2025 national curriculum tests

Key stage 1

English reading test mark schemes

Paper 1: reading prompt and

answer booklet

Paper 2: 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 optional test assesses 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 1. It assesses the aspects of comprehension that lend themselves to a paper test.

This key stage 1 reading test is not statutory. The key stage 1 tests can be marked internally within schools to inform teacher assessment. The evidence from the tests 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. <u>Scaled score conversion tables</u>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 during 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 reading test comprises:

- Paper 1: reading prompt and answer booklet (20 marks)
 combined booklet that integrates the reading texts and answer booklet (lower demand)
- Paper 2: reading answer booklet (20 marks)
 reading booklet with a separate answer booklet (higher demand).

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-english-reading-test-framework

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

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.

Some questions assess more than one area of the content domain. Any secondary content domain references are indicated in the mark schemes.

Table 1: Content domain coverage for Paper 1

	1a	1b	1c	1d	1e
	Draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts.	Identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.	Identify and explain the sequence of events in texts.	Make inferences from the text.	Predict what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far.
Qu.		Section	on 1: Slow Down,	Sami!	
1				1	
2		1			
3				1	
4				1	
5		1			
6		1			
7	1				
8		1			
9		1			
10				1	
		Sect	tion 2: Helpful Anir	mals	
11		1			
12		1			
13				1	
14				1	
15		1			
16	1				
17	1				
18		1			
19		1			
20				1	

Table 2: Content domain coverage for Paper 2

	1a	1b	1c	1d	1e
	Draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts.	Identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information.	Identify and explain the sequence of events in texts.	Make inferences from the text.	Predict what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far.
Qu.		Section 1	1: The History of Id	e Cream	
1		1			
2	1				
3	1				
4				1	
5		1			
6	1				
7		1			
8		1			
9		2			
		Section :	<mark>2: A New Room fo</mark>		
10				1	
11		1			
12		1			
13		1			
14		2			
15		1			
16		1			
17				2	

4. Explanation of the mark schemes

Those marking the test should familiarise themselves with the marking guidance in section 4.1 of this document before applying the mark schemes.

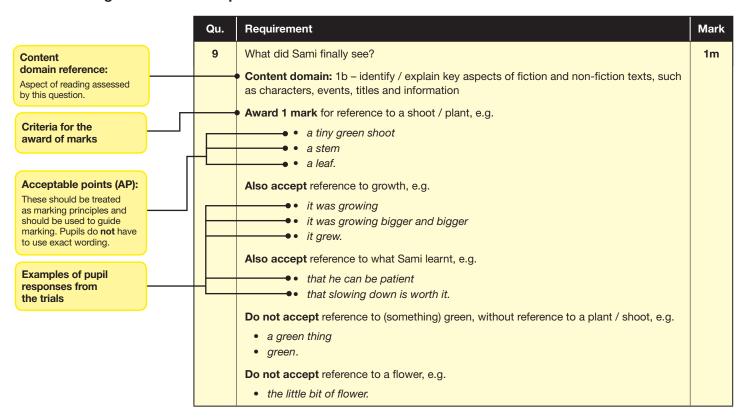
The number of marks available for each item is indicated below the marking circles on the test papers. All questions in Paper 1 are worth 1 mark and questions in Paper 2 are worth either 1 or 2 marks. Incorrect or unacceptable answers are given a mark of 0. No half marks are awarded.

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
- the number of marks available for each question
- what is required to answer each question, including correct answers and examples of different types of creditworthy response
- any additional guidance that may be relevant, including unacceptable responses, where appropriate
- the content domain reference and, if applicable, the secondary content domain reference.

The diagram below exemplifies the content of the mark schemes:



4.1 Applying the mark schemes

The table below explains the key features of the key stage 1 English reading test mark schemes:

Mark scheme	Explanation
■ Square bullets	Square bullets indicate acceptable points that can be credited in a pupil's response. They must be treated as marking principles, not as the exact response a pupil needs to give.
Round bullets	Round bullets indicate examples of frequently occurring responses given by pupils during trialling. There are many ways for pupils to express an acceptable answer. Those marking the test must focus on the content of what has been written and not on the quality, expression or grammatical construction of the response.
Use of brackets in acceptable points	Brackets provide additional information that is relevant to the required response, but is not required for the award of the mark.
Do not accept	Do not accept indicates commonly occurring but incorrect answers that should not be credited.
Possible ambiguity	Pupils who write a correct and an incorrect answer should be awarded the mark(s) for the correct answer. This principle must be carefully applied in conjunction with the mark scheme for each question.
Minor copying errors and plausible misspellings	Minor copying errors and plausible misspellings are permitted in responses to all questions.
'Find and copy' questions	For 'find and copy' questions, introductions such as 'the answer is ()' or 'it is ()' and plausible misspellings are permitted.
Use of brackets in 'find and copy'	For 'find and copy' questions, the correct answer is indicated by the word(s) outside the brackets. The word(s) inside the brackets indicate any additional word(s) allowable for the award of the mark. The words inside the brackets are not creditworthy if given alone.
Tick boxes and tables	Accept any clear indication of the correct response, including crosses, underlining and circling answers.
Drawing lines to 'match' boxes	Accept lines that do not touch the boxes, providing the intention is clear.
Circling or underlining	Accept any clear indication of the correct response, including ticks, underlining and circling answers.

