

2026 national curriculum tests

Key stage 2

English grammar, punctuation and spelling

Paper 1: questions

First name						
Middle name						
Last name						
Date of birth	Day		Month		Year	
School name						
DfE number						



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Please do not write on this page.



Instructions

Questions and answers

There are different types of question for you to answer in different ways. The space for your answer shows you what type of answer is needed. Write your answer in the space provided. Do not write over any barcodes.

Multiple-choice answers

For some questions, you do not need to do any writing. Read the instructions carefully so that you know how to answer each question.

Short answers

Some questions are followed by a line or a box. This shows that you need to write a word, a few words or a sentence.

Marks

The number under each line at the side of the page tells you the number of marks available for each question.

You should work through the booklet until you are asked to stop.

Work as quickly and as carefully as you can. If you finish before the end, go back and check your work.

You have 45 minutes to answer the questions in this booklet.



1

Which sentence must end with a **question mark**?

Tick **one**.

Orla wants to know when you are coming to the cinema with us

Will Orla buy tickets for all of us

I will ask Mum if I can come today

I need to find out what time the film starts

1 mark

2

Which sentence is the most **formal**?

Tick **one**.

Come on – find a seat!

Sit down, won't you?

Have a sit-down.

Please be seated.

1 mark



3

Draw a line to match each word to the correct **suffix**.
Use each suffix only once.

Word	Suffix
develop	ness
outrage	less
weak	ment
power	ous

1 mark

4

Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

Tick **one**.

Flo – my youngest – sister is in year three.

Flo – my youngest sister – is in year three.

Flo my youngest – sister – is in year three.

Flo my youngest sister – is in year – three.

1 mark



5

Which sentence uses a **colon** correctly?

Tick **one**.

Plants cannot live without: these three things light, water and nutrients.

Plants cannot live: without these three things light, water and nutrients.

Plants cannot live without these: three things light, water and nutrients.

Plants cannot live without these three things: light, water and nutrients.

1 mark

6

Which sentence is **not** written in **Standard English**?

Tick **one**.

We were all at the skate park yesterday evening.

Jay did a brilliant trick on his skateboard.

I am not as good at them tricks as Jay is.

Jay said he would show me how to improve.

1 mark



7

Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

Tick **one**.

We saw horses from the train window?

Look at that horse!

What a lovely sight it was?

Where are the horses.

1 mark

8

Which word is a **synonym** of apparent in the sentence below?

It was apparent that Yasir had worked hard on his model.

Tick **one**.

curious

surprising

exciting

obvious

1 mark



9

Which sentence uses a **comma** correctly after a **fronted adverbial**?

Tick **one**.

According to the weather forecast, it will be sunny this afternoon.

Whatever, the cost she was determined that she would own a horse one day.

Unfortunately he overslept and, missed the school trip to the Science Museum.

This is a new game that we learnt, in PE today.

1 mark

10

Draw a line to match each word to its **synonym**.

Word

Synonym

vast

nasty

unpleasant

small

agreeable

enormous

tiny

pleasant

1 mark



11

Circle the more **formal** option in each underlined pair in the sentence below.

We are writing to ask / request that you consider / think about

using some of the proceeds / money from the school fair to

buy / purchase a wooden bench for the playground.

1 mark

12

Insert a pair of **brackets** in the correct place in the sentence below.

Pepper a black cat from York hid in the back of his owner's

car for a whole night.

1 mark



13

Tick one box to show which verb is in the wrong **tense** in the sentence below.

When you use watercolour paints, it is important that you begin with

lighter shades and built up colour gradually.

1 mark

14

Insert a **pair of commas** in the correct place in the sentence below.

She decided although she was feeling tired that she would still go to Rita's party.

1 mark



15

Explain how the change of **modal verb** affects the meaning of the second sentence.

1. We will walk home from the station.
2. We might walk home from the station.

1 mark

16

What is the grammatical term for the underlined part of the sentence below?

You cannot borrow books from the local library unless you are a member.

Tick **one**.

- a preposition phrase
- a subordinate clause
- a main clause
- a noun phrase

1 mark



17

Tick one box in each row to show whether each sentence is a **statement**, a **command** or an **exclamation**.

Sentence	Statement	Command	Exclamation
How I hate tidying my bedroom			
Your bedroom is always neat and tidy			
Before we go out on our bikes, help me tidy my bedroom			

1 mark

18

Circle the **conjunction** in the sentence below.

Salma decided to cook dinner while her mum enjoyed a rest after a tiring day at work.

1 mark



19

Which sentence uses the **past progressive**?

Tick **one**.

What did you do?

What are you doing?

What were you doing?

What could you have done?

1 mark

20

Draw a line to match each **prefix** to a word to form its **antonym**.
Use each prefix only once.

Prefix

im

in

dis

de

Word

direct

loyal

construct

perfect

1 mark



21

Which option completes the sentence in the **past perfect**?

