

2025 national curriculum tests

# Key stage 1

## English reading

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

First name	
Middle name	
Last name	

Total marks	
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# Slow Down, Sami!

Sami was always in a hurry. On Friday morning, he zoomed into the kitchen.

BAM!

Sami bumped into Dad who dropped the pancakes on the floor.

“Slow down, Sami!” said Dad.



## Practice questions

**a** Which word means the same as *zoomed*?

Tick **one**.

jumped

☐

ran

☐

crept

☐

stamped

☐

**b** Where was Dad?

---

Sami ran all the way to school and flew into the classroom.

“Everyone, please give me your homework,” said Mr Goff.

Sami groaned. “I was in such a hurry that I left it on my bed.”

Mr Goff shook his head. “Not again, Sami! That’s the third time this week. You need to slow down.”



1 Who was Mr Goff?

---



1 mark

2 What did Mr Goff ask the class to do?

---



1 mark

On Saturday, Sami's cousin, Fara, asked him to help in the garden. Sami raced outside. He did not see Fara's cat curled by the door.

CRASH!

He knocked into a flowerpot which smashed into pieces.

"Sorry, Fara," said Sami. "Everyone is always telling me to slow down."

"Maybe I can help," said Fara gently.



3

What made Sami knock into the flowerpot?

---



1 mark

4

After Sami broke the flowerpot, Fara was...

Tick **one**.

angry.

☐

surprised.

☐

sad.

☐

kind.

☐


1 mark

The next morning, Fara brought a present for Sami. It was another flowerpot.

“I’ve planted a little seed inside,” she said with a twinkle in her eye. “Take the time to look at it and you will see something special. But you’ll have to slow down and watch it closely or you might miss it.”



5 What had Fara put in the flowerpot?

---



1 mark

6 Why did Sami need to slow down when he was looking after the present?

---

---



1 mark



Sami waited.

“Nothing special is happening,” he sighed.

“Try again tomorrow. It might take some time,” said Dad. The next day, Sami sat down again to watch the flowerpot. He jiggled his arm. He shook his leg. Sami was not used to sitting still. But the flowerpot stayed as it was.



7

*“Nothing special is happening,” he sighed.*

This tells you Sami was feeling...

Tick **one**.

worried.

☐

happy.

☐

relaxed.

☐

disappointed.

☐


1 mark

8

What did Dad tell Sami to do?

---



1 mark

Days passed. Sami did not give up.

He waited and waited. Then, one afternoon, he saw a tiny green shoot peeping out of the pot. He gasped.

“Mum! Dad!” he shouted. “Come and look!” Then he sat back and smiled. Maybe slowing down was worth it after all.



9 What did Sami finally see?

---



1 mark

10 *He gasped.*

This tells you that Sami...

Tick **one**.

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.

☐


1 mark

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**Please do not start answering the questions on  
the next text until you are told to do so.**

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# Helpful Animals

Humans have always lived with animals. Pictures of humans with dogs have been found on cave walls. These pictures were painted thousands of years ago.

Today, many people keep animals as pets. If you have a pet, you have to look after it. However, did you know that some animals can look after their owners too?



a picture on a cave wall

## Practice questions

**c** What type of animal has been found in pictures on cave walls?

\_\_\_\_\_

**d** *These pictures were painted thousands of years ago.*

This tells you the pictures are...

Tick **one**.

pretty.

☐

old.

☐

brown.

☐

big.

☐

## Guide dogs

The best-known animal helpers are probably guide dogs. They help people who are blind or who cannot see well. Every year in the UK, 850 guide dogs start their jobs after training for over 12 months.



Guide dogs help their owners to walk safely by making sure they do not bump into things or step into the road. The best guide dogs have to be obedient so they are easier to train. They also have to be friendly.

**11** How many guide dogs start their jobs every year in the UK?

---



1 mark

**12** How do guide dogs help their owners to walk safely?

---

---



1 mark

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## Hearing dogs

Dogs can help people in other ways. Hearing dogs help people who are deaf or who cannot hear well. They can let their owner know when they hear sounds like alarms, doorbells or phones ringing. Hearing dogs need to be trained for a long time before they can start their work, just like guide dogs.



**13** Which sounds are hearing dogs trained to listen for?

Tick **one**.

quiet sounds

☐

sounds that no one can hear

☐

important sounds

☐

sounds that dogs make

☐

1 mark



**14**

Why is it difficult for dogs to become hearing dogs?

Tick **one**.

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.

☐

1 mark

## Guide horses

Guide dogs are not suitable for everyone who is blind or cannot see well. Some people are allergic to dogs or frightened of them. Luckily, other animals, such as miniature horses, can help. A miniature horse is a type of horse that is quite small. People can't use normal-sized horses because they are too big to go in their houses.



**15** Some blind people cannot have guide dogs.

Why not?

Write **one** reason.

---



1 mark

**16** Find and **copy one** word that means the same as 'small'.

---



1 mark

Miniature horses are sometimes called guide horses because they can do many of the tasks that guide dogs do. They are strong so they can carry things for their owners using a special basket called a pannier.



17

...many of the tasks...

The word *tasks* means the same as...

Tick **one**.

games.

☐

visits.

☐

jobs.

☐

tricks.

☐


1 mark

18

Why is it useful for guide horses to be strong?

---



---



1 mark

## Ferrets

A ferret is a small animal that can be kept as a pet. Surprisingly, ferrets can also be helpful to humans. People can train ferrets to wake up their owners to remind them to take medicine.



They can be calm animals so they are easy to travel with. Ferrets are very friendly and like to give their owners lots of attention. They are used to help cheer people up who feel sad.

**19** Why are ferrets good animals to travel with?

Tick **one**.

They are relaxed.

☐

They move quickly.

☐

They like hiding.

☐

They are soft.

☐

1 mark

**20** Why are ferrets good at cheering people up?

---

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1 mark

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