2025 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 2025 tests assess the national curriculum. This test has been developed to meet the specification set out in the <u>test framework</u>¹ 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>² for the 2025 tests will be published in July 2025. The standards confirmation meeting will take place in July 2025.

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 2025 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.

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

² 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
Qu.	Grammatical terms or word classes	Functions of sentences	Combining words, phrases and clauses	Verb forms, tense and consistency	Punctuation	Vocabulary	Standard English and formality
1						1	Tormaily
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 word classes	Functions of sentences	Combining words, phrases	Verb forms, tense and consistency	Punctuation	Vocabulary	Standard English and
Qu.			and clauses				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	 any unambiguous indication of the correct answer, for example: the box is crossed rather than ticked the correct answer is circled rather than ticked 	 answers in which more than the required number of boxes have been ticked
Circling or underlining of the answer	 any unambiguous indication of the correct answer, such as the answer being enclosed within a box 	 answers in which more than the required number of words have been circled or underlined answers in which the correct answer is circled or underlined, together with any surrounding words
Drawing lines to 'match' boxes	 lines that do not touch the boxes, provided the intention is clear 	 multiple lines drawn to or from the same box (unless this is a question requirement)
Labelling	 clear labels, whether they use the full vocabulary required by the question or an unambiguous abbreviation, for example, 'V' for 'verb' 	 ambiguity in labelling, for example, the use of 'AD' or 'A' where a distinction is required between 'adjective' and 'adverb'

Question type	Accept	Do not accept
Punctuation	 correctly formed punctuation that is clear, unambiguous and recognisable as the required punctuation mark 	 punctuation that is ambiguous, for example, if it is unclear whether the mark is a comma or full stop
Sentences and capital letters	 a sentence that has an initial capital letter and an appropriate punctuation mark indicating the end of the sentence capital letters that are clear and unambiguous 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. 	 answers in which capital letters are omitted or placed inappropriately in a sentence, or where an entire word is capitalised
Spelling	 incorrect spellings of the correct response if no specific mark scheme guidance is given 	 incorrect spellings of answers for which the mark scheme requires correct spelling 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.

Question type	Accept	Do not accept
Answers outside the expected space	 a correct answer given somewhere other than the answer space, provided it is not contradicted by another answer written elsewhere correct answers that are written in the 'blank' within a question, rather than in the expected space below it correct answers in which the pupil has written out a word or sentence that is already provided 	 answers that are given outside the expected space and contradicted by another answer written elsewhere
More than one answer given	 multiple answers that are all correct according to the mark scheme 	 responses where both correct and incorrect answers are given
Handwriting	 answers that are clear, unambiguous and recognisable, including letters that have been reversed, but which are still clearly identifiable to the marker 	 answers that are unclear or ambiguous
Crossed-out answers	 correct answers that replace a crossed-out attempt 	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				Mark
1 G6.2	opposite 🖌				
2 G6.1	Award 1 mark for the correct word circuneven sore	rcled. smooth	low		1m
3 G5.3	"Have you finished eating your lunch '	' asked Hannah			1m
4 G2.1	Sentence	Statement	Command		1m
G2.3	Watch where you're going.		✓		
	We watched the game together.	✓			
	My watch stopped working.	1			
	Do not watch too much television.		1		
5 G5.5	Award 1 mark for two commas correct We lifted up the log and found worms	-	and slugs.		1m
6 G5.4	an exclamation mark				1m
7	Award 1 mark for both correct.				1m
G7.1	We was /were going on a school trip to a concert.				
	The musicians (did)/ done a sound che	eck before the sho	DW.		
8 G5.11	Award 1 mark for a semi-colon correct	-			1m
	We have been learning about the Vikir	ngs; they were a			
	fascinating civilisation.				

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
9 G2.2 G5.3	Is Jay going to come on Tuesday	1m
	Do you know if Jay is coming on Tuesday 🖌	
10 G5.9	Award 1 mark for a pair of brackets correctly inserted.	1m
00.9	Our class visited a castle (the oldest in the country) to help us	
	with our history project.	
11	Award 1 mark for all three correct.	1m
G7.2	The basketball club was set up / established by a group of friends last year.	
	They invited / got people who were interested in the game to join.	
	Now they play / compete in their local league.	
12 G1.6a	After dinner, Kal is going to her room.	1m
13 G7.3 G7.2	The coach has yet to announce the team.	1m
14 G5.9	□ □ dashes ☑	1m
15	Award 1 mark for a colon correctly inserted.	1m
G5.10	We saw various animals on our evening walk: badgers, foxes,	
	mice and an owl.	
16	Award 1 mark for all three correctly circled.	1m
G1.3	The crumbling castle stood high on the rocky hill. The views over	
	the countryside were glorious,	

