2023 national curriculum tests



# English grammar, punctuation and spelling test mark schemes

Paper 1: questions Paper 2: spelling



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## **1. Introduction**

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) is responsible for the development and delivery of statutory tests and assessments. STA is an executive agency of the Department for Education.

The 2023 tests assess the national curriculum. This test has been developed to meet the specification set out in the <u>test framework</u><sup>1</sup> for English grammar, punctuation and spelling at key stage 2.

A new test and new mark schemes will be produced each year.

Key stage 2 tests are marked by external markers, who receive training to ensure the mark schemes are applied consistently and fairly. The mark schemes are provided to show teachers how the tests are marked. The pupil examples are based on responses gathered from the test trialling process.

Scaled score conversion tables are not included in this document. Conversion tables will be produced as part of the standards maintenance process. <u>Scaled score conversion tables</u><sup>2</sup> for the 2023 tests will be published in July 2023. The standards confirmation meeting will take place in June 2023.

### 2. Structure of the test

The key stage 2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test comprises:

- Paper 1: questions (50 marks)
- Paper 2: spelling (20 marks)

## 3. Content domain coverage

The 2023 test meets the specification in the test framework. Tables 1 and 3 set out the areas of the content domain that are assessed in Paper 1 and Paper 2.

<sup>1</sup> www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-english-grammar-punctuation-and-spelling-test-framework

<sup>2</sup> www.gov.uk/guidance/scaled-scores-at-key-stage-2

## 4. Paper 1: questions

#### 4.1 Content domain coverage for Paper 1: questions

Table 1 sets out the content domain coverage for questions in Paper 1. Information relating to the codes in Table 1 can be found in the key stage 2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test framework.

#### Table 1: Content domain coverage for questions in Paper 1

	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	G7
	Grammatical terms or	Functions of	Combining words,	Verb forms, tenses and	Punctuation	Vocabulary	Standard English
Qu.	word classes	sentences	phrases and clauses	consistency			and formality
1		1					
2		1					
3						1	
4					1		
5							1
6						1	
7				1			
8					1		
9							1
10						1	
11					1		
12	1						
13					1		
14							1
15				1			
16					1		
17					1		
18				1			
19				1			
20	1						
21					1		
22	1						

	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	G7
	Grammatical terms or	Functions of	Combining words,	Verb forms, tenses and	Punctuation	Vocabulary	Standard English
Qu.	word classes	sentences	phrases and clauses	consistency			and formality
23		1					
24					1		
25	1						
26					1		
27		1					
28					1		
29					1		
30			1				
31					1		
32	1						
33			1				
34					1		
35	1						
36	1						
37					1		
38					1		
39			1				
40	1						
41						1	
42	1						
43					1		
44			1				
45						1	
46	1						
47				1			
48	1						
49				1			
50	1						

### 4.2 General marking guidance for Paper 1: questions

To ensure consistency of marking, the most frequent procedural queries are listed in Table 2, along with the action the marker will take.

#### **Recording marks awarded**

Marking takes place on screen, with markers viewing scanned images of pupils' responses. Marks are entered into the marking system in accordance with the guidance for the on-screen marking software.

For each question, markers record the award of 1 or 0 marks as appropriate, according to the mark scheme criteria. There is provision in the software to record questions not attempted. The software aggregates marks automatically.

The following guidance applies to all questions in Paper 1.

