on the quality of the writing, expression or grammatical construction.

For 'find and copy' questions, the correct answer is indicated by the word(s) outside the brackets. The word(s) inside the brackets indicate the maximum quotation that is allowed. Copying must be accurate but minor copying errors or introductions such as 'The answer is...' or 'It's...' will be permitted.

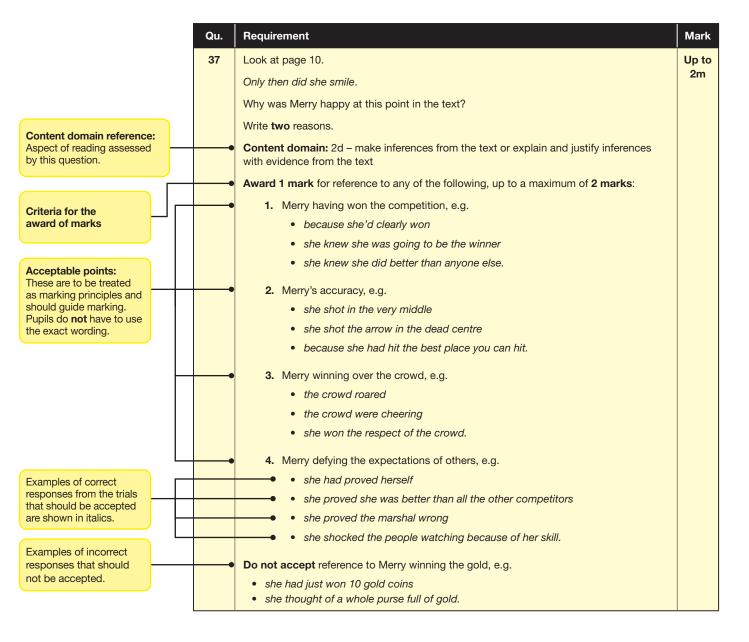
The mark schemes may also indicate commonly occurring but incorrect answers that should not be accepted.

Recording marks awarded

Pupils' test papers are scanned so that marking can be conducted on screen by trained markers.

For each question, markers record the award of 3, 2, 1 or 0 marks as appropriate, according to the mark scheme criteria. There is provision in the software to record questions not attempted. The software aggregates marks automatically.

The diagram below exemplifies the content of the mark schemes:



5. Mark schemes for the English reading test

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
1	How did Phiona make money for her family?	1m
	Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction	
	Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following:	
	1. Phiona selling maize / vegetables, e.g.	
	she sold maize	
	she sold crops	
	selling vegetables.	
	2. Phiona working / selling at a market, e.g.	
	working at the street market.	
	Do not accept reference only to Phiona selling 'things' (not maize or vegetables), e.g.	
	 by selling some things to help her family for the money she started selling stuff. 	

2	An intriguing game	1m					
	Which word is closest in meaning to intriguing?						
	Tick one.						
	Content domain: 2a – give or explain the meaning of words in context						
	Award 1 mark for:						
	exciting						
	popular						
	challenging						
	interesting 🗸						

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
3	How can you tell that people in Uganda were not familiar with chess?	1m
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following:	
	1. there not being a word for 'chess' in Phiona's language, e.g.	
	there was no word for it	
	• it did not even have a name	
	• it was not a word in her language	
	she had no word in her language for it.	
	2. chess being unusual in Uganda, e.g.	
	• it was unusual	
	it says chess was very unusual.	
	Also accept reference to Phiona having to travel a long distance to find out how to play, e.g.	
	she walked 6 km every day just to learn chess	
	she had to walk far to play a game.	
	Do not accept reference to a lack of familiarity with chess, e.g.	
	Phiona had no idea what it was	
	they hadn't heard of it	
	something quite different: playing chess	
	they didn't know what it was.	