_____ before school.

Tick **one**.

I eat breakfast

I was eating breakfast

I had eaten breakfast

I have eaten breakfast

1 mark

22

Circle the three **verbs** in the sentence below.

Jackson waited for everyone else to choose their food before he served himself.

1 mark



23

Insert a **relative pronoun** to complete the sentence below.

The gymnast, _____ has represented his country at the Olympics, will visit our sports club next week.

1 mark

24

Insert **inverted commas** in the correct places in the passage below.

Imran looked up from the microscope . I can see the bacteria really clearly ! he exclaimed .

1 mark



25

Rewrite the underlined verbs so that they are in the **simple past**.

The plane flies high above the clouds, while the passengers sit

↓

↓

in their seats and relax.

↓

1 mark

26

Underline the **relative clause** in the sentence below.

One of the greatest inventions was the wheel, which first appeared over 5000 years ago.

1 mark



27

Insert a **semi-colon** in the correct place in the sentence below.

The lovely county of Cornwall has a long, rugged coastline its secluded coves provide safe, sheltered harbours.

1 mark

28

Write the **contracted form** of the underlined words in the boxes below.

I never send my aunt emails because she does not own a

↓

computer. I send her letters instead, but they do not reach her

↓

for several days. I hope she will come and visit us soon.

↓

1 mark



29

Tick one box to show which word is a **preposition** in the sentence below.

The bridge over the stream was broken so we had to paddle across.

1 mark

30

Insert a **dash** in the correct place in the sentence below.

My fruit salad will include strawberries, blueberries
and grapes they're so delicious.

1 mark



31

Complete the sentence below with a word from the same **word family** as motivated.

The girl was motivated to go swimming every day.

Her _____ was the chance to swim for her county.

1 mark

32

In which sentence is right an **adjective**?

Tick **one**.

Rani wanted to make the right decision.

We went right to the top of the tower.

You have the right to fair treatment.

Kyle tried to right his mistakes.

1 mark



33

Insert two **apostrophes** in the correct places in the sentence below.

Toms one of those boys whos always happy
to help .

1 mark

34

Circle the **subordinating conjunction** in the sentence below.

Unfortunately, the youth club will be closed until we have
completed the repairs and replaced the sports equipment.

1 mark



35

Insert a **hyphen** in the correct place in the sentence below.

After the long shopping trip, we did not have a lot of time to cook dinner, so we bought a ready made pasta sauce and garlic bread.

1 mark

36

Sam wants to know what time the game starts.
Write a **question** he could ask to find out.
Remember to punctuate your sentence correctly.

1 mark



37

Label each box with **subject (S)** or **object (O)**.

When Seema reached the playground, she greeted her friends.

↑
□

↑
□

↑
□

↑
□

1 mark

38

Explain how the **comma** changes the meaning of the second sentence.

1. We often eat lunch near the pond in the park or under the trees.
2. We often eat lunch near the pond, in the park or under the trees.

1 mark



39

Circle the three **nouns** in the sentence below.

They were so excited about going to Cardiff that they wouldn't let the bad weather dampen their enthusiasm.

1 mark

40

Insert **capital letters** and **full stops** in the correct places in the passage below.

camels live in the desert they can survive extremes of temperature and manage without food for a long time although some camels have one hump, others have two

1 mark

41

Rewrite the sentence below in the **active**. Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

The trees are being harmed by pollution.

1 mark



42

Circle the **possessive pronoun** in the passage below.

Sandip introduced me to the new girl in year 6, whose name was Rashida. She had forgotten to bring a pen so I gave her one of mine.

1 mark

43

Underline the longest **noun phrase** in the sentence below.

The beautiful grey elephants walked slowly through the forest.

1 mark



44

Which sentence uses the **subjunctive**?

Tick **one**.

If I were to look inside the box, what would I find?

If I had to choose my favourite food, I would choose pizza.

If your soup is too hot, wait for it to cool down.

If you are late, you might miss the bus.

1 mark

45

Rewrite the sentence below in the **passive**.
Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

Rabia broke the mug.

1 mark

46

Underline the **adverbial** in the sentence below.

I'm going to visit my uncle at the weekend.

1 mark



47

Which sentence is an **exclamation**?

The punctuation at the end of each sentence has been removed.

Tick **one**.

That's my favourite band

This music is too loud

What a brilliant song this is

Let's dance

1 mark

48

Circle the two **co-ordinating conjunctions** in the sentence below.

Because my brother couldn't decide whether to wear trainers or boots, we left late and almost missed the bus.

1 mark



49

Circle the two **adverbs** in the passage below.

I'll always remember the day that we won the cup. Dad and I sang jubilantly as we walked through the park.

1 mark

50

Circle the three **determiners** in the sentence below.

I go to the swimming pool every week with my best friend Peter.

1 mark





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