#### Table 2: General marking principles for Paper 1

Question Type	Accept	Do not accept
Tick boxes and tables	<ul> <li>any unambiguous indication of the correct answer, for example:</li> <li>the box is crossed rather than ticked</li> <li>the correct answer is circled rather than ticked</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>answers in which more than the required number of boxes have been ticked</li> </ul>
Circling or underlining of the answer	<ul> <li>any unambiguous indication of the correct answer, such as the answer being enclosed within a box</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>answers in which more than the required number of words have been circled or underlined</li> <li>answers in which the correct answer is circled or underlined, together with any surrounding words</li> </ul>
Drawing lines to 'match' boxes	<ul> <li>lines that do not touch the boxes, provided the intention is clear</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>multiple lines drawn to or from the same box (unless this is a question requirement)</li> </ul>
Labelling	<ul> <li>clear labels, whether they use the full vocabulary required by the question or an unambiguous abbreviation, for example, 'V' for 'verb'</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>ambiguity in labelling, for example, the use of 'AD' or 'A' where a distinction is required between 'adjective' and 'adverb'</li> </ul>

Question Type	Accept	Do not accept
Punctuation	<ul> <li>correctly formed punctuation that is clear, unambiguous and recognisable as the required punctuation mark</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>punctuation that is ambiguous, for example, if it is unclear whether the mark is a comma or full stop</li> </ul>
Sentences and capital letters	<ul> <li>a sentence that has an initial capital letter and an appropriate punctuation mark indicating the end of the sentence</li> <li>capital letters that are clear and unambiguous</li> <li>Where letters do not have unique capital letter forms, the height of the capital letter will be equal to, or greater than, that of letters with ascenders.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>answers in which capital letters are omitted or placed inappropriately in a sentence, or where an entire word is capitalised</li> </ul>
Spelling	<ul> <li>incorrect spellings of the correct response if no specific mark scheme guidance is given</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>incorrect spellings of answers for which the mark scheme requires correct spelling</li> <li>Correct spelling is required for the award of the mark for the majority of questions in Paper 1, especially for questions assessing contracted forms, verb forms, plurals, prefixes and suffixes.</li> </ul>

Question Type	Accept	Do not accept
Answers outside the expected space	<ul> <li>a correct answer given somewhere other than the answer space, provided it is not contradicted by another answer written elsewhere</li> <li>correct answers that are written in the 'blank' within a question, rather than in the expected space below it</li> <li>correct answers in which the pupil has written out a word or sentence that is already provided</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>answers that are given outside the expected space and contradicted by another answer written elsewhere</li> </ul>
More than one answer given	<ul> <li>multiple answers that are all correct according to the mark scheme</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>responses where both correct and incorrect answers are given</li> </ul>
Handwriting	<ul> <li>answers that are clear, unambiguous and recognisable, including letters that have been reversed, but which are still clearly identifiable to the marker</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>answers that are unclear or ambiguous</li> </ul>
Crossed-out answers	<ul> <li>correct answers that replace a crossed-out attempt</li> </ul>	crossed-out answers

### 4.3 Explanation of the mark schemes for Paper 1: questions

The mark schemes contain the following information for each question:

- the question number
- the question from the test paper
- what is required to answer each question either a correct answer or examples of different types of creditworthy response
- how many marks are available for the question
- any additional guidance that may be relevant
- the content domain reference

## 5. Mark schemes for Paper 1: questions

Qu.	Requirement			N	Mark
<b>1</b> G2.3	Run as fast as you can.				1m
<b>2</b> G2.4	Award 1 mark for all four correct.			_	1m
G2.2	Sentence	Exclamation	Question		
	How disappointing it was that it rained on sports day	1			
	How many times have you been to the swimming pool this week		1		
	How will you spend your summer holidays		<b>v</b>		
	How kind you are to give me this present	1			
3	Award 1 mark for all four correct.				1m
G6.3	Word S	Suffix			
	social	ish			
	relation	al			
	child	ise			
	season	ship			
<b>4</b> G5.5	Award 1 mark for a correctly placed	comma.			1m
03.5	We will be planting seeds, making a p	oond and looking	for snails.		

