2025 national curriculum tests

Key stage 2

English grammar, punctuation and spelling test mark schemes

Paper 1: questions

Paper 2: spelling



Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Structure of the test	3
3. Content domain coverage	3
4. Paper 1: questions	4
4.1 Content domain coverage for Paper 1: questions	4
4.2 General marking guidance for Paper 1: questions	6
4.3 Explanation of the mark schemes for Paper 1: questions	8
5. Mark schemes for Paper 1: questions	9
6. Paper 2: spelling	16
6.1 Content domain coverage for Paper 2: spelling	16
6.2 General marking guidance for Paper 2: spelling	16
6.3 Pupil version of Paper 2: spelling	16
7. Mark schemes for Paper 2: spelling	17

1. Introduction

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) is responsible for the development and delivery of statutory tests and assessments. 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 grammar, punctuation and spelling at key stage 2.

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 grammar, punctuation and spelling test comprises:

- Paper 1: questions (50 marks)
- Paper 2: spelling (20 marks)

3. Content domain coverage

The 2025 test meets the specification in the test framework. Tables 1 and 3 set out the areas of the content domain that are assessed in Paper 1 and Paper 2.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-english-grammar-punctuation-and-spelling-test-framework

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

4. Paper 1: questions

4.1 Content domain coverage for Paper 1: questions

Table 1 sets out the content domain coverage for questions in Paper 1. Information relating to the codes in Table 1 can be found in the key stage 2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test framework.

Table 1: Content domain coverage for questions in Paper 1

	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	G7
Qu.	Grammatical terms or word classes	Functions of sentences	Combining words, phrases and clauses	Verb forms, tense and consistency	Punctuation	Vocabulary	Standard English and formality
1						1	
2						1	
3					1		
4		1					
5					1		
6					1		
7							1
8					1		
9		1					
10					1		
11							1
12	1						
13							1
14					1		
15					1		
16	1						
17					1		
18			1				
19	1						
20						1	
21					1		
22					1		

	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	G7
	Grammatical terms or word classes	Functions of sentences	Combining words, phrases	Verb forms, tense and consistency	Punctuation	Vocabulary	Standard English and
Qu.	word classes	Sentences	and clauses	Consistency			formality
23					1		
24			1				
25			1				
26		1					
27				1			
28	1						
29						1	
30					1		
31					1		
32	1						
33					1		
34			1				
35	1						
36	1						
37				1			
38				1			
39	1						
40	1						
41			1				
42					1		
43				1			
44	1						
45	1						
46				1			
47	1						
48				1			
49	1						
50				1			

4.2 General marking guidance for Paper 1: questions

To ensure consistency of marking, the most frequent procedural queries are listed in Table 2, along with the action the marker will take.

Recording marks awarded

Marking takes place on screen, with markers viewing scanned images of pupils' responses. Marks are entered into the marking system in accordance with the guidance for the on-screen marking software.

For each question, markers record the award of 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 following guidance applies to all questions in Paper 1.

Table 2: General marking principles for Paper 1

Question type	Accept	Do not accept
Tick boxes and tables	 any unambiguous indication of the correct answer, for example: the box is crossed rather than ticked the correct answer is circled rather than ticked 	answers in which more than the required number of boxes have been ticked
Circling or underlining of the answer	any unambiguous indication of the correct answer, such as the answer being enclosed within a box	 answers in which more than the required number of words have been circled or underlined answers in which the correct answer is circled or underlined, together with any surrounding words
Drawing lines to 'match' boxes	lines that do not touch the boxes, provided the intention is clear	multiple lines drawn to or from the same box (unless this is a question requirement)
Labelling	 clear labels, whether they use the full vocabulary required by the question or an unambiguous abbreviation, for example, 'V' for 'verb' 	ambiguity in labelling, for example, the use of 'AD' or 'A' where a distinction is required between 'adjective' and 'adverb'

Question type	Accept	Do not accept
Punctuation	correctly formed punctuation that is clear, unambiguous and recognisable as the required punctuation mark	punctuation that is ambiguous, for example, if it is unclear whether the mark is a comma or full stop
Sentences and capital letters	 a sentence that has an initial capital letter and an appropriate punctuation mark indicating the end of the sentence capital letters that are clear and unambiguous Where letters do not have unique capital letter forms, the height of the capital letter will be equal to, or greater than, that of letters with ascenders. 	answers in which capital letters are omitted or placed inappropriately in a sentence, or where an entire word is capitalised
Spelling	incorrect spellings of the correct response if no specific mark scheme guidance is given	incorrect spellings of answers for which the mark scheme requires correct spelling Correct spelling is required for the award of the mark for the majority of questions in Paper 1, especially for questions assessing contracted forms, verb forms, plurals, prefixes and suffixes.

