

2026 national curriculum tests

Key stage 1

English reading

Administering the modified large print (MLP) version of Paper 2: reading booklet and reading answer booklet

Key stage 1 tests are designed to be taken at the end of the key stage 1 programme of study. It is suggested that schools administer the tests during **May**, to help inform the support that can be given to pupils ahead of their transition to key stage 2.

Schools may choose to administer the non-statutory key stage 1 tests under test conditions. To help maintain the integrity of the tests for those doing so, we ask that all schools treat all test materials as confidential until **June 2026**.

Pack contents:

- Administration instructions for the MLP key stage 1 English reading test
Paper 2: reading booklet and reading answer booklet (overleaf)
- One copy of the MLP Paper 2: reading booklet
- One copy of the MLP Paper 2: reading answer booklet

For test administration

Key stage 1 English reading test

The key stage 1 English reading test consists of 2 papers. The papers should be administered in order. Pupils do not have to sit both papers on the same day. If both papers are administered on the same day, pupils may benefit from a break between papers. Both papers can be administered to the whole class, smaller groups of pupils or on an individual basis.

Paper 2: reading booklet and reading answer booklet

The following information explains how to administer the modified large print (MLP) version of the key stage 1 English reading test: Paper 2 reading booklet and reading answer booklet. Modified test administration guidance is available at www.gov.uk/sta.

Pupils should be given the opportunity to attempt Paper 2, but administrators can stop individual pupils at any stage of the test if they are struggling.

Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paper 2 consists of a reading booklet and a separate answer booklet. All pupils should be given an unused reading booklet. Do not re-use reading booklets if you administer the test to groups of pupils at different times. ● It is expected that the standard version of the test will take approximately 40 minutes to complete, but it is not strictly timed. Pupils using MLP versions are automatically entitled to up to 100% additional time. ● It is at your discretion to choose when, or if, a pupil requires a break during the test or whether, if appropriate, to stop the test early. ● The layout of the MLP version of the reading booklet may vary from the standard booklet. Minor changes have also been made to the layout and wording of some questions. ● This paper does not include practice questions or lists of useful words. ● You should not refer to the standard test questions when administering this test.
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each pupil will need the equipment specified below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a pencil or blue or black pen. ● Rubbers are allowed, but please encourage pupils to cross out answers they wish to change instead of rubbing them out. ● Pupils may use the following, if this is normal classroom practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - computers, technical or electronic vision aids, including low-vision aids such as closed-circuit television or OCR scanners - monolingual English electronic spell checkers, provided they do not give definitions of words - highlighter pens. ● Pupils should not use a dictionary or thesaurus. ● You may give pupils additional paper if they request it.

Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You should ensure that nothing you say or do during the test could be interpreted as giving pupils an advantage, for example, indicating that an answer is correct or incorrect, or suggesting the pupil look at an answer again. You may help pupils to identify and interpret any pictorial information within the booklet. The English reading test should not be read to individuals or to a group, except for the general instructions below. If a pupil asks a question about test content, you should not explain any words or expressions. The example below illustrates how to deal with a common situation: <p>Question: I don't understand the question. Answer: Read the question again and underline the words that tell you what to do.</p>
Guidance for specific questions	<p>Some minor additional text has been added to help explain visual information or information shown through pictures.</p> <p>Test administrators may show pupils with visual impairment an example of real bamboo if they have this available.</p> <p>Q11. Test administrators may help pupils to locate answer spaces within the table.</p> <p>While question layout has been amended in the MLP version, there are no amendments to the mark scheme and all questions should be marked in accordance with the standard mark scheme.</p>
Before the test begins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the list of pupils with particular individual needs, for example, pupils who may need a rest break, a scribe or a transcript made at the end of the test. Ensure you know how to administer any access arrangements correctly by referring to the key stage 1 access arrangements guidance.
What to do at the start of the test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check that seating is appropriately spaced and that no pupil can see another pupil's answer booklet. Check that pupils do not have mobile phones or other disruptive items. Check that pupils do not have any materials or equipment that may give them extra help. Ensure each pupil who needs it has an MLP copy of the reading booklet and a copy of the MLP reading answer booklet.

How to introduce the test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You should use these instructions to introduce the paper. The wording of these instructions can be adapted, provided the meaning is retained. <p><i>This is the English reading test: Paper 2.</i></p> <p><i>The test will take around 80 minutes. This includes your additional time allowance.</i></p> <p><i>Paper 2 doesn't contain any practice questions and I'm not going to read any of the pages aloud to you this time.</i></p> <p><i>There will be different types of question to answer, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• writing an answer on a line</i> <i>• putting ticks in a table</i> <i>• putting a tick in a box next to the answer you think is correct.</i> <p><i>The questions contain a page number in brackets. This is the page in the reading booklet where you can find the information you need to answer the question.</i></p> <p><i>Try to answer as many questions as you can. If you can't answer a question, you should move on to the next one and come back to it later on if you have time. If you start to find the reading or the questions too hard, you should stop working.</i></p> <p><i>If you want to change an answer, you should rub it out or put a line through the answer you don't want to be marked.</i></p> <p><i>You need to work quietly on your own. You need to think of your own answers and you should not talk about them with anyone else.</i></p> <p><i>Read the questions carefully and check your work.</i></p> <p><i>If you have any questions during the test, put your hand up and wait for me/someone to come over to you. Remember, I/we can't help you answer any of the test questions or read any of the words to you.</i></p> <p><i>Do you have any questions?</i></p> <p><i>Write your name on the front of the answer booklet.</i></p> <p><i>Now start the test.</i></p>
What to do at the end of the test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you need to make a transcript of a pupil's test script, complete it with the individual pupil at the end of the test, under test conditions. Particular care should be taken to ensure accurate transcriptions are made and the pupil's answers are not corrected or amended.
Marking the tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the key stage 1 test mark schemes to mark the test, following both the general guidance and any specific guidance for each question. There are no modified mark scheme amendments for this test paper. Be sympathetic to the fact that the handwriting of pupils with visual impairment may be of inconsistent size and formation. They may also have difficulty circling or ticking answers. Award marks where there is a clear and unambiguous indication of the correct answer.

[BLANK PAGE]

This page is intentionally blank.

[BLANK PAGE]

This page is intentionally blank.

[BLANK PAGE]

This page is intentionally blank.



Standards
& Testing
Agency

Key stage 1 English reading

Administering the modified large print (MLP) version of

Paper 2: reading booklet and reading answer booklet

Print version product code: STA/26/9040/p ISBN: 978-1-83507-587-6

Electronic version product code: STA/26/9040/e ISBN: 978-1-83507-599-9

For more copies

Additional copies of this modified large print test paper can be ordered by contacting the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013. It can be downloaded from www.ncaportal.education.gov.uk during May 2026, or afterwards from www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-past-test-materials.

© Crown copyright

The texts and images have been incorporated into this test booklet solely for the purposes of the examination in accordance with Section 32 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, as amended by the Copyright and Rights in Performances (Research, Education, Libraries and Archives) Regulations 2014. No copyright or clearance for any other use has been obtained or sought.

Re-use of third-party copyright content in test materials

You must obtain permission from the relevant copyright owners, as listed in the 'key stage 1 tests copyright report', for re-use of any third-party copyright content which we have identified in this booklet. Alternatively, you should remove the unlicensed third-party copyright content and/or replace it with appropriately licensed material.

All other 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.



The texts used in national curriculum assessments are carefully selected to ensure that they are suitable for pupils. Please note, however, that they are often taken from wider materials and you should review the content from the source material before using it with your pupils.

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.