Qu.	Requirement				Mark		
4	Read the sections: A challenging upbringing a	Read the sections: <i>A challenging upbringing</i> and <i>An intriguing game</i> .					
	Tick one box in each row to show whether each	statemer	nt is true o	or false .	2m		
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the with evidence from the text	e text or e	explain an	d justify inferences			
	Award 1 mark for three correct or 2 marks for a	all four co	orrect:				
		True	False				
	Phiona left school once she had learnt to read.		1				
	Phiona grew up in a place called Katwe.	1					
	Phiona discovered chess before her brother.		1				
	Phiona walked six kilometres a day to learn about chess.	1					

Look at page 5.	1m
According to the text, what is it important to have when learning something new?	
Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction	
Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following:	
1. someone who can impart knowledge / understanding, e.g.	
someone to help you learn	
someone to help you understand	
someone to show you what to do	
someone to teach you	
someone needs to be there to teach you the skill.	
2. a coach / teacher	
Do not accept reference only to someone to help you do it, e.g.	
someone to help you vou aften need someone to help you do it	
	According to the text, what is it important to have when learning something new? Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following: 1. someone who can impart knowledge / understanding, e.g. • someone to help you learn • someone to help you understand • someone to show you what to do • someone to teach you • someone needs to be there to teach you the skill. 2. a coach / teacher Do not accept reference only to someone to help you do it, e.g.

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
6	Look at the section: Coaching a champion .	1m
	Find and copy one word which tells us that Robert was enthusiastic about football.	
	Content domain: 2a - give or explain the meaning of words in context	
	Award 1 mark for:	
	■ passion.	

7	Look at the section: Coaching a champion .	1m
	Why did Robert start teaching chess?	
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to Robert noticing that some children were not interested in football, e.g.	
	not every child has a passion for football	
	 the people playing football weren't committed to it 	
	he realised that children weren't happy playing football	
	because he realised the children had no desire for football	
	because kids lost interest in football so he started teaching chess.	
	Do not accept reference to Robert noticing that no children were interested in football, e.g.	
	no children had the desire to play football	
	because no one liked football so he taught chess.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
8	Look at the section: Coaching a champion .	1m
	Why did Phiona play carelessly when she started playing chess?	
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following:	
	1. Phiona wanting to win quickly, e.g.	
	she wanted to win quickly	
	she's eager to win as fast as she can	
	to win quickly / fast.	
	2. Phiona being too eager to win, e.g.	
	• she's so eager	
	she was too eager to win.	
	Also accept reference to Phiona playing as quickly as possible / being too quick, e.g.	
	she played as quickly as possible	
	 she wanted to do it as quick as possible 	
	she was playing as fast as she could.	
	Do not accept reference only to Phiona's desire to win, e.g.	
	• she's keen to win	
	• she's eager to win.	

9	Read the paragraph beginning: Robert spotted Phiona's potential	1m
	Find and copy one word which tells us Phiona did well in chess.	
	Content domain: 2a - give or explain the meaning of words in context	
	Award 1 mark for:	
	■ success.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
10	Look at the section: <i>A roaring success</i> .	1m
	Phiona's skills in chess took her abroad. Why?	
	Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction	
	Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following:	
	1. Phiona playing against experienced players, e.g.	
	 so she could go against people who are as talented as her 	
	so she could play some of the best	
	to play the most skilled players	
	to play the masters	
	to play chess with professional chess players.	
	2. Phiona taking part in competitions, e.g.	
	because she was competing.	
	3. Phiona becoming an international chess champion, e.g.	
	she became an international chess champion.	
	Do not accept reference to Phiona being good at chess / a Ugandan chess champion, e.g.	
	she was really good at it	
	because of how good she became	
	she became Uganda's chess champion.	

Qu.	Requirement			Mark	
11	Look at the section: A roaring success.			1m	
	How long had Phiona been playing chess when she won her first international competition?				
	Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information and non-fiction	ation or identify ke	ey details from fiction		
	Award 1 mark for reference to four years.				
40				4	
12	Look at the section: Watching her next move.			1m	
	Phiona caught the attention of a journalist				
	This means that				
	Tick one.				
	Content domain: 2a – give or explain the meaning	g of words in cont	ext		
	Award 1 mark for: Phiona recognised the journalist. a journalist noticed Phiona. Phiona became a journalist. a journalist interviewed Phiona.				
13	Look at the whole text.			1m	
	Complete the table below with the year in which e	ach event happer	ned.		
	Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction				
	Award 1 mark for all three correct:				
	Year				
	Phiona discovered chess. 2005				
	Phiona left her home country for the first time. 2009				
	A film telling Phiona's story was released.	2016			