Question type	Accept	Do not accept
Answers outside the expected space	 a correct answer given somewhere other than the answer space, provided it is not contradicted by another answer written elsewhere correct answers that are written in the 'blank' within a question, rather than in the expected space below it correct answers in which the pupil has written out a word or sentence that is already provided 	answers that are given outside the expected space and contradicted by another answer written elsewhere
More than one answer given	multiple answers that are all correct according to the mark scheme	responses where both correct and incorrect answers are given
Handwriting	answers that are clear, unambiguous and recognisable, including letters that have been reversed, but which are still clearly identifiable to the marker	answers that are unclear or ambiguous
Crossed-out answers	correct answers that replace a crossed-out attempt	crossed-out answers

4.3 Explanation of the mark schemes for Paper 1: questions

The mark schemes contain the following information for each question:

- the question number
- the question from the test paper
- what is required to answer each question either a correct answer or examples of different types of creditworthy response
- how many marks are available for the question
- any additional guidance that may be relevant
- the content domain reference

5. Mark schemes for Paper 1: questions

Qu.	Requirement			1	Mark	
1 G6.2	opposite ✓				1m	
2 G6.1	Award 1 mark for the correct word circumeven sore	rcled.	low		1m	
3 G5.3	"Have you finished eating your lunch '	" asked Hannah			1m	
4 G2.1	Sentence	Statement	Command		1m	
G2.3	Watch where you're going.		✓			
	We watched the game together.	1				
	My watch stopped working.	√				
	Do not watch too much television.		✓			
5 G5.5	Award 1 mark for two commas correct We lifted up the log and found worms,	-	and slugs.		1m	
6 G5.4	an exclamation mark 🗸				1m	
7	Award 1 mark for both correct.					
G7.1	We was /were going on a school trip to a concert.					
	The musicians did/done a sound check before the show.					
8 G5.11	Award 1 mark for a semi-colon correct	ctly inserted.			1m	
40.11	We have been learning about the Vikir	ngs; they were a				
	fascinating civilisation.					

Key stage 2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test mark schemes

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
9 G2.2 G5.3	Is Jay going to come on Tuesday Do you know if Jay is coming on Tuesday	1m
10 G5.9	Award 1 mark for a pair of brackets correctly inserted. Our class visited a castle (the oldest in the country) to help us with our history project.	1m
11 G7.2	Award 1 mark for all three correct. The basketball club was set up /(established) by a group of friends last year. They(invited)/ got people who were interested in the game to join. Now they play /(compete) in their local league.	1m
12 G1.6a	After dinner, Kal is going to her room.	1m
13 G7.3 G7.2	The coach has yet to announce the team.	1m
14 G5.9	dashes 🗸	1m
15 G5.10	Award 1 mark for a colon correctly inserted. We saw various animals on our evening walk: badgers, foxes, mice and an owl.	1m
16 G1.3	Award 1 mark for all three correctly circled. The crumbling castle stood high on the rocky hill. The views over the countryside were glorious.	1m

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
17 G5.9	Swimming, which strengthens muscles in the arms and legs, is great exercise.	1m
18 G3.1a G1.5b	 Award 1 mark for a grammatically correct relative clause that retains the meaning of the sentence in the box, for example: My uncle, who lives on a farm, is going to plant potatoes. My uncle, who's a farmer, is going to plant potatoes. Do not accept misspellings of relative pronouns or verb forms. Do not accept errors in punctuation or capitalisation. 	1m
19 G1.2	Space yourselves out in the hall for PE. □ □ □ □ □	1m
20 G6.3	Award 1 mark for all four matched correctly. Word Suffix	1m
	recruit ate	
	advert ise	
	class ment	
	alien ify	
21 G5.8	to show that who's is the contracted form of 'who has'	1m
22 G5.6b	When the waitress came over, I asked which flavours were the most popular.	1m

