2025 national curriculum tests

Key stage 2

English reading

Reading answer booklet

48pt MODIFIED LARGE PRINT

Note to markers

There is additional guidance on marking some questions in this paper in the Key stage 2 English reading amendments to mark schemes –   
MLP document.

First name

Middle name

Last name

Date of birth

Day Month Year

School name

DfE number

Instructions

Questions and answers

You have 1 hour, plus your additional time allowance, to complete this test, answering the questions in the answer booklet.

Read one text and answer the questions about that text before moving on to read the next text. There are three texts and three sets of questions.

In this booklet, there are different types of question for you to answer in different ways. The space for your answer shows what type of answer is needed. Write your answer in the space provided.

* Short answers

This shows that you only need to write a word or a few words in your answer.

* Sentence answers

This shows that you need to write more words or a sentence or two.

* Longer answers

This shows that a longer, more detailed answer is needed. You can write in full sentences if you want to.

* Selected answers

For some questions you do not need to write anything at all and you should tick, draw lines to or circle your answer. Read the instructions carefully so that you know how to answer the question.

Marks

After each question, the type of answer required and the maximum number of marks is shown in [brackets].

As this is a reading test, you must use the information in the texts to help you to answer the questions. When a question includes a page reference, you should refer to the text on that page to help you with your answer.

**[BLANK PAGE]**

The test continues on the next page.

Questions 1 – 13 are about

A Life-changing Game

(pages 4 – 14)

1. How did Phiona make money for   
   her family?

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. An intriguing game

Which word is closest in meaning to

intriguing?

[Go to next page]

Tick one. [1 mark]

exciting

popular

challenging

interesting

1. How can you tell that people in Uganda were not familiar with chess?

[short answer, 1 mark]

**[BLANK PAGE]**

The test continues on the next page.

1. Read the sections: A challenging upbringing and An intriguing game. (pages 6 – 8)

Write either T for True or   
F for False in each box.

[2 marks]

Phiona left school once she had   
learnt to read.

Phiona grew up in a place   
called Katwe.

Phiona discovered chess before   
her brother.

Phiona walked six kilometres a   
day to learn about chess.

1. Look at page 9.  
     
   According to the text, what is it important to have when learning something new?  
   [sentence answer, 1 mark]  
     
   [Go to next page]

1. Look at the section: Coaching a champion. (pages 9 – 11)

Find and copy one word which   
tells us that Robert was enthusiastic   
about football.

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Look at the section: Coaching a champion. (pages 9 – 11)

Why did Robert start teaching chess?

[sentence answer, 1 mark]

[Go to next page]

1. Look at the section: Coaching a champion. (pages 9 – 11)

Why did Phiona play carelessly when she started playing chess?

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Read the paragraph beginning:

Robert spotted Phiona’s potential . . . (page 11)

Find and copy one word which tells us Phiona did well in chess.

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Look at the section: A roaring success. (page 12)

Phiona’s skills in chess took her abroad.

Why?

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Look at the section: A roaring success. (page 12)

How long had Phiona been playing   
chess when she won her first   
international competition?

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Look at the section: Watching her next move. (pages 13 – 14)

The text says that Phiona caught the attention of a journalist . . .

This means that . . .

[Go to next page]

Tick one. [1 mark]

Phiona recognised the journalist.

a journalist noticed Phiona.

Phiona became a journalist.

a journalist interviewed Phiona.

1. Look at the whole text.

Complete the table on the following   
page with the year in which each   
event happened.

[short answer, 1 mark]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Year |
| Phiona discovered chess. |  |
| **Phiona left her home country for the first time.** |  |
| A film telling Phiona’s  story was released. |  |

Questions 14 – 27 are about  
In the Cave  
(pages 15 – 25)

1. “It’s just a rock. They’re all rocks, you can . . .”

What made Tom realise that what he was looking at wasn’t actually a rock?

Write two things.

[short answers, 2 marks]

1.

2.

1. Read the paragraph beginning:  
   He stopped . . . (pages 15 – 16)

This paragraph creates a sense of . . .

[Go to next page]

Tick one. [1 mark]

certainty.

relief.

mystery.

panic.

1. What stopped Tom from working out what the writing was?

[short answer, 1 mark]

**[BLANK PAGE]**

The test continues on the next page.

1. Look at page 18.

He was beckoning to Tom, and staring intently in front

of him.

Which word is closest in meaning to beckoning?

Tick one. [1 mark]

signalling

reacting

replying

walking

1. Look at pages 18 – 19.

He was beckoning to Tom, and staring intently in front  
of him.

What was Geoff staring at?

[short answer, 1 mark]

**[BLANK PAGE]**

The test continues on the next page.

