

2025 national curriculum tests

Key stage 1

English grammar, punctuation and spelling test mark schemes

Paper 1: spelling

Paper 2: questions



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Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Structure of the test	3
3. Content domain coverage	3
4. Internal moderation procedures	3
5. Paper 1: spelling	4
5.1 Content domain coverage for Paper 1: spelling	4
5.2 General marking guidance for Paper 1: spelling	4
5.3 Pupil version of Paper 1: spelling	5
6. Mark schemes for Paper 1: spelling	6
7. Paper 2: questions	7
7.1 Content domain coverage for Paper 2: questions	7
7.2 General marking guidance for Paper 2: questions	8
7.3 Explanation of the mark schemes for Paper 2: questions	10
8. Mark schemes for Paper 2: questions	11

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 optional tests assess the national curriculum. This test has been developed to meet the specification set out in the [test framework](#)¹ for English grammar, punctuation and spelling at key stage 1.

This key stage 1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test is not statutory. The key stage 1 tests can be marked internally within schools to inform teacher assessment. The evidence from the test can be used to help inform this teacher assessment.

A new test and new mark schemes are produced each year.

Scaled score conversion tables are not included in this document. Conversion tables are produced as part of the standards maintenance process. [Scaled score conversion tables](#)² for the 2025 tests will be published in June 2025.

The mark schemes should be used to mark pupils' responses. The pupil examples are based on responses gathered from the test trialling process. It is important when marking to refer to the general marking principles, the additional guidance and the exemplars section to ensure marking is accurate and consistent.

2. Structure of the test

The optional key stage 1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test materials comprise:

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

3. Content domain coverage

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

4. Internal moderation procedures

We recommend those who are involved in marking the key stage 1 tests undertake moderation activity to ensure marking is consistent across their school.

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

² www.gov.uk/guidance/scaled-scores-at-key-stage-1

5. Paper 1: spelling

5.1 Content domain coverage for Paper 1: spelling

This information is provided in the mark schemes in Table 1.

5.2 General marking guidance for Paper 1: spelling

The following guidance applies to all questions in Paper 1. Please read this carefully before applying the individual mark schemes.

- If a pupil makes more than one attempt, it must be clear which answer the pupil wishes to be marked.
- If a pupil makes two or more attempts and it is not clear which answer should be considered, the mark is not awarded.
- Pupils 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 with an initial capital letter for the mark to be awarded.
- If a pupil has answered with the correct sequence of letters but has incorrectly inserted an apostrophe or a hyphen, the mark is not awarded.
- If a 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.
- If a pupil uses a reversed letter, it must be unambiguous for the award of the mark. Markers may refer to the pupil's handwriting in the rest of the paper to decide whether or not the letter is ambiguous.
- Crossed-out answers that have not been replaced by a further attempt should not be awarded the mark.

5.3 Pupil version of Paper 1: spelling

Spelling	
P. There was a big _____ in the garden.	<input type="radio"/>
1. Cows and sheep _____ in fields.	<input type="radio"/>
2. The buildings are very _____.	<input type="radio"/>
3. I want to _____ my snack for after school.	<input type="radio"/>
4. Some ducks go _____ in the winter.	<input type="radio"/>
5. Andy _____ the tennis match.	<input type="radio"/>
6. _____ the table before art.	<input type="radio"/>
7. The rabbit is _____ around the field.	<input type="radio"/>
8. We are having _____ with our dinner.	<input type="radio"/>
9. We took our dog for a _____.	<input type="radio"/>
10. There are _____ pens in the box.	<input type="radio"/>
Page 2 of 4	

11. The teacher _____ for a helper.	<input type="radio"/>
12. It is _____ for bats to be awake at night.	<input type="radio"/>
13. The laptop is _____ a lot.	<input type="radio"/>
14. My cat finds the _____ place to sleep.	<input type="radio"/>
15. The _____ trail was fun.	<input type="radio"/>
16. We have a _____ path at our school.	<input type="radio"/>
17. They drank orange _____ after sport.	<input type="radio"/>
18. On _____ we have history.	<input type="radio"/>
19. There are three bones in your _____.	<input type="radio"/>
20. Sarah chose a healthy _____ for lunch.	<input type="radio"/>
End of spelling test	
Page 3 of 4	

6. Mark schemes for Paper 1: spelling

Information relating to the content domain reference codes can be found in the key stage 1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test framework.