5. Internal moderation procedures

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

6. Mark schemes for Paper 1: reading prompt and answer booklet

Requirement	Mark
Who was Mr Goff?	1m
Content domain: 1d - make inferences from the text	
Award 1 mark for reference to (Sami's) teacher, e.g.	
a teacher	
the class teacher.	
Also accept reference to any other plausible adults in a school setting, e.g.	
_	
	Who was Mr Goff? Content domain: 1d – make inferences from the text Award 1 mark for reference to (Sami's) teacher, e.g. • a teacher • the class teacher. Also accept reference to any other plausible adults in a school setting, e.g. • teaching assistant

2	What did Mr Goff ask the class to do?	1m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information	
	Award 1 mark for reference to giving in their homework, e.g.	
	 he asked them to give in their homework give me your homework hand in your homework bring your homework. 	
	Also accept reference to getting their homework out, e.g. take out your homework to get their homework out get your homework.	
	 Do not accept reference to homework without a relevant action, e.g. homework their homework your homework. 	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
3	What made Sami knock into the flowerpot?	1m
	Content domain: 1d - make inferences from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to the cat, e.g.	
	 Fara's cat he tripped over the cat he fell on the cat he didn't see the cat. 	
	Also accept reference to Sami rushing, e.g.	
	 he was rushing he was racing he was running. 	
	Do not accept reference to Sami not looking where he is going without reference to the cat, e.g.	
	 because he didn't look he did not see it. 	

4	After Sami broke the flowerpot, Fara was	1m
	Content domain: 1d - make inferences from the text	
	Award 1 mark for:	
	angry. surprised.	
	sad. kind.	

5	What had Fara put in the flowerpot?	1m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information	
	Award 1 mark for reference to a seed, e.g.	
	 she planted a little seed inside there was a seed in it. 	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
6	Why did Sami need to slow down when he was looking after the present?	1m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information Secondary content domain: 1d – make inferences from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to either of the acceptable points below:	
	■ Sami could miss something special / miss the plant grow, e.g.	
	 because he would miss watching the seed grow into a plant so he wouldn't miss something special because Sami would miss the surprise so he did not miss it. 	
	Sami being able to see something special / see the plant grow, e.g.	
	 so he can see it grow he can watch something special happen so he could see what happens. 	
	Also accept reference to watching the flowerpot closely / taking the time to look at it, e.g.	
	 watch closely watch it carefully so he could look carefully at the flowerpot. 	
	Also accept reference to plants taking time to grow, e.g.	
	because plants need time to grow.	
	Do not accept reference to (not) breaking it, e.g.	
	so it didn't smash into piecesso it doesn't break.	

7	"Nothing special is happening," he sighed.	1m
	This tells you Sami was feeling	
	Content domain: 1a - draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts	
	Award 1 mark for:	
	worried. happy.	
	relaxed. disappointed. 🗸	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
8	What did Dad tell Sami to do?	1m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information	
	Award 1 mark for reference to telling Sami to keep trying / watching, e.g.	
	 try again try again the next day watch it again tomorrow. 	
	Also accept reference to suggesting Sami should be patient, e.g.	
	waitbe patientgive it time.	
	Do not accept reference to slowing down, e.g.	
	take your timeslow down.	
	Do not accept reference to the quotation: It might take some time, e.g.	
	• it will take time.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
9	What did Sami finally see?	1m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information	
	Award 1 mark for reference to a shoot / plant, e.g.	
	a tiny green shoota stema leaf.	
	Also accept reference to growth, e.g.	
	it was growingit was growing bigger and biggerit grew.	
	Also accept reference to what Sami learnt, e.g.	
	 that he can be patient that slowing down is worth it. 	
	Do not accept reference to (something) green, without reference to a plant / shoot, e.g.	
	a green thinggreen.	
	Do not accept reference to a flower, e.g.	
	the little bit of flower.	