Qu.	Requirement				Mark
23 G5.12	Award 1 mark for a dash correctly inserted. I must repair my backpack – the zip is broken and I need it for our camping trip.				
24 G3.4	a subordinate clause 🗸				1m
25 G3.1 G3.4	Sentence	Main clause	Subordinate clause		1m
	I walked to school with Hazel <u>as</u> we live on the same road.		✓		
	Hazel uses a wheelchair so we went up the ramp.	√			
	Before we entered the classroom, we greeted our friends.		✓		
26 G2.3	Award 1 mark for all four matched co	orrectly.			1m
G2.3 G2.2 G2.4	Sentence		Form		
GZ. 1	Are you coming to the film night at school		question		
	What a shame you can't come		command		
	Don't worry about it		statement		
	There will be another one next term		exclamation		
27 G4.1c					1m
	I must be at school early tomorrow.	✓			

Qu.	Requirement					Mark
28 G1.5	 Award 1 mark for a response explaining that it is unclear who they refers to, for example: You don't know who 'they' is referring to; you don't know if it is the tennis players or Kate and Ravi. Because we don't know who 'they' are. It doesn't clarify who they are referring to by 'they'. 					1m
29 G6.2	Award 1 mark for re					1m
30 G5.13	Award 1 mark for a hyphen con At the museum, we enjoyed dre costumes and fancy hats.			hioned		1m
31 G5.7	Award 1 mark for inverted commas correctly inserted, i.e. "I think it is over here!" shouted Reena, pointing at the map. "Follow me!" 'I think it is over here!' shouted Reena, pointing at the map. 'Follow me!'				1m	
32 G1.1	Sentence	Verb	Noun	Adjective		1m
G1.2 G1.3	He folds the letter carefully.	√				
G.110	The <u>folded</u> letter was put in the envelope.			1		
	The letter had folds in it.		1			
33 G5.6a	 Award 1 mark for a response explaining that the comma changes who is being addressed and/or who is being called, for example: In the first sentence it's asking if you called Raheem. In the second sentence they are asking if Raheem called somebody. The second sentence makes it seem like it is the caller's name and the other does not. The 1st one means that they were talking about Raheem and the 2nd one shows that they are talking to Raheem. 			1m		
34 G3.1a	Award 1 mark for After her dance class, Jamila has she buys from the local cafe.	as a strawb	erry milksha	ake, <u>which</u>		1m

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
35	Award 1 mark for both correctly circled.	1m
G1.7	Stef trained hard before the hockey tournament.	
	Concentrating intensely, Emma hit the ball(into)the net.	
36	Award 1 mark for the correct word circled.	1m
G1.9	After the heavy rain, Mumdecided not to water the garden.	
37 G4.4	 Award 1 mark for a correctly punctuated sentence using the passive, for example: The treasure was stolen by someone. The treasure was stolen by somebody. The treasure was stolen. 	1m
	Do not accept misspellings of verb forms or errors in punctuation or capitalisation.	
38 G4.1a	Award 1 mark for both correct. I brought my violin to school. I forgot it last week. to bring to forget Do not accept misspellings or errors in punctuation or capitalisation.	1m
39	Award 1 mark for all three correctly circled.	1m
G1.1	He played the piano with great confidence and rarely	
	made(mistakes)	
40 G1.6	an adverb	1m
41	Award 1 mark for an appropriate noun phrase, for example:	1m
G3.2	 The bus driver The owner of the house His big hands The old man who couldn't sleep 	
	Do not accept errors in punctuation or capitalisation.	
42	Award 1 mark for	1m
G5.2 G5.1	This year, we have been on a number of school trips. Mmy	
	favourite was to the Science Museum because we saw some	
	incredible experiments. However, Elise preferred our visit to	
	Colchester Castle.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark				
43 G4.4	Award 1 mark for a correctly punctuated sentence using the active, for example: The council maintain the local park. The council maintains the local park. Do not accept misspellings of verb forms or errors in punctuation or capitalisation.					
44 G1.5a	Award 1 mark for both correctly circled. Dad told me that Mum's favourite sport is cycling and his is cricket. Tennis is Karen's favourite sport and mine is football.					
45 G1.4 G3.4 G3.3	Award 1 mark for all three correctly circled. Since Billy has started swimming lessons, he has been going to the pool every Saturday and sometimes on Wednesdays too, if his dad has time to take him.					
46 G4.3 G7.4	Award 1 mark for the correct word circled. If Iwere to help, I would start by clearing the tables.					
47 G1.8	Award 1 mark for all three correctly circled. There are some biscuits in this tin but there are not any chocolate ones.					
48 G4.1d G1.2	Award 1 mark for While we were talking to our friend, his phone started ringing. to talk Do not accept misspellings or errors in punctuation or capitalisation.					
49 G1.6	Award 1 mark for the correct word circled. Although Jane was a speedy runner, she was almost beaten in the race.					
50 G4.1b G1.2	Award 1 mark for The teacher told the class that he had decided not to give them any homework. To decide Do not accept misspellings or errors in punctuation or capitalisation.	1m				

6. Paper 2: spelling

6.1 Content domain coverage for Paper 2: spelling

This information is provided in Table 3.