Qu.	Requirement	
14	'It's just a rock. They're all rocks, you can'	Up to
	What made Tom realise that what he was looking at wasn't actually a rock?	2m
	Write two things.	
	Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction	
	Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following, up to a maximum of 2 marks:	
	1. its colour, e.g.	
	it was a different colour to other rocks	
	• it was red.	
	2. its shape, e.g.	
	it had a different shape to other rocks	
	it had a shape of a boat	
	curious regular shape	
	• it was a weird shape.	
	3. its texture, e.g.	
	• it was smooth.	
	4. the writing on it, e.g.	
	• it had writing on it.	
	Also accept reference to its size, e.g.	
	• it was large.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark				
15	Read the paragraph beginning: He stopped	1m				
	This paragraph creates a sense of					
	Tick one.					
	Content domain: 2g – identify and / or explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases					
	Award 1 mark for:					
	certainty.					
16	What stopped Tom from working out what the writing was?	1m				
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text					
	Award 1 mark for reference to Geoff calling / interrupting him, e.g.					
	Geoff called him					
	Geoff wanted him					
	he was called.					
	Do not accept reference only to Geoff.					
17	Look at page 6	1 m				
17	Look at page 6.	1m				
	He was beckoning to Tom, and staring intently in front of him.					
	Which word is closest in meaning to beckoning?					
	Tick one.					
	Content domain: 2a – give or explain the meaning of words in context					
	Award 1 mark for:					
	signalling					
	reacting replying					
	walking					

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
18	Look at page 6.	1m
	He was beckoning to Tom, and staring intently in front of him.	
	What was Geoff staring at?	
	Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction	
	Award 1 mark for reference to the green light, e.g.	
	he was staring at the green light	
	a green light in front of the seats	
	a light that mysteriously appeared.	
	Also accept reference to the surface in front of the seats, e.g.	
	 he was pointing to the surface in front of his seat 	
	the surface.	
	Do not accept reference only to seats, e.g.	
	• the seat.	

19	'I just sat down and it came on.'	1m			
	What was Geoff trying to do when he said this?				
	Tick one.				
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text				
	Award 1 mark for:				
	pretend nothing is happening				
	boast about what he has done				
	tease Tom about the lights				
	refuse to take the blame				

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
20	Read the paragraph beginning: Silently, Tom climbed in to the paragraph ending:'I wonder what it is?'	Up to 2m
	How does the text show that the object might be a machine?	
	Write two ways.	
	Content domain: 2c – summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph	
	Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following, up to a maximum of 2 marks:	
	1. the lights, e.g.	
	lights flicker on it	
	blue lights arranged like petals	
	• it lit up	
	the strange light.	
	2. the humming / vibration, e.g.	
	a faint humming	
	• it was vibrating.	
	3. the pinging noise / comparison to a microwave oven, e.g.	
	there was a ping	
	it finished with a ping like a microwave	
	it reminded him of a microwave.	
	4. the handles, e.g.	
	• it has two horizontal handles.	
	5. the panel, e.g.	
	• it has a panel stretching across the floor.	
	6. the board, e.g.	
	• it has a control board	
	 extended to cover the board in front of them. 	
	7. the object having electrical / mechanical power, e.g.	
	it was powered by electricity.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark			
21	Look at page 7.	1m			
	And that was that.				
	What does this sentence suggest?				
	Tick one.				
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text				
	Award 1 mark for:				
	The boys couldn't escape. The boys were disappointed. The object had gone silent. The object could cook food.				

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
22	'It's' Tom shrugged. 'Well, it's a machine.'	1m
	Why did Tom shrug?	
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following:	
	1. Tom being uncertain about what it is / how to refer to it, e.g.	
	• he wasn't sure	
	• he doesn't know	
	 he couldn't think of what else to call it 	
	 he has no idea what it actually is 	
	 he was guessing it was a machine or something 	
	• because he didn't think that 100%.	
	2. flippancy / common sense, e.g.	
	 he isn't that surprised and thinks it's obvious 	
	• they already knew it was a machine	
	 he's making it obvious it's a machine 	
	 he thought the answer was easy 	
	 it's something that Geoff already knows the answer to. 	
	Do not accept reference to Tom not knowing what to say, e.g.	
	• he didn't know what to say.	
	Do not accept reference to Tom being unconcerned, e.g.	
	he wasn't bothered	
	he didn't care very much	
	it's not very interesting.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
23	Number the events 1 – 4 to show the order in which they happened in the text.	1m
	Content domain: 2c - summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph	
	Award 1 mark for the correct sequence:	
	Geoff realised the lights were buttons.	
	Orange lights began to switch on across the panel. 2	
	Geoff noticed a green light on the surface.	
	The object started making noises.	

