2025 national curriculum tests

Key stage 2

English reading

Reading answer booklet

18pt MODIFIED LARGE PRINT

First name

Middle name

Last name

Date of birth Day Month Year

School name

DfE number

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.

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.

Questions 1 – 13 are about

A Life-changing Game

(pages 4 – 8)

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?

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]

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

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 7.

According to the text, what is it important to have when learning something new?

[sentence answer, 1 mark]

1. Look at the section: Coaching a champion. (page 7)

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.  
   (page 7)

Why did Robert start teaching chess?

[sentence answer, 1 mark]

1. Look at the section: Coaching a champion.  
   (page 7)

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 7)

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 8)

Phiona’s skills in chess took her abroad. Why?

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Look the section: A roaring success. (page 8)

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. (page 8)

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

This means that . . .

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 below 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. |  |

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

Questions 14 – 27 are about

In the Cave

(pages 9 – 12)

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 . . . (page 9)

This paragraph creates a sense of . . .

Tick one. [1 mark]

certainty.

relief.

mystery.

panic.

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

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Look at page 10.

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 page 10.

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

What was Geoff staring at?

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. “I just sat down and it came on.” (page 10)

What was Geoff trying to do when he said this?

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?”  
   (page 11)

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

Write two ways.

[short answers, 2 marks]

1.

2.

1. Look at page 11.

And that was that.

What does this sentence suggest?

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 12.

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?

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 12.

Reluctantly, Geoff sat back and thought about it.

What does this suggest about the way Geoff felt?

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.

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

Questions 28 – 40 are about

Longbow Girl

(pages 13 – 17)

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 14)

The crowd had fallen silent.

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?

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?

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Read the paragraph beginning: She turned . . . (pages 15 – 16)

Merry did not smile straight away.

Why not?

[sentence answer, 1 mark]

1. Look at pages 15 – 16.

Write two pieces of evidence that show the marshal was shocked by Merry’s first round.  
[sentence answers, 2 marks]

1.

2.

1. Read the paragraph beginning:   
   “In round two,” . . . (page 16)
2. 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 paragraph beginning:   
   The atmosphere became . . . (page 16)

What was the prize for winning the   
archery competition?

[short answer, 1 mark]

1. Read the paragraph beginning:   
   She waited till . . . (page 17)

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

[sentence answer, 1 mark]

1. Look at page 17.

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

Evidence

2. Reason

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?

Tick one. [1 mark]

lucky

predictable

disappointing

clear

End of test

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Key stage 2 English reading   
18 point A4 modified large print reading answer booklet

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