1. “I just sat down and it   
   came on.” (page 19)

What was Geoff trying to do when he  
said this?

[Go to next page]

Tick one. [1 mark]

pretend nothing is happening

boast about what he has done

tease Tom about the lights

refuse to take the blame

1. Read the paragraph beginning:   
   Silently, Tom climbed in . . .

to the paragraph ending:

. . .“I wonder what it is?”

(pages 20 – 22)

How does the text show that the object might be a machine?

Write two ways.

[short answers, 2 marks]

1.

2.

1. Look at the page 21.

And that was that.

What does this sentence suggest?

[Go to next page]

Tick one. [1 mark]

The boys couldn’t escape.

The boys were disappointed.

The object had gone silent.

The object could cook food.

1. “It’s . . .” Tom shrugged. “Well, it’s a machine.”

Why did Tom shrug?

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Write the numbers 1 – 4 to show the order in which the events happened in the text.

[1 mark]

Geoff realised the lights were buttons.

Orange lights began to switch on across the panel.

Geoff noticed a green light on the surface.

The object started making noises.

1. Look at page 23.

How did Geoff work out that the lights were buttons?

Write one way.

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Look at the whole text.

What does the text tell you about   
the lights?

[Go to next page]

Tick two. [1 mark]

where they are placed

what colour they are

how many did not work

what they are used for

1. What impressions do you get of Tom’s  
   and Geoff’s personalities?

Write one impression for each boy, using evidence from the text to   
support each answer.

[longer answers, 3 marks]

Tom Impression

Evidence

Geoff Impression

Evidence

1. Look at page 25.

Reluctantly, Geoff sat back and thought about it.

What does this suggest about the way Geoff felt?

[Go to next page]

Tick one. [1 mark]

He wanted to think about it.

He was worried about the button.

He didn’t agree with Tom.

He had decided to press the button.

Questions 28 – 40 are about   
Longbow Girl  
(pages 26 – 38)

1. Read the first paragraph beginning:  
   Merry stepped forward . . .

How did Merry try to prepare herself   
for her turn?

Write one way. [short answer, 1 mark]

1. Read the paragraph beginning:   
   Merry took her stance . . .

(page 29)

The crowd had fallen silent.

[Go to next page]

Why was the crowd silent?

[sentence answer, 1 mark]

1. It seemed to take long seconds to fly home   
   to its target.

Why did Merry feel as though her   
arrow took a while to reach the target?

[Go to next page]

Tick one. [1 mark]

She really wanted to know the result.

She was not strong enough.

The crowd was starting to feel worried.

The bow was too old to shoot well.

1. She turned, walked back from the line as the crowd, which had been stunned into silence, started to clap.

Why was the crowd stunned?

[Go to next page]

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Read the paragraph beginning:

She turned . . . (page 32)

Merry did not smile straight away.

[Go to next page]

Why not?

[sentence answer, 1 mark]

1. Look at pages 32 – 33.

Write two pieces of evidence that   
show the marshal was shocked by   
Merry’s first round.

[sentence answers, 2 marks]

[Go to next page]

1.

2.

1. Read the paragraph beginning:   
   “In round two,”. . . (page 34)

[Go to next page]

1. In what way was round two different from the first round?

Write one way.

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Why were the rules changed after   
   the first round?

Write one reason.

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Read the first paragraph beginning:

The atmosphere became . . .

(page 34)

What was the prize for winning the  
archery competition?  
[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Read the paragraph beginning:

She waited till . . . (page 36)

What made Merry worry that her bow might be close to breaking?

[sentence answer, 1 mark]

[Go to next page]

1. Look at page 38.

Only then did she smile.

Why was Merry happy at this point in   
the text?

Write two reasons.

[sentence answers, 2 marks]

1.

2.

1. Merry won the competition because she was an experienced archer.

How can you tell that she was experienced?

Write two ways, using evidence from the text to support each answer.

An example has been done for you.

[longer answers, 3 marks]

Example:

Reason:

She had the strength to do it.

Evidence:

She was able to pull the bow back to its fullest extension.

1. Reason

[Go to next page]

Evidence

2. Reason

[Go to next page]

Evidence

1. How can you tell that the marshal had changed his opinion of Merry by the   
   end of the story?

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. “We have an outright winner,” he declared.

Which of the following is closest in meaning to outright?

[Go to next page]

Tick one. [1 mark]

lucky

predictable

disappointing

clear

**[BLANK PAGE]**

End of test

Key stage 2 English reading  
48 point A3 modified large print reading answer booklet  
  
**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. After the test window, it can be downloaded 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 2 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.

The 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](http://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.](mailto:assessments@education.gov.uk)