24	Look at page 7.	1m
	How did Geoff work out that the lights were buttons?	
	Write one way.	
	Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction	
	Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following:	
	1. Geoff running his finger over / touching the surface of the lights, e.g.	
	he ran his finger over the light	
	he ran his finger along the surface	
	he felt them	
	by touching it.	
	2. Geoff staring intently at them, e.g.	
	he looked closely	
	he stared closely	
	he stared intently at the buttons.	
	Do not accept reference to Geoff pushing them, e.g.	
	he accidentally pressed onehe pressed one.	

Qu.	Requirement				Mark
25	Look at the whole text.				1m
	Tick one box in each row to	show wh	at the tex	t tells you about the lights.	
	Content domain: 2b – retries and non-fiction	ve and re	cord infor	mation or identify key details from fiction	
	Award 1 mark for all four co	orrect:			
		Yes	No		
	where they are placed	1			
	what colour they are	1			
	how many did not work		1		
	what they are used for		1		

Qu.	Requirement		Mark
26	What impressions do	you get of Tom's and Geoff's personalities?	Up to
	Write one impression	for each boy, using evidence from the text to support each answer.	3m
	Content domain: 2d with evidence from the	- make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences e text	
		wo acceptable points, at least one with evidence. ther two acceptable points, or one acceptable point with evidence. e acceptable point.	
	Tom is		
	Acceptable points (Impression)	Evidence	
	1. anxious / cautious / a worrier	 he peered nervously into the darkness 'What did you do?' he climbed silently into the machine he didn't want to touch the buttons / lights 'What are you doing?' he didn't want Geoff to touch the lights / press the button 'You can't do that!' he stared at his friend in horror 'You don't know what'll happen!' 'At least let's think about it first' 	
	2. sensible / responsible	 he didn't want to touch the buttons / lights he didn't want Geoff to touch the lights / press the button 'You can't do that!' 'You don't know what'll happen!' 'At least let's think about it first' 	
	3. curious / interested	 he walked towards / went to look at the object he leaned forwards to brush away the dust he wanted to work out what the writing said Tom came round to look he questioned Geoff when the light came on / 'What did you do?' he got into the machine to sit with Geoff 	
	4. observant	 he noticed details about the rock he spotted the writing on the machine he became aware of a faint humming / inaudible vibration 	
		Continued on the following page.	