Table 1: Mark schemes and content domain references for Paper 1

Qu.	Spelling	M.	Primary content domain reference	Secondary content domain reference
1	live	1	S4 – the /v/ sound at the end of words	S8 – vowel digraphs and trigraphs
2	tall	1	S1 – the sounds /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/, /k/ spelt <i>ff</i> , <i>ll</i> , <i>ss</i> , <i>zz</i> and <i>ck</i>	S27 – the /ɔ:/ sound spelt <i>a</i> before <i>l</i> and <i>ll</i>
3	save	1	S4 – the /v/ sound at the end of words	S8 – vowel digraphs and trigraphs
4	south	1	S8 – vowel digraphs and trigraphs	
5	won	1	S36 – homophones and near-homophones	S28 – the /ʌ/ sound spelt <i>o</i>
6	cover	1	S28 – the /ʌ/ sound spelt <i>o</i>	
7	hopping	1	S26 – adding <i>-ing</i> , <i>-ed</i> , <i>-er</i> , <i>-est</i> and <i>-y</i> to words of one syllable ending in a single consonant letter after a single vowel letter	
8	rice	1	S15 – the /s/ sound spelt <i>c</i> before <i>e</i> , <i>i</i> and <i>y</i>	S8 – vowel digraphs and trigraphs
9	walk	1	S27 – the /ɔ:/ sound spelt <i>a</i> before <i>l</i> and <i>ll</i>	S11 – using <i>k</i> for the /k/ sound
10	many	1	S37 – common exception words	S9 – words ending in <i>-y</i> (/i:/ or /ɪ/)
11	asked	1	S6 – adding the endings <i>-ing</i> , <i>-ed</i> and <i>-er</i> to verbs where no change is needed in the root word	S11 – using <i>k</i> for the /k/ sound
12	normal	1	S20 – the // or /ə/ sound spelt <i>-al</i> at the end of words	S8 – vowel digraphs and trigraphs
13	worth	1	S31 – the /ɜ:/ sound spelt <i>or</i> after <i>w</i>	
14	warmest	1	S32 – the /ɔ:/ sound spelt <i>ar</i> after <i>w</i>	S7 – adding <i>-er</i> and <i>-est</i> to adjectives where no change is needed in the root word
15	fitness	1	S34 – the suffixes <i>-ment</i> , <i>-ness</i> , <i>-ful</i> , <i>-less</i> and <i>-ly</i>	
16	gravel	1	S19 – the // or /ə/ sound spelt <i>-el</i> at the end of words	
17	squash	1	S30 – the /ɒ/ sound spelt <i>a</i> after <i>w</i> and <i>qu</i>	
18	Tuesday	1	S13 – the days of the week	S8 – vowel digraphs and trigraphs
19	ankle	1	S18 – the // or /ə/ sound spelt <i>-le</i> at the end of words	S2 – the <i>ŋ</i> sound spelt <i>n</i> before <i>k</i>
20	option	1	S35 – words ending in <i>-tion</i>	
Total marks		20		

7. Paper 2: questions

7.1 Content domain coverage for Paper 2: questions

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

Table 2: Content domain coverage for Paper 2

	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6
Qu.	Grammatical terms or word classes	Functions of sentences	Combining words, phrases and clauses	Verb tenses and consistency	Punctuation	Vocabulary
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		1	
19		1				

7.2 General marking guidance for Paper 2: questions

To ensure consistency of marking, the most frequent procedural queries are listed in Table 3, along with the action you should take. The following guidance applies to all questions in Paper 2. Please read this carefully before applying the individual mark schemes.

Table 3: General marking principles for Paper 2

Question type	Accept	Do not accept
Tick boxes and tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any unambiguous indication of the correct answer, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the box is crossed rather than ticked the correct answer is circled rather than ticked correct answers that replace a crossed-out attempt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> answers in which more than the required number of boxes have been ticked
Circling of the answer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any unambiguous indication of the correct answer, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the answer is underlined the answer is enclosed within a box the answer is circled together with part of a surrounding word 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> answers in which more than the required number of words have been circled answers in which the correct answer is circled, together with the whole of any surrounding words
Drawing lines to 'match' boxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lines that do not touch the boxes, provided the intention is clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> multiple lines drawn to or from the same box (unless this is a question requirement)
Writing or inserting punctuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> correctly formed punctuation that is clear, unambiguous and recognisable as the required punctuation mark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> punctuation that is ambiguous, for example, it is unclear whether the mark is a comma or full stop

Key stage 1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test mark schemes