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
5	Award 1 mark for all three correct.	1m
G7.1	The autumn leaves was /were crunching beneath our feet as we	
	walked along.	
	We done / did a great job in picking the juiciest fruit for our pie.	
	My brother didn't do anything / nothing to help us.	
<b>6</b> G6.1 G6.4	proper improper 🖌	1m
<b>7</b> G4.1c	Lara will go swimming on Saturday.	1m
<b>8</b> G5.9	<b>Award 1 mark</b> for a correctly placed pair of brackets. Charlotte (who usually hated getting wet) loved splashing about in the sea.	1m
<b>9</b> G7.2 G7.3	It is essential that you take all your belongings with you.	1m
10	Award 1 mark for the correct words circled.	1m
G6.1	Rita was overjoyed when she won the competition with her	
	exceptional drawing - her mum was delighted too!	
<b>11</b> G5.9	Charlie's party, which was at the ice rink, was really enjoyable.	1m
<b>12</b> G1.2	The children <u>plant</u> beans in the school garden.	1m

Qu.	Requirement				Mark	
13	Award 1 mark for a correctly placed colon.					
G5.10 G3.1	Dipti is keen to practise the drun the school band.	ns: she wants to play	/ in			
<b>14</b> G7.3 G7.4 G7.2	I requested that he telephone m	e on arrival.			1m	
<b>15</b> G4.1a	Award 1 mark for both correct.				1m	
G1.2	I usually <u>feed</u> my cat before I <u>eat</u> breakfast.					
	Do not accept misspellings.					
	There are no capitalisation requirements for this question.					
16	Award 1 mark for a correctly pla	aced dash.			1m	
G5.12 G3.1	The house was in need of repair and the roof was leaking.	- the windows were	broken			
<b>17</b> G5.8	Award 1 mark for all three corre	ect.			1m	
03.0	Sentence	Apostrophe for a contracted form	Apostrophe for possession			
	Let's hope it warms up soon.	1				
	The teachers' coats were hanging in the staffroom.		1			
	The children wear their scarves when it's cold.	1				
<b>18</b> G4.1d	am uploading ✓				1m	

Qu.	Requirement					Mark
<b>19</b> G4.2	My friends thought the film wa I don't like thrillers.	s good, but				1m
<b>20</b> G1.5	Award 1 mark for both correct.         Maggie and Helena wanted to visit the museum.         Maggie and Helena         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was closed.         Image: tried to go after school but the museum was					1m
<b>21</b> G5.7	<ul> <li>Award 1 mark for correctly placed inverted commas, i.e.</li> <li>"May I use the computer?" asked Sam.</li> <li>'May I use the computer?' asked Sam.</li> </ul>				1m	
22	Award 1 mark for all three cor	rrect.				1m
G1.1 G1.2	Sentence	Verb	Noun	Adjective		
G1.3	There are many <u>magnetic</u> materials.			1		
	<u>Magnets</u> attract some metals.		1			
	We can <u>magnetise</u> the nail.	1				
<b>23</b> G2.2 G5.3	Award 1 mark for the correct s If I tidy my bedroom, can I play garden? Can I play in the garden when tidied my bedroom?	y in the	ed.			1m

