

KEY STAGE 1 SATs 2022

It's time for our annual guide to SATs! That means that parents and teachers around the country are on a countdown to the SATs 2022, with the SATs 2020 and 2021 cancelled in the wake of the COVID pandemic. So here's what you need to know and how to help your child prepare for the KS1 SATs 2022.

Does my child have to sit SATs? Are they compulsory?

Yes. If your child is in Year 2 they will have to sit the SATs. KS1 SATs are compulsory for all Year 2 pupils (usually 7 year olds) in England.

Are SATs important?

Whilst there is a debate amongst some in the world of education that SATs are more important for a school than they are for an individual child, it is worth remembering that there are no direct consequences of a child 'failing their SATs'. They won't need to retake the exams.

They can be good measure of progress & can identify areas which may need a boost. SATs will help both parents and teachers to gauge the progress that a child is making. This enables teachers to identify areas where a child may need additional help, and then arrange for this help to be provided either in the classroom or via outside assistance.

What are the SATs tests like?

If the word SATs presents you with a mental image of your child sitting in a large hall with row after row of desks covered in pens and papers, then you will be pleased to hear that this is not the case.

In 2022 (as in any other year) the Year 2 SATs will be sat in the same classroom that your child has been learning in all year.

The papers themselves, whilst being designed to test your child's knowledge, will consist of questions that are similar to the ones students would have seen in class or in end of term tests.

KS1 SATs in Year 2

In May, children will sit their KS1 SATs 2022 in:

- Reading
- Maths
- Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar (SPaG)

They will also be assessed by their teacher on science, writing, and speaking and listening. This however is known as the teacher assessment, and it is not an official score for the SATs or national assessments.

By using teacher assessment, schools and the government are able to judge a child's performance in a subject over a longer period of time. This means that teachers are able to account for a child's whole knowledge and ability in a subject, not just that which comes to the fore in a test environment.

Key Stage 1 Reading

The reading test for Year 2 pupils is made up of two separate papers:

- Paper 1 consists of a selection of texts totalling 400 to 700 words, with questions interspersed
- Paper 2 comprises a reading booklet of a selection of passages totalling 800 to 1100 words. Children will write their answers in a separate booklet.

Each paper is worth 50 per cent of the marks, and should take around 30 minutes, but children will not be strictly timed, as the tests are not intended to assess children's ability to work at speed. **The texts in the reading papers cover a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry**, and get progressively more difficult towards the end of the test. Teachers have the option to stop the test at any point that they feel is appropriate for a particular child.

There are a variety of question types:

- Multiple choice
- Ranking/ordering e.g. 'Number the events below to show in which order they happened in the story'
- Matching e.g. 'Match the character to the job that they do in the story'
- Labelling e.g. 'Label the text to show the title'
- Find and copy e.g. 'Find and copy one word that shows what the weather was like in the story'
- Short answer e.g. 'What does the bear eat?'
- Open-ended answer e.g. 'Why did Lucy write the letter to her grandmother? Give **two** reasons'

Key Stage 1 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG)

Children taking Key Stage 1 SATs sit two separate papers in spelling, punctuation and grammar:

- Paper 1: a 20-word spelling test taking approximately 15 minutes and worth 20 marks.
- Paper 2: a grammar, punctuation and vocabulary test, in two sections of around 10 minutes each (with a break between, if necessary), worth 20 marks. This will involve a mixture of selecting the right answers e.g. through multiple choice, and writing short answers.

Since May 2016, when the KS1 SATs spelling paper was accidentally uploaded onto the Department for Education website before the test, the requirement on schools to administer the Key Stage 1 grammar, punctuation and spelling test has been removed.

For 2022, the KS1 SPaG test remains optional so schools can choose whether to administer it to their pupils.

Key Stage 1 Maths

The Key Stage 1 Maths test is made up of two papers:

- Paper 1: arithmetic, worth 25 marks and taking around 15 minutes.
- Paper 2: mathematical fluency, problem-solving and reasoning, worth 35 marks and taking 35 minutes, with a break if necessary. There are a variety of question types: multiple choice, matching, true/false, constrained (e.g. completing a chart or table; drawing a shape) and less constrained (e.g. where children have to show or explain their method).

Children are not allowed to use any tools such as calculators or number lines.

When will the KS1 SATs take place?

The KS1 SATs are due to be administered in May 2022. Unlike KS2 SATs, KS1 SATs don't have to be administered according to a nationally-set timetable in a specific week. Schools are free to manage the timetable and will aim to administer the tests in the classroom in a low-stress,

low-key way; some children won't even be aware that they've taken them! We will not inform parents or children when they will be sitting this year's actual SATs papers, so please do not ask.

How will the tests be marked?

Although the tests are set externally, they are marked by teachers within the school. Children are given a scaled score. Their raw scores – the actual combined number of marks they get in each of the test papers in reading, maths and SPaG – are translated into a scaled score, where a scaled score of 100 or more means the child is working at the expected standard in reading, maths and SPaG. A scaled score below 100 indicates that the child needs more support, whereas a score of 111 or above suggests the child is working at a higher level than expected for their age. The maximum score possible is 115, and the minimum is 85.

Results from the SATs papers are used to help inform the overall Teacher Assessments that your child is rewarded at the end of the academic year and which you will receive in your child's end of year report. Teacher assessments will be in reading, writing, maths and science.

Your child's actual results won't be communicated to you unless you specifically ask your child's class teacher after the end of year reports have been issued.

What can parents do to help their children?

- Ensure that your child attends school.
- Keep your child calm – do not get worked up about the tests as this will make your child stressed.
- Do lots of reading with your child, remembering to ask your child questions about the books that you read together.
- Read non-fiction books with your child (as well as fiction book) – visit the local library for non-fiction books and help your child learn about the Year 2 science topics of plants, animals (including humans) and materials (and their uses).
- Ensure that your child has a good breakfast before coming to school each day.
- Ensure that your child writes sentences using their weekly spelling words – this will not only help them learn to spell the words correctly but also know the meaning of the words.
- Encourage your child to use their school computing logins and passwords to access Active Learn and Mathletics.

SATs jargon broken down for parents

- SPaG: This refers to the spelling, punctuation and grammar tests