Qu.	Requirement	Mark				
17 G5.9	Swimming, which strengthens muscles in the arms and legs, is great exercise.					
18 G3.1a G1.5b	 Award 1 mark for a grammatically correct relative clause that retains the meaning of the sentence in the box, for example: My uncle, <u>who lives on a farm</u>, is going to plant potatoes. My uncle, <u>who's a farmer</u>, is going to plant potatoes. Do not accept misspellings of relative pronouns or verb forms. Do not accept errors in punctuation or capitalisation. 					
19 G1.2	Space yourselves out in the hall for PE.	1m				
20 G6.3	Award 1 mark for all four matched correctly. Word Suffix recruit ate advert ise class ment alien ify	1m				
21 G5.8	to show that who's is the contracted form of 'who has'	1m				
22 G5.6b	When the waitress came over, I asked which flavours were the most popular.	1m				

Qu.	Requirement					
23	Award 1 mark for a dash correctly ins	serted.			1m	
G5.12	I must repair my backpack – the zip is	broken and I nee	ed it for			
	our camping trip.					
24 G3.4	a subordinate clause 🖌					
25 G3.1 G3.4	Sentence	Main clause	Subordinate clause		1m	
	I walked to school with Hazel <u>as</u> we live on the same road.		✓			
	Hazel uses a wheelchair so we went up the ramp.	✓				
	Before we entered the classroom, we greeted our friends.		✓			
26	Award 1 mark for all four matched co	orrectly.			1m	
G2.3 G2.2	Sentence		Form			
G2.4	Are you coming to the film night at school		question			
	What a shame you can't come		command			
	Don't worry about it		statement			
	There will be another one next term		exclamation			
27 G4.1c	I must be at school early tomorrow.				1m	

Qu.	Requirement					Mark
28 G1.5	 Award 1 mark for a response explaining that it is unclear who they refers to, for example: You don't know who 'they' is referring to; you don't know if it is the tennis players or Kate and Ravi. Because we don't know who 'they' are. It doesn't clarify who they are referring to by 'they'. 					1m
29 G6.2	Award 1 mark for re					1m
30 G5.13	Award 1 mark for a hyphen co At the museum, we enjoyed dro costumes and fancy hats.	-		hioned		1m
31 G5.7	 Award 1 mark for inverted commas correctly inserted, i.e. "I think it is over here!" shouted Reena, pointing at the map. "Follow me!" 'I think it is over here!' shouted Reena, pointing at the map. 'Eollow me!' 					1m
	'Follow me!'					
32 G1.1	'Follow me!' Sentence	Verb	Noun	Adjective]	1m
G1.1 G1.2		Verb ✓	Noun	Adjective		1m
G1.1	Sentence		Noun	Adjective		1m
G1.1 G1.2	SentenceHe folds the letter carefully.The folded letter was put in		Noun			1m
G1.1 G1.2	Sentence He folds the letter carefully. The folded letter was put in the envelope.	explaining the called, for the called, for the called, for the called some body the called so	nat the com example: alled Rahee /. e it is the ca	ma changes m. In the se	cond sentence they and the other does not.	1m 1m
G1.1 G1.2 G1.3 33 G5.6a 34	Sentence He folds the letter carefully. The folded letter was put in the envelope. The letter had folds in it. Award 1 mark for a response of addressed and/or who is being In the first sentence it's ask are asking if Raheem called The second sentence make The 1st one means that the	explaining the called, for the called, for the called, for the called some body the called so	nat the com example: alled Rahee /. e it is the ca	ma changes m. In the se	cond sentence they and the other does not.	
G1.1 G1.2 G1.3 33 G5.6a	Sentence He folds the letter carefully. The folded letter was put in the envelope. The letter had folds in it. Award 1 mark for a response of addressed and/or who is being In the first sentence it's asl are asking if Raheem called The second sentence make The 1st one means that the that they are talking to Rahe	explaining the called, for or called	Anat the com example: alled Rahee /. e it is the ca ing about R	ma changes em. In the se iller's name a aheem and	cond sentence they and the other does not.	1m

Qu.	Requirement	Mark		
35	Award 1 mark for both correctly circled.	1m		
G1.7	Stef trained hard before the hockey tournament.			
	Concentrating intensely, Emma hit the ballinto the net.			
36	Award 1 mark for the correct word circled.			
G1.9	After the heavy rain, Mumdecided not to water the garden.			
37	Award 1 mark for a correctly punctuated sentence using the passive, for example:	1m		
G4.4	The treasure was stolen by someone. The treasure was stolen by someone.			
	The treasure was stolen by somebody.The treasure was stolen.			
	Do not accept misspellings of verb forms or errors in punctuation or capitalisation.			
38	Award 1 mark for both correct.	1m		
G4.1a	I <u>brought</u> my violin to school. I <u>forgot</u> it last week.			
	to bring to forget			
	Do not accept misspellings or errors in punctuation or capitalisation.			
39	Award 1 mark for all three correctly circled.	1m		
G1.1	He played the piano with great confidence and rarely			
	made(mistakes)			
40 G1.6	an adverb 🖌	1m		
41	Award 1 mark for an appropriate noun phrase, for example:	1m		
G3.2	• The bus driver			
	The owner of the house			
	His big handsThe old man who couldn't sleep			
	Do not accept errors in punctuation or capitalisation.			
42	Award 1 mark for	1m		
G5.2 G5.1	This year, we have been on a number of school trips. ^{M}m y			
	favourite was to the Science Museum because we saw some			
	incredible experiments. ^H however, Elise preferred our visit to			
	Colchester Castle.			

