

The spelling test

The following conventions should be followed when marking spelling:

- if more than one attempt is made, it must be clear which version the pupil wishes to be marked
- spellings can be written in upper or lower case, or a mixture of the two
- if a word has been written with the correct sequence of letters but these have been separated into clearly divided components, with or without a dash, the mark is not awarded
- if a word has been written with the correct sequence of letters but an apostrophe or hyphen has been inserted, the mark is not awarded.

The words omitted from the pupils' spelling test are those printed in **bold** in the version below.

Dragons

The dragon is a creature belonging to the world of mythology, legend and **fantasy**. We find **stories** about dragons in the Chinese, European and South American **cultures** and many others. They are **associated** with wisdom and long life, and are often said to be more **intelligent** than humans.

In Chinese history, a dragon was the symbol of the emperor and of good luck. The traditional Chinese New Year parade includes a group of people who wind through the streets **wearing** a large dragon costume.

Some dragons are **considered** to be **dangerous**, but many other tales have **majestic** dragons that look for or give help, or interact with the **characters** in a peaceful way.

Dragons are often drawn to look like dinosaurs and other **extinct** animals.

Many people **believe** a dragon:

- is big and **impressive**
- has up to four legs, claws, **scales**, spikes on its back, a tail and a long neck
- sometimes has wings and is able to fly
- can quite often **breathe** fire
- hatches from an egg.

The dragon is the **emblem** of the capital city of Slovenia and can be spotted in many places, from the licence plates on cars to a **bridge** which is embellished with four dragons.

There are several lizards that have the name 'dragon', the best known being the Komodo Dragon. These creatures are restricted to a few small **islands** in Indonesia, where they rule **supreme**. They can run as fast as a dog for short **stretches** and have deadly bacteria in their mouths which they use to kill prey.

Quick reference mark scheme for the spelling test

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. fantasy | 11. extinct |
| 2. stories | 12. believe |
| 3. cultures | 13. impressive |
| 4. associated | 14. scales |
| 5. intelligent | 15. breathe |
| 6. wearing | 16. emblem |
| 7. considered | 17. bridge |
| 8. dangerous | 18. islands |
| 9. majestic | 19. supreme |
| 10. characters | 20. stretches |

Scoring spelling

The conversion table below is also replicated on the cover of the test booklet. The mark out of 20 can be converted to a mark out of seven, using the conversion table below.

Number of correct words	Spelling test mark
0	0
1-3	1
4-6	2
7-9	3
10-12	4
13-15	5
16-18	6
19-20	7