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
24	Award 1 mark for a correctly placed apostrophe.	1m
G5.8	When James plays darts, he uses his	
	father's dartboard.	
	Also accept a response using an apostrophe to mark plural possession, i.e.	
	When James plays darts, he uses his	
	fathers' dartboard.	
25	Award 1 mark for all three correct.	1m
G1.3	Unfortunately, the weather was terrible) cold and wet.	
	Also accept a single circle drawn around terrible and cold.	
26	Award 1 mark for a correctly placed pair of dashes.	1m
G5.9	I am excited - and I mean really excited - to be going on holiday next week!	
<b>27</b> G2.1	<b>Award 1 mark</b> for a grammatically correct and accurately punctuated statement using all the given words once, for example:	1m
	Art is Tariq's favourite subject.	
	<ul><li>Tariq's favourite subject is art.</li><li>Art is Tariq's favourite subject!</li></ul>	
	<ul> <li>Art's Tariq's favourite subject.</li> </ul>	
	Also accept the insertion of additional correct punctuation, for example:	
	"Art is Tariq's favourite subject."	
	Do not accept misspellings of the verb.	
<b>28</b> G5.13	Frip wanted the most up to date computer that was available	1m
	Erin wanted the most up-to-date computer that was available.	
<b>29</b> G5.6b	Award 1 mark for both correct.	1m
G1.6a	Luckily for us, the ball rolled slowly past the goal.	
	After three hours of hard work, the builders managed to dig out	
	the tree.	
30	Award 1 mark for	1m
G3.1a	The house where I was born has been demolished.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
31	Award 1 mark for the correct sentences ticked.	1m
G5.4	It shows that the person feels strongly about going swimming.	
	It shows that the person is speaking loudly.	
32	Award 1 mark for the correct word circled.	1m
G1.9	Josh wrote a letter to his Canadian friend.	
<b>33</b> G3.2	a noun phrase	1m
34	Award 1 mark for both correct.	1m
G5.8	I <u>will not</u> be able to come to your party, but	
	won't	
	Karina said that <u>she would</u> come.	
	she'd	
	Do not accept misspellings.	
	There are no capitalisation requirements for this question.	
<b>35</b> G1.7	Award 1 mark for the correct sentences ticked.	1m
GI.7	Kelly wrote a poem on Tuesday night.	
	Her mum read the poem before school.	
<b>36</b> G1.5a	Award 1 mark for the correct word circled.	1m
	She asked to borrow Zak's pencil because hers were all blunt.	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
<b>37</b> G5.6a	<b>Award 1 mark</b> for a response that refers to both sentences and demonstrates that the comma shows that in the first sentence Fred ate an orange and in the second one he ate a sweet, or that the comma changes what we know about the balloons, for example:	1m
	<ul> <li>1 is saying that he ate an orange. 2 is saying that the balloons were orange.</li> <li>The first sentence is saying that Fred ate a sweet orange but the last one says he ate a sweet.</li> <li>By changing the position of the comma, 'the sweet orange' turns into 'the sweet'. This changes what Fred is eating.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Also accept</b> responses that show understanding of the difference in meaning by referring to only the first sentence, or only the second sentence, for example:	
	<ul> <li>Number 1 is showing the orange is sweet.</li> <li>It changes it by making the sweet a plain sweet and the balloon an orange one.</li> <li>The second one means that the balloons were orange.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Also accept</b> responses that show understanding of the difference in meaning by indicating that orange is a noun in the first sentence and/or adjective in the second sentence, or by indicating that sweet is an adjective in the first sentence and/or a noun in the second sentence, for example:	
	• The first one uses orange as a noun and second as an adjective.	
	There are no spelling or punctuation requirements for this question.	
<b>38</b> G5.11 G3.1		1m
	The wind was howling; the rain was drumming on the roof. $\checkmark$	
<b>39</b> G3.4	The wind was howling; the rain was drumming on the roof.	1m
	<ul> <li>Award 1 mark for the correct insertion of an appropriate subordinating conjunction, for example:</li> <li><u>Although</u> football is his favourite sport, James also enjoys watching tennis on TV.</li> </ul>	1m
G3.4	<ul> <li>Award 1 mark for the correct insertion of an appropriate subordinating conjunction, for example:</li> <li><u>Although</u> football is his favourite sport, James also enjoys</li> </ul>	1m
G3.4	<ul> <li>Award 1 mark for the correct insertion of an appropriate subordinating conjunction, for example:</li> <li><u>Although</u> football is his favourite sport, James also enjoys watching tennis on TV.</li> <li><u>Even though</u> football is his favourite sport, James also enjoys watching tennis on TV.</li> <li><u>While</u> football is his favourite sport, James also enjoys</li> </ul>	1m
G3.4	<ul> <li>Award 1 mark for the correct insertion of an appropriate subordinating conjunction, for example:</li> <li><u>Although</u> football is his favourite sport, James also enjoys watching tennis on TV.</li> <li><u>Even though</u> football is his favourite sport, James also enjoys watching tennis on TV.</li> </ul>	1m
G3.4 G1.4	<ul> <li>Award 1 mark for the correct insertion of an appropriate subordinating conjunction, for example:</li> <li><u>Although</u> football is his favourite sport, James also enjoys watching tennis on TV.</li> <li><u>Even though</u> football is his favourite sport, James also enjoys watching tennis on TV.</li> <li><u>While</u> football is his favourite sport, James also enjoys watching tennis on TV.</li> </ul>	1m 1m
G3.4 G1.4	<ul> <li>Award 1 mark for the correct insertion of an appropriate subordinating conjunction, for example:</li> <li><u>Although</u> football is his favourite sport, James also enjoys watching tennis on TV.</li> <li><u>Even though</u> football is his favourite sport, James also enjoys watching tennis on TV.</li> <li><u>While</u> football is his favourite sport, James also enjoys watching tennis on TV.</li> <li><u>While</u> football is his favourite sport, James also enjoys watching tennis on TV.</li> <li><u>Do not accept</u> misspellings or errors in capitalisation.</li> </ul>	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
41	Award 1 mark for both correct.	1m
G6.4 G1.1	We <u>proudly</u> represented our school in the competition.	
G1.6	proud	
	We took <i>pride</i> in representing our school in the competition.	
	proud	
	Do not accept misspellings or errors in capitalisation.	
42	Award 1 mark for all three correct.	1m
G1.5b	A large collection of gold and silver, which is known as the	
	Staffordshire Hoard, was discovered in 2009.	
	Mr Herbert, who made the discovery using his metal detector,	
	received a reward for finding it.	
	Some of the artefacts that he found are on display in museums.	
43	Award 1 mark for capital letters and full stops correctly inserted.	1m
G5.1 G5.2	W T we hope that you enjoy the new school meals. the menu will be	
G3.1	l put on the school website. <i>i</i> f you have any comments, please send us an email.	
44	Award 1 mark for the correct word circled.	1m
G3.3 G1.4	Although our team was less experienced than the others and	
	nobody expected us to do well, we won the tournament because	
	we had practised regularly.	
<b>45</b> G6.2	Award 1 mark for all three correct.	1m
G6.1 G6.4	dishonest inseparable	
	<u>un</u> noticeable	
	<b>Do not accept</b> misspellings of the prefixes.	
	There are no capitalisation requirements for this question.	
46	Award 1 mark for all three correct.	1m
G1.8	The black kitten licked its paws and curled itself up into	
	atight ball.	