Qu.	Requirement		Mark
26 (cont.)		Geoff is	
(COIII.)	AP - Impression	Evidence	
	1. adventurous / brave	 he climbed into the machine first he ran a finger cautiously over one of the lights / buttons 'I reckon if you pushed one of these' he was going to / wanted to press the buttons there was only one way to really know 	
	2. reckless / careless	 he climbed into the machine first he ran a finger over one of the lights / buttons 'I reckon if you pushed one of these' he was going to / wanted to press the button his finger still hovered over the lights there was only one way to really know 	
	3. curious / interested	 he walked towards the object he got into the machine he wanted to find out what the lights were / did 'I wonder what it is?' 'What do you think it is?' 'What's it for?' he ran a finger over one of the lights / buttons 'I wonder if we could find out?' he stared intently at the surface 'They're not just lights, are they?' / 'They're buttons, you see?' 'I reckon if you pushed one of these' he wanted to press the button / find out what would happen if he pressed the button his finger hovered over the lights there was only one way to really know 	
	4. excitable / enthusiastic / impulsive	 he climbed into the machine first he says 'Wow' when the machine pings he ran a finger over one of the lights / buttons 'I reckon if you pushed one of these' his finger hovered over the lights he was going to / wanted to press the button he didn't want to listen to Tom / he didn't want to think about it 	
	5. stubborn	 his finger still hovered over the lights reluctantly he sat back and thought about it he didn't want to listen to Tom / he didn't want to think about it he was going to / wanted to press the button even though Tom didn't want him to there was only one way to really know 	
	6. observant	 he became aware of a faint humming / inaudible vibration stared intently at the surface under his hand 'They're not just lights, are they?' / 'They're buttons, you see?' 	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
27	Look at page 7.	1m
	Reluctantly, Geoff sat back and thought about it.	
	What does this suggest about the way Geoff felt?	
	Tick one.	
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text	
	Award 1 mark for:	
	He wanted to think about it.	
	He was worried about the button. He didn't agree with Tom.	
	He had decided to press the button.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
28	Read the first paragraph beginning: Merry stepped forward	1m
	How did Merry try to prepare herself for her turn?	
	Write one way.	
	Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction	
	Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following:	
	1. Merry positioning herself, e.g.	
	she positioned herself behind the line.	
	2. Merry rolling her shoulders, e.g.	
	rolled her shoulders.	
	3. Merry taking a few deep breaths, e.g.	
	deep breaths	
	she took deep breaths.	
	Also accept reference to Merry calming herself / ignoring the noise, e.g.	
	• she calms down	
	she ignores the noise of the crowd	
	she blocks out the noise.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
29	Read the paragraph beginning: Merry took her stance	1m
	The crowd had fallen silent.	
	Why was the crowd silent?	
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following:	
	1. anticipation felt by the crowd towards Merry's shot, e.g.	
	was she going to hit the target?	
	they wanted to see how well she did	
	they were watching her to see if she got it.	
	2. the crowd concentrating on Merry, e.g.	
	because they were watching carefully	
	they were focused.	
	3. the crowd watching Merry's arrow, e.g.	
	they were watching the arrow	
	• to see the arrow go	
	everyone was watching where the arrow hit.	
	Also accept reference to allowing Merry to concentrate / focus, e.g.	
	to let her concentrate on her target	
	 because they didn't want to put her off 	
	so they didn't distract her	
	because she needed to focus.	
	Also accept reference to the crowd's disbelief at Merry being a child / girl in a predominantly adult / male event, e.g.	
	 because she was actually doing archery even though women in those times couldn't 	
	 because they didn't believe in her to get a bullseye because she's a kid. 	
	Do not accept reference to generic feelings without elaboration, e.g.	
	because they were so intrigued	
	they were tense	
	because they were scared.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
30	It seemed to take long seconds to fly home to its target.	1m
	Why did Merry feel as though her arrow took a while to reach the target?	
	Tick one.	
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text	
	Award 1 mark for:	
	She really wanted to know the result. She was not strong enough. The crowd was starting to feel worried. The bow was too old to shoot well.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
31	Read the paragraph beginning: <i>Merry took her stance</i> to the paragraph ending:She was sure of it.	1m
	Which target shows where Merry's arrows landed in the first round of the competition?	
	Tick one.	
	Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction	
	Award 1 mark for:	
	Left Right Left Right	
	Left Right Left Right	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
32	She turned, walked back from the line as the crowd, which had been stunned into silence, started to clap.	1m
	Why was the crowd stunned?	
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to Merry's skill / unexpected performance, e.g.	
	because she did good	
	• it fell in the inner white	
	she's young but got an incredible score	
	they're impressed by her attempt	
	they didn't expect her to make it	
	shocked by her talent.	
	Do not accept reference to Merry making it through to round two / winning the competition, e.g.	
	she made it through to round 2she'd won.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
33	Read the paragraph beginning: She turned	1m