Question type	Accept	Do not accept
Additional punctuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> answers that are punctuated correctly according to the mark scheme, even if additional punctuation has been attempted incorrectly <p>Pupils may try to use inverted commas around spoken words. This is beyond the key stage 1 programme of study and should not be taken into account when considering whether the answer is correct according to the mark scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> answers that do not meet the mark scheme criteria
Spelling (in Paper 2 only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> incorrect spellings of the correct answer, unless specific mark scheme guidance is given to require a correct spelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> incorrect spellings of answers for which the mark scheme requires correct spelling <p>For questions assessing contracted forms, verb forms, plurals, prefixes and suffixes, correct spelling is generally required.</p>
Answers outside the expected space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>For answers in both the expected space (e.g. the tick box) and elsewhere, the intended answer space takes precedence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> answers that are given outside the expected space and are contradicted by another answer written elsewhere

Key stage 1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test mark schemes

Question type	Accept	Do not accept
More than one answer given	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> multiple answers that are all correct according to the mark scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> both correct and incorrect responses given
Handwriting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> answers that are clear, unambiguous and recognisable, including letters that have been reversed, but which are still clearly identifiable to the marker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> answers that are unclear or ambiguous
Capital letters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> capital letters that are clear and unambiguous <p>Where letters do not have unique capital letter forms, the height of the capital letter will be the same as, or greater than, that of letters with ascenders.</p> <p>Markers may refer to the pupil's handwriting in the rest of the paper to distinguish between upper and lower case letters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> answers in which capital letters are omitted or placed inappropriately in a sentence, or where an entire word is capitalised <p>Where a pupil needs to write, rewrite or complete a sentence, the correct use of capital letters is required.</p>
Crossed-out answers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> correct answers that replace a crossed-out attempt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> crossed-out answers

7.3 Explanation of the mark schemes for Paper 2: questions

Those marking the tests should familiarise themselves with the marking guidance in section 7.2 of this document before applying the mark schemes.

The practice questions are not marked as they are completed by the pupils together with the test administrator as an introduction to the test.

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 this question
- any additional guidance that may be relevant.

8. Mark schemes for Paper 2: questions

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
1	<p>Tick the correct word to complete the sentence below.</p> <p><i>I wanted to read my book _____ it was too dark.</i></p> <p>Award 1 mark for the correct box ticked.</p> <p>if <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>but <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>or <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>that <input type="checkbox"/></p>	1m
2	<p>Add the correct punctuation mark in the box below.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for a question mark inserted in the box.</p> <p><i>Where are the pens and pencils</i> <input <="" p="" type="text" value="?"/> </p>	1m
3	<p>Circle one word in the sentence below that can be replaced with the word <u>because</u>.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for the correct word identified.</p> <p><i>Ava wore her sun hat (when) it was hot.</i></p>	1m
4	<p>Add a full stop to mark the two sentences below.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for a full stop after <i>dog</i>.</p> <p><i>My friend has a dog. I have a cat and a goldfish.</i></p>	1m
5	<p>What does the apostrophe in the word <u>Dean's</u> show?</p> <p><i>Dean's new trainers are white.</i></p> <p>Award 1 mark for the correct box ticked.</p> <p>The new trainers belong to Dean. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The word has some missing letters. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>It shows a pause in the sentence. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Dean's is a plural word. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	1m

Key stage 1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test mark schemes

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
6	<p>Circle one word in each box to complete the sentences in the past tense.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for both correct words identified.</p> <p>The children saw the farm animals and sit <u>sat</u> on the</p> <p>tractor. The farmer <u>showed</u> shows them the controls.</p>	1m
7	<p>Tick the two sentences that must end with a question mark.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for both correct boxes ticked.</p> <p>What a great time we had on the trip <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yesterday, I asked my friend to stay <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Who has he invited to the party <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Is anyone else coming today <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>When I get home, I will read my book <input type="checkbox"/></p>	1m
8	<p>What type of word is underlined in the sentence below?</p> <p>Dad wrote a <u>short</u> list before he went shopping.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for the correct box ticked.</p> <p>a verb <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>a noun <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>an adjective <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>an adverb <input type="checkbox"/></p>	1m
9	<p>Add a suffix to make the word <u>proud</u> an adverb.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for the letters <i>ly</i> written in lower case.</p> <p>Seth walked proudly across the stage.</p> <p>Also award the mark for <i>proudly</i> written out in full with the suffix spelt correctly.</p>	1m

Key stage 1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test mark schemes