6.2 General marking guidance for Paper 2: spelling

The following guidance applies to all questions in Paper 2. Please read this carefully before applying the individual mark schemes.

- If the pupil makes more than one attempt, it must be clear which answer the pupil wishes to be marked.
- If the pupil makes two or more attempts and it is not clear which is to be considered, the mark is not awarded.
- The pupil can answer in upper or lower case, or a mixture of the two. The exception to this is for days
 of the week, which must be written in lower-case letters with an initial capital letter for the award of the
 mark.
- If the pupil has answered with the correct sequence of letters but has incorrectly inserted an apostrophe or a hyphen, the mark is not awarded.
- If the pupil has answered with the correct sequence of letters but these have been separated into clearly divided components, with or without a hyphen, the mark is not awarded.

6.3 Pupil version of Paper 2: spelling

Spelling	
<u> </u>	11. My sister stomped up the stairs.
1. There was a brave in the story.	12. There was an to the bus timetable.
2. The children walked home the park.	13. Cold environments are the preferred habitats for
3. We were for our hard work.	14. I am looking forward to going on a trip next yea
4. I enjoy reading stories.	15. The ship was held in place by an
5. After a few days, the seedsshoots.	16. Brushing your teeth helps to remove
6. There was an of colour during the	17. I hid my when my friend won the contest.
firework display.	18. The plants will on the sunny windowsill.
7. They a bridge on their way to school.	19. Ava was to miss the school trip.
8. There was a funny in the school play.	20. I look forward to your reply.
9. The new phone is lightweight and	,,,,,
10. It was a good to move to a quieter room.	
	END OF TEST

7. Mark schemes for Paper 2: spelling

Information relating to the content domain reference codes in Table 3 can be found in the key stage 2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test framework.

Table 3: Mark schemes and content domain references for Paper 2

Qu.	Spelling	Mark	Content domain reference
1	knight	1	S60 – words with 'silent' letters (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word)
2	through	1	S59 – words containing the letter string <i>ough</i> S61 – homophones and near homophones (Years 3 and 4) homophones and other words that are often confused (Years 5 and 6)
3	rewarded	1	S38 – adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable
4	adventure	1	S44 – words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/
5	developed	1	S38 – adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable
6	explosion	1	S45 – endings that sound like /ʒən/
7	passed	1	S61 – homophones and near homophones (Years 3 and 4) homophones and other words that are often confused (Years 5 and 6)
8	scene	1	S51 – words with the /s/ sound spelt sc S61 – homophones and near homophones (Years 3 and 4) homophones and other words that are often confused (Years 5 and 6)
9	affordable	1	S56 – words ending in –able and –ible words ending in –ably and –ibly S38 – adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable
10	suggestion	1	S47 – endings that sound like /fən/, spelt –tion, –sion, –ssion, –cian
11	angrily	1	S43 – the suffix –ly
12	alteration	1	S42 – the suffix –ation
13	reindeer	1	S52 – words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey
14	residential	1	S54 – endings which sound like /ʃəl/
15	anchor	1	S48 – words with the /k/ sound spelt <i>ch</i>
16	plaque	1	S50 – words ending with the $/g/$ sound spelt – gue and the $/k/$ sound spelt – que
17	jealousy	1	S46 – the suffix –ous
18	flourish	1	S40 – the /n/ sound spelt ou
19	disappointed	1	S41 – prefixes
20	receiving	1	S58 – words with the /i:/ sound spelt <i>ei</i> after <i>c</i>
Total 20		20	



Key stage 2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling mark schemes

Paper 1: questions and Paper 2: spelling

Electronic PDF version product code: STA/25/8916/e ISBN: 978-1-83507-268-4

For more copies

Printed copies of this booklet are not available. It can be downloaded after the test window from www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-past-test-materials.

© Crown copyright

The materials in this booklet are Crown copyright. You may re-use them (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium in accordance with the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0, which can be found on the National Archives website and accessed via the following link: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence.



If you have any queries regarding these test materials, please contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 or email assessments@education.gov.uk.