	Merry did not smile straight away.	
	Why not?	
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following:	
	1. Merry waiting to hear / not being sure whether she'd qualified for the next round, e.g.	
	she wasn't sure if it was actually on the white	
	she was not sure if she had won the round yet	
	 because she wanted to know if she would be in the next round or not 	
	because she was waiting for the result	
	she wanted to see if she was through first.	
	2. Merry knowing that she hadn't won the competition yet, e.g.	
	 she didn't want to get excited since she hadn't won yet 	
	 because she hadn't won yet – she had to do well in the next round 	
	there was still the chance she might lose	
	there was still another round to go.	
	3. Merry staying calm / focused, e.g.	
	she wanted to stay focused	
	so she didn't lose her concentration	
	she's trying to be cool	
	because she was focused.	
	 Merry wanting to show the marshal / crowd that she was taking the competition seriously, e.g. 	
	she was trying to be humble and smiling could have angered the marshal.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
34	Look at page 9.	Up to
	Write two pieces of evidence that show the marshal was shocked by Merry's first round.	2m
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following, up to a maximum of 2 marks:	
	1. the marshal's mouth hanging open, e.g.	
	his mouth was open	
	mouth gaped	
	his jaw dropped.	
	2. the marshal's voice coming out high-pitched, e.g.	
	his voice was squeaky	
	their voice cracked.	
	3. the marshal looking at Merry with surprise, e.g.	
	he looked at her with sheer surprise.	
	4. the marshal stumbling over his words, e.g.	
	he had to start his sentence again	
	he stuttered	
	they struggled to speak	
	he can't get his words out.	
	Also accept reference to the marshal staring at Merry, e.g.	
	the marshal stared at her	
	she was aware of the marshal staring at her.	
	Also accept reference to the quotation, 'it would appear that Merry Owen will go through to round two', e.g.	
	• it will appear that she goes to the next round.	
	Do not accept reference only to the quotation, 'Well!'	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
35a	Read the paragraph beginning: 'In round two,'	1m
	In what way was round two different from the first round?	
	Write one way.	
	Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction	
	Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following:	
	1. the competitors moving ten yards back, e.g.	
	the archers have to move further away	
	they will move ten yards back	
	the target was further away.	
	2. the competitors taking turns, e.g.	
	they will take it in turns this time.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
35b	Why were the rules changed after the first round?	1m
	Write one reason.	
	Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction	
	Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following:	
	1. the audience being able to better appreciate the archers' skills, e.g.	
	so they might see the best of their skills	
	so they can have all their skills seen	
	so their skills could show more.	
	2. making it more challenging for the archers, e.g.	
	it makes it harder for the competitors	
	• to see who can keep up	
	it wasn't hard enough	
	• it was too easy before.	
	3. increasing the crowd's enjoyment / interest, e.g.	
	to make it more interesting to watch	
	 so the crowd didn't get bored of the same thing 	
	so people will enjoy the spectacle more	
	to build up anticipation	
	to raise the tension.	
	Do not accept reference to an acceptable point without the increased benefit for the audience / increased challenge for the archers, e.g.	
	to show their skills	
	to make it hard to make it interesting to watch	
	to make it interesting to watch.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
36	Read the paragraph beginning: She waited till	1m
	What made Merry worry that her bow might be close to breaking?	
	Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction	
	Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following:	
	1. the tension in the bow, e.g.	
	she could feel the tension in the wood	
	because of the tension.	
	2. Merry drawing back her bow to its fullest extension, e.g.	
	she pulled it back as far as it could go	
	she reached the bow's full extension.	
	3. Merry fearing the bow had been overstretched, e.g.	
	she thought she pulled it too far	
	• pulled it too far back.	
	Also accept reference to the quotation, She needed all its power now to make the extra distance and to maintain accuracy, e.g.	
	 it needed full power to hit the new target 	
	she needs all its power	
	she used all the bow's strength	
	it needed to work really hard because the arrow had to go further.	
	Do not accept reference to Merry's power in pulling the bow back, e.g.	
	she pulled it back hard	
	she pulled back with all her power.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
37	Look at page 10.	Up to
	Only then did she smile.	2m
	Why was Merry happy at this point in the text?	
	Write two reasons.	
	Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following, up to a maximum of 2 marks:	
	1. Merry having won the competition, e.g.	
	because she'd clearly won	
	she knew she was going to be the winner	
	she knew she did better than anyone else.	
	2. Merry's accuracy, e.g.	
	she shot in the very middle	
	she shot the arrow in the dead centre	
	because she had hit the best place you can hit.	
	3. Merry winning over the crowd, e.g.	
	the crowd roared	
	the crowd were cheering	
	she won the respect of the crowd.	
	4. Merry defying the expectations of others, e.g.	
	she had proved herself	
	 she proved she was better than all the other competitors 	
	she proved the marshal wrong	
	she shocked the people watching because of her skill.	
	Do not accept reference to Merry winning the gold, e.g.	
	she had just won 10 gold coins	
	she thought of a whole purse full of gold.	