10 He gasped.	1m
This tells you that Sami	
Content domain: 1d – make inferences from the text	
Award 1 mark for:	
could not believe what he saw.	
wanted to go back to rushing around.	
thought he should carry on waiting.	
was scared of what was in the pot.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
11	How many guide dogs start their jobs every year in the UK?	1m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information	
	Award 1 mark for reference to 850 (guide dogs).	
	Please note a reversed digit is acceptable if it is clearly recognisable as the digit intended. You should make a decision based upon your knowledge of the pupil's writing.	

How do guide dogs help their owners to walk safely?

Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information

Secondary content domain: 1d – make inferences from the text

Award 1 mark for reference to preventing their owners from bumping into things and / or stepping into the road, e.g.

• they stop their owners from getting run over.

Also accept general references to avoiding hazards, e.g.

• they look out for things.

Do not accept reference only to the dogs guiding (their owners), e.g.

• they guide their owners

• by guiding

• they show them where to go.

13	Which sounds are hearing dogs trained to listen for?	1m
	Content domain: 1d – make inferences from the text	
	Award 1 mark for:	
	quiet sounds	
	sounds that no one can hear	
	important sounds	
	sounds that dogs make	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
14	Why is it difficult for dogs to become hearing dogs?	1m
	Content domain: 1d - make inferences from the text	
	Award 1 mark for:	
	They have to learn for a long time.	
	Dogs cannot hear very well.	
	They have to learn to be guide dogs first.	
	No one knows how to train them.	

15	Some blind people cannot have guide dogs.	1m
	Why not?	
	Write one reason.	
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information	
	Award 1 mark for reference to either of the acceptable points below:	
	■ people being allergic, e.g.	
	because some people are allergic to dogsallergic.	
	■ people being frightened, e.g.	
	 they're afraid because they're scared frightened. 	
	Also accept reference to the quotation: Guide dogs are not suitable for everyone, e.g.	
	they are not suitable.	

Award 1 mark for:

games.

visits.

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
16	Find and copy one word that means the same as 'small'.	1m
	Content domain: 1a - draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts	
	Award 1 mark for miniature.	
17	many of the tasks	1m
	The word tasks means the same as	

Content domain: 1a - draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts

	jobs. vicks.	
18	Why is it useful for guide horses to be strong?	1m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information	
	Award 1 mark for reference to them being able to carry things (for their owners), e.g.	
	so the owners don't need to carry their stuff	
	so they can carry a special basket	
	 because they hold their owner's pannier 	
	they carry heavy stuff.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
19	Why are ferrets good animals to travel with?	1m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information Secondary content domain: 1a – draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts Award 1 mark for: They are relaxed. They move quickly. They like hiding. They are soft.	

20	Why are ferrets good at cheering people up?	1m
	Content domain: 1d - make inferences from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to either of the acceptable points below:	
	■ ferrets being friendly	
	■ ferrets giving their owners a lot of attention, e.g.	
	because they like to give their owners lots of attention.	
	Do not accept reference to other implied characteristics, e.g.	
	they are soft	
	they are funny	
	they are good pets.	
	Do not accept reference to them being calm / easy to travel with, e.g.	
	they can be calm animals	
	they are relaxed.	

7. Mark schemes for Paper 2: reading answer booklet

Section 1: The History of Ice Cream

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
1	What did people in ancient China use to make ice cream?	1m
	Write two things.	
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information	
	Award 1 mark for reference to either of the acceptable points below: ■ (frozen) milk ■ (frozen) rice.	
	Please note that some pupils will give both answers on the same line. This is acceptable and should be awarded 1 mark, e.g.	
	milk and rice.	
2	The week a company of the company of	
_	The recipe was so precious	1m
_	This tells you the recipe was	1m
_		1m
_	This tells you the recipe was	1m
_	This tells you the recipe was Content domain: 1a – draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts Award 1 mark for:	1m
	This tells you the recipe was Content domain: 1a – draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts Award 1 mark for: sweet.	1m
	This tells you the recipe was Content domain: 1a – draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts Award 1 mark for: sweet. cold.	1m
	This tells you the recipe was Content domain: 1a – draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts Award 1 mark for: sweet. cold. horrible.	1m
	This tells you the recipe was Content domain: 1a – draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts Award 1 mark for: sweet. cold.	1m
3	This tells you the recipe was Content domain: 1a – draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts Award 1 mark for: sweet. cold. horrible.	1m
	This tells you the recipe was Content domain: 1a – draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts Award 1 mark for: sweet. cold. horrible. special.	

Content domain: 1a - draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts

Award 1 mark for tricky.