Qu.	Requirement				Mark
47	Award 1 mark for a correctly punctuated sentence using the active, i.e.				
G4.4	• The children will sing a song.				
	Also accept:				
	• The children will be singing a so	ng.			
	Do not accept misspellings of verb	or capitalisation.			
<b>48</b> G1.4 G3.4	Award 1 mark for when and so or w	when and so tha	t circled.		1m
	When my brother visits, we always go to the park so that we can play cricket.				
	When my brother visits, we always go to the park so that we can play cricket.				
<b>49</b> G4.4	Award 1 mark for a correctly punctuated sentence using the passive, for example:         • Over two thousand years ago, Britain was invaded by the Romans.         • Over 2000 years ago Britain was invaded.         • Britain, over two thousand years ago, was invaded by the Romans.         • Britain was invaded by Romans.         • Britain was invaded over two thousand years ago.         Also accept:         • Britain got invaded by the Romans.         • Britain got invaded by the Romans over two thousand years ago.         Do not accept misspellings of verb forms or errors in punctuation or capitalisation.         Do not accept Britain spelt as 'Briton'.				
50	Award 1 mark for all three correct.				1m
G1.6 G1.4	Sentence	Adverb	Conjunction		
	I've only been to France <u>once</u> with my family.	1			
	Once I arrived in Paris, I tried to speak French.		1		
	My accent really improved <u>once</u> we had been there a few days.		1		

## 6. Paper 2: spelling

#### 6.1 Content domain coverage for Paper 2: spelling

This information is provided in Table 3.