Qu.	Requirement	Mark				
43 G4.4	 Award 1 mark for a correctly punctuated sentence using the active, for example: The council maintain the local park. The council maintains the local park. 					
	Do not accept misspellings of verb forms or errors in punctuation or capitalisation.					
44 G1.5a	Award 1 mark for both correctly circled.Dad told me that Mum's favourite sport is cycling and his is cricket.Tennis is Karen's favourite sport and mine is football.					
45 G1.4 G3.4 G3.3	Award 1 mark for all three correctly circled. Since Billy has started swimming lessons, he has been going to the pool every Saturday and sometimes on Wednesdays too, (if) his dad has time to take him.					
46 G4.3 G7.4	Award 1 mark for the correct word circled. If I were to help, I would start by clearing the tables.					
47 G1.8	Award 1 mark for all three correctly circled. There are some biscuits in this tin but there are not any chocolate ones.					
48 G4.1d G1.2	Award 1 mark for While we were talking to our friend, his phone started ringing. Image: to talk Do not accept misspellings or errors in punctuation or capitalisation.					
49 G1.6	Award 1 mark for the correct word circled. Although Jane was a speedy runner, she was almost beaten in the race.					
50 G4.1b G1.2	Award 1 mark for The teacher told the class that he <u>had decided</u> not to give them any homework. to decide Do not accept misspellings or errors in punctuation or capitalisation.	1m				

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.

6.3 Pupil version of Paper 2: spelling

Spelling	11. My sister stomped up the stairs.
1. There was a brave in the story.	12. There was an to the bus timetable.
2. The children walked home the park.	13. Cold environments are the preferred habitats for
3. We were for our hard work.	14. I am looking forward to going on a trip next year.
4. I enjoy reading stories.	15. The ship was held in place by an
5. After a few days, the seeds shoots.	16. Brushing your teeth helps to remove
 There was an of colour during the firework display. 	17. I hid my when my friend won the contest.
7. They a bridge on their way to school.	18. The plants will on the sunny windowsill.
8. There was a funny in the school play.	19. Ava was to miss the school trip.
9. The new phone is lightweight and	20. I look forward to your reply.
10. It was a good to move to a quieter room.	END OF TEST
Page 2 of 4	Page 3 of 4

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.

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

Qu.	Spelling	Mark	Content domain reference
1	knight	1	S60 – words with 'silent' letters (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word)
2	through	1	S59 – words containing the letter string <i>ough</i> S61 – homophones and near homophones (Years 3 and 4) homophones and other words that are often confused (Years 5 and 6)
3	rewarded	1	S38 – adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable
4	adventure	1	S44 – words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/
5	developed	1	S38 – adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable
6	explosion	1	S45 – endings that sound like /ʒən/
7	passed	1	S61 – homophones and near homophones (Years 3 and 4) homophones and other words that are often confused (Years 5 and 6)
8	scene	1	S51 – words with the /s/ sound spelt sc S61 – homophones and near homophones (Years 3 and 4) homophones and other words that are often confused (Years 5 and 6)
9	affordable	1	S56 – words ending in <i>–able</i> and <i>–ible</i> words ending in <i>–ably</i> and <i>–ibly</i> S38 – adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable
10	suggestion	1	S47 – endings that sound like /ʃən/, spelt –tion, –sion, –ssion, –cian
11	angrily	1	S43 – the suffix – <i>ly</i>
12	alteration	1	S42 – the suffix – <i>ation</i>
13	reindeer	1	S52 – words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt <i>ei</i> , <i>eigh</i> , or <i>ey</i>
14	residential	1	S54 – endings which sound like /ʃəl/
15	anchor	1	S48 – words with the /k/ sound spelt <i>ch</i>
16	plaque	1	S50 – words ending with the /g/ sound spelt –gue and the /k/ sound spelt –que
17	jealousy	1	S46 – the suffix <i>–ous</i>
18	flourish	1	S40 – the /ʌ/ sound spelt <i>ou</i>
19	disappointed	1	S41 – prefixes
20	receiving	1	S58 – words with the /iː/ sound spelt <i>ei</i> after <i>c</i>
Total		20	



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