Qu.	Requirement	Mark								
10	<p>Write the words <u>do not</u> as one word, using an apostrophe.</p> <p><i>I <u>do not</u> like the toy.</i></p> <p>Award 1 mark for <i>don't</i> spelt correctly.</p> <table><tr><th>Accept</th><th>Do not accept</th></tr><tr><td><u>don't</u></td><td>do'nt</td></tr><tr><td>don't</td><td><u>don't</u></td></tr><tr><td><u>Don't</u></td><td>do'nt</td></tr></table> <p>Additional guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mark positively in relation to the size and position of the apostrophe as some pupils at this age may have uneven handwriting.The response can be written in upper or lower case or a mixture of the two.	Accept	Do not accept	<u>don't</u>	do'nt	don't	<u>don't</u>	<u>Don't</u>	do'nt	1m
Accept	Do not accept									
<u>don't</u>	do'nt									
don't	<u>don't</u>									
<u>Don't</u>	do'nt									
11	<p>Add two commas to the sentence below in the correct places.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for a comma after <i>English</i> and a comma after <i>Polish</i>.</p> <p><i>My teacher can understand English, Polish, Urdu and sign language.</i></p> <p>Do not accept the insertion of additional punctuation.</p>	1m								
12	<p>What type of word is underlined in the sentence below?</p> <p><i>Anita and her dad <u>cleaned</u> the car.</i></p> <p>Award 1 mark for the correct box ticked.</p> <p>a noun <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>a verb <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>an adjective <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>an adverb <input type="checkbox"/></p>	1m								
13	<p>Add two letters to the word <u>finished</u> to make a word that means <u>not finished</u>.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for the letters <i>un</i> written in lower case.</p> <p><i>The teacher told me to put my unfinished work in the tray.</i></p> <p>Also award the mark for <i>unfinished</i> written out in full with the prefix spelt correctly.</p>	1m								

Key stage 1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test mark schemes

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
14	<p>Add one exclamation mark in the correct place below.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for an exclamation mark after <i>is</i>.</p> <p><i>How wet it is! Will I need my wellies today?</i></p> <p>Do not accept the insertion of additional punctuation.</p>	1m
15	<p>Tick the sentence where the underlined word is a noun.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for the correct box ticked.</p> <p>The <u>big</u> ball bounced over the gate. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Jo chased the ball across the <u>field</u>. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>She <u>quickly</u> threw the ball to her friend. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Her friend <u>kicked</u> the ball. <input type="checkbox"/></p>	1m
16	<p>Which sentence uses capital letters correctly?</p> <p>Award 1 mark for the correct box ticked.</p> <p>Alice and I went to the Cinema. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Last month We visited Spain. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Hedgehogs come out at Night. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The weather was warm last Friday. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	1m
17	<p>Add a suffix to the word <u>colour</u> to complete the sentence below.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for the letters <i>ful</i> written in lower case.</p> <p><i>The costume was very colourful with bright red ribbons.</i></p> <p>Also award the mark for <i>colourful</i> written out in full with the suffix spelt correctly.</p>	1m

Key stage 1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test mark schemes

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
18	<p>Write a statement using only the four words in the box.</p> <p>Remember to use correct punctuation.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0; text-align: center;"> <i>children can the sing</i> </div> <p>Award 2 marks for a grammatically correct statement using only the four words and with correct punctuation (see additional guidance), i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The children can sing.</i> • <i>The children can sing!</i> <p>Also award 2 marks for a grammatically correct statement which does not use all four words and with correct punctuation (see additional guidance), e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Children can sing.</i> • <i>The children sing!</i> • <i>Children sing.</i> <p>Award 1 mark for a grammatically correct statement using only the four words with incorrect punctuation, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The children can sing</i> • <i>the children can sing.</i> • <i>the Children can sing?</i> <p>Also award 1 mark for a grammatically correct statement which does not use all four words with incorrect punctuation, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>children can sing.</i> • <i>the children sing</i> • <i>Children sing</i> <p>Do not accept other sentence types, e.g. <i>Can the children sing?</i></p> <p>Additional guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct punctuation refers to correct capitalisation throughout the sentence and an end full stop or exclamation mark – other additional punctuation should not be penalised. • Incorrect spelling should not be penalised, unless a misspelling creates a grammatically incorrect sentence, e.g. <i>The children can sings.</i> • Attempts to punctuate the whole sentence as direct speech should not be penalised. 	2m
19	<p>The sentences below have their punctuation marks covered.</p> <p>Which sentence is an exclamation?</p> <p>Award 1 mark for the correct box ticked.</p> <p>Sasha, are you nearly ready ● <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>What are we going to do today ● <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>We need a packed lunch ● <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>What great fun we had ● <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	1m



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