Qu.	Requirement		Mark	
38	Merry won the competit	on because she was an experienced archer.	Up to	
	How can you tell that sh	e was experienced?	3m	
	Write two ways, using e	vidence from the text to support each answer.		
	An example has been do	one for you.		
	Content domain: 2d - r with evidence from the t	nake inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences ext		
	Award 3 marks for two	acceptable points, at least one with evidence.		
	Award 2 marks for either	er two acceptable points, or one acceptable point with evidence.		
	Award 1 mark for one acceptable point.			
	Acceptable points (reason)	Evidence		
	She had the strength to do it.	She was able to pull the bow back to its fullest extension.		
	1. her skill / accuracy / consistency	 she entered a competition with adults it lodged in the black ring again Inner white! She was sure of it. she went through to round two 		
		 drew back her bow to its fullest extension maintain accuracy the arrow flew to the target released it smoothly watched it home in. Inner white! dead centre of the inner white hit the target with every shot one first circle and two golds 		

Qu.	Requirement		Mark
38 (cont.)	Acceptable points (reason)	Evidence	
	She had the strength to do it.	She was able to pull the bow back to its fullest extension.	
	2. her composure / focus	 able to shut out the noise of the crowd / nothing intruded rolled her shoulders / took a few deep breaths she felt a cool focus flood her veins listened to the commands of the marshal only sound she could hear was the whisper of her bowstring and the hiss of her arrow She didn't smile. Not yet. she just stood and waited looked at the mountains tried to keep at bay the noise and the attention waited till it fell quiet prayed silently no thinking, no worrying, just instinct and skill pushed down flush of euphoria closed her eye, breathed, waited only then did she smile 	
	3. her confidence / high expectation of herself	 she entered a competition against adults / men she was sure of it She didn't smile. Not yet. she drew back the bow to its fullest extension she had to do better just instinct and skill 	
		Continued on the following page.	

Qu.	Requirement		Mark
38 (cont.)	Acceptable points (reason)	Evidence	
	She had the strength to do it.	She was able to pull the bow back to its fullest extension.	
	4. her knowledge of strategies / techniques / rules	 positioned herself behind the line / rolled her shoulders / took a few deep breaths understood the command 'Ready your bow!' she nocked her arrow / bent from her waist / marked the target, drew back her bow and loosed understood the circles / rings on the target board selected her arrows / walked forwards to retrieve her arrows knew what was needed to win after the other competitors had taken their turns she waited till it fell quiet drew back her bow to its fullest extension she needed all its power now to make the extra distance and to maintain accuracy knew she had to do better to win she pulled in a breath, released it smoothly as she loosed the arrow when she hit the inner white in the second round, she knew she had won 	
	5. her knowledge of her bow / arrows	 she selected her arrows she readied her bow she nocked her arrow / drew back her bow / loosed drew back her bow to its fullest extension she needed all its power now to make the extra distance and maintain accuracy felt and sensed the almost unbearable tension in the wood Please don't break, she prayed silently. Please give me just a few shots more. 	
	6. her knowledge of past learning	she heard the ancient commands, in her head, in her body and somewhere deep inside that must have been her soul	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
39	How can you tell that the marshal had changed his opinion of Merry by the end of the story?	1m
	Content domain: 2h - make comparisons within the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to the marshal smiling back at Merry, e.g.	
	he smiled.	
	Also accept reference to the marshal accepting Merry's skill, e.g.	
	she'd impressed him	
	 at the start he didn't believe in her but now he does 	
	 at first he was surprised but now he's impressed 	
	he was shocked by her talents.	
	Also accept reference to the marshal being happy for Merry, e.g.	
	he is happy for her	
	he is excited for her	
	he sounded glad for her.	
	Do not accept reference to the quotation, 'We have an outright winner'.	

40	'We have an outright winner,' he declared.		
	Which of the following is closest in meaning to outright?		
	Tick one .		
	Content domain: 2a – give or explain the meaning of words in context		
	Award 1 mark for:		
	lucky predictable disappointing clear		

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