Section 1: The History of Ice Cream

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
4	Look at the section: Ice cream cones.	1m
	Luckily, another man was selling waffles	
	Why was this lucky for the ice cream seller?	
	Content domain: 1d – make inferences from the text	
	Award 1 mark for:	
	He wanted to eat a waffle.	
	He did not like his dishes.	
	He could keep selling his ice cream.	
	He had an idea for a new flavour.	
5	Look at the section: Exciting flavours.	1m
	What special name is used for an ice cream cafe?	
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such	
	as characters, events, titles and information	
	Award 1 mark for (ice cream) parlour.	
6	Look at the section: Exciting flavours.	1m
	Find and copy one word that means the same as 'strange'.	
	Content domain: 1a – draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts	
	Award 1 mark for unusual.	
	Award I mark for unusual.	
7	What was used to hold a penny lick?	1m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such	
	as characters, events, titles and information	
	Award 1 mark for reference to a glass cup, e.g.	
	• glass	
	• cup.	
	Do not accept reference to a cart, e.g.	
	from carts.	

Section 1: The History of Ice Cream

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
8	Draw three lines to complete each sentence with the correct country.	1m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information Award 1 mark for all three lines joined to the correct boxes:	
	The most ice cream is eaten in the United States of America.	
	The tallest ice cream cone was made in New Zealand.	
	Ice Cream Day takes place in	

9 Think about the whole text. Up to 2m Put ticks in the table to show which sentences are **true** and which are **false**. Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information Award 2 marks for all four boxes ticked correctly; award 1 mark for three boxes ticked correctly. True False People like lime ice cream more than any other flavour. People think ice cream cones were invented in the United States of America. The King of England held a feast in his castle.

A penny lick is a new ice

cream flavour.

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
10	At the beginning of the story, William had	1m
	Content domain: 1d – make inferences from the text	
	Award 1 mark for:	
	just moved house.	
	climbed a tree.	
	decorated his room.	
	made a new friend.	
		_
11	When did Mum and William go shopping?	1m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information	
	Award 1 mark for reference to the next day, e.g.	
	• next day.	
12	In the shop, which wallpaper did William want first?	1m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information	
	Award 1 mark for reference to William wanting the same wallpaper that he had in his old room, e.g.	
	the same as he had before	
	his old room's wallpaperhis old one.	
13	Look at the paragraph beginning: When they went home	1m
	What did William take out of the boxes?	
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information Secondary content domain: 1d – make inferences from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to toys / model dinosaurs, e.g.	
	modelsdinosaurs.	

Qu.	Requirement				Mark
14	Think about the whole story.				Up to
	Put ticks in the table to show which	sentences	are true and	d which are false .	2m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / exp as characters, events, titles and info Secondary content domain: 1d – r	rmation			
	Award 2 marks for all four boxes ticked correctly.	cked correc	tly; award 1	mark for three boxes	
		True	False		
	There were pictures in William's old room.	1			
	William could see a small tree from his window.		1		
	Mum thought decorating the room would make it look better.	1			
	There was a climbing frame in William's new garden.		1		

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
15	Where did Tom live?	1m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information	
	Award 1 mark for reference to next door, e.g.	
	next door to William	
	the house next door	
	• next to William.	

16	What did William do in the garden to pretend to be a dinosaur?	1m
	Content domain: 1b – identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information Secondary content domain: 1d – make inferences from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to any of the acceptable points below:	
	■ stomped.	
	■ made a growling / roaring noise, e.g.	
	 grrrr! he made a dinosaur noise he made a noise. 	
	■ said "I'm a fierce dinosaur".	
	Do not accept reference to things Tom did, e.g.	
	 rarr! 'I'm an even fiercer dinosaur' he rarred! and grrrred! 	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
17	Think about the whole story.	Up to
	Why did William like his new house in the end?	2m
	Write two reasons.	
	Content domain: 1d - make inferences from the text	
	Award 1 mark for reference to any of the acceptable points below up to a maximum of 2 marks.	
	■ William making a new friend / having someone to play with / his new neighbour, e.g.	
	 his friend he had Tom to play with he lived next door to another little boy he had someone to go on the climbing frame with. 	
	■ William's room, e.g.	
	 his mum decorated it his room looked nice the curtains wallpaper. 	
	■ Having his (dinosaur) toys around him, e.g.	
	 he liked the toys he put all his dinosaurs out the dinosaurs there were dinosaurs everywhere. 	
	■ Tom's climbing frame, e.g.	
	 William could play on Tom's climbing frame there was a new climbing frame there. 	
	Please note that some pupils will give more than one acceptable answer on the same line. This is acceptable and should be awarded 2 marks, e.g.	
	because his new room and the climbing frame.	

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Key stage 1 English reading test mark schemes

Paper 1: reading prompt and answer booklet and Paper 2: reading answer booklet

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