#### 6.2 General marking guidance for Paper 2: spelling

The following guidance applies to all questions in Paper 2. Please read this carefully before applying the individual mark schemes.

- If the pupil makes more than one attempt, it must be clear which answer the pupil wishes to be marked.
- If the pupil makes two or more attempts and it is not clear which is to be considered, the mark is not awarded.
- The pupil can answer in upper or lower case, or a mixture of the two. The exception to this is for days of the week, which must be written in lower-case letters with an initial capital letter for the award of the mark.
- If the pupil has answered with the correct sequence of letters but has incorrectly inserted an apostrophe or a hyphen, the mark is not awarded.
- If the pupil has answered with the correct sequence of letters but these have been separated into clearly divided components, with or without a hyphen, the mark is not awarded.

	Spelling	
		11. Each person's fingerprint is
1.	There was a in the field.	<b>12.</b> I found a in my bicycle tyre.
2.	I kept in with my old friends when we moved.	
		13. The rain became heavier during the day.
3.	The questions were from one to ten.	<b>14.</b> The fixed Mum's car.
4.	The cup of tea was so hot it was	
		15. I like most flavours of ice cream, but my
5.	We learnt the to the song.	for chocolate.
6.	You to wear your coat.	16 is one of the main food groups.
7.	The footballer got a red card for	17. Giant pandas have appetites.
8.	We saw asunset.	18. We acted out a in drama.
9.	The dog was trained to its owner.	19. The recommended a pair of glasses.
10.	The spokesperson delivered a speech.	20. A is a type of dried fruit.
		END OF TEST

### 6.3 Pupil version of Paper 2: spelling

## 7. Mark schemes for Paper 2: spelling

Information relating to the content domain reference codes in Table 3 can be found in the key stage 2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test framework.

Qu.	Spelling	Mark	Content domain reference
1	lamb	1	S60 – words with 'silent' letters (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word)
2	touch	1	S40 – the $/n$ sound spelt <i>ou</i>
3	numbered	1	S38 – adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable
4	undrinkable	1	S56 – words ending in <i>–able</i> and <i>–ible</i> ; words ending in <i>–ably</i> and <i>–ibly</i> S41 – prefixes
5	lyrics	1	S39 – the $/i/$ sound spelt y other than at the end of words
6	ought	1	S59 – words containing the letter string ough
7	misconduct	1	S41 – prefixes
8	glorious	1	S46 – the suffix –ous
9	obey	1	S52 – words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey
10	official	1	S54 – endings which sound like /ʃəl/
11	unique	1	S50 – words ending with the $/g/$ sound spelt –gue and the $/k/$ sound spelt –que
12	puncture	1	S44 – words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/
13	steadily	1	S43 – the suffix –/y
14	mechanic	1	S48 – words with the /k/ sound spelt ch
15	preference	1	<ul> <li>S57 – adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in <i>-fer</i></li> <li>S55 – words ending in <i>-ant, -ance, -ancy, -ent, -ence, -ency</i></li> <li>S38 – adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable</li> </ul>
16	protein	1	S58 – words with the /i:/ sound spelt ei after c
17	substantial	1	S54 – endings which sound like /ʃəl/
18	scenario	1	S51 – words with the /s/ sound spelt sc
19	optician	1	S47 – endings that sound like /ʃən/, spelt –tion, –sion, –sion, –cian
20	currant	1	S61 – homophones and near homophones (Years 3 and 4); homophones and other words that are often confused (Years 5 and 6) S55 – words ending in <i>–ant, –ance, –ancy, –ent, –ence, –ency</i>
	Total	20	

Table 3: Mark schemes and content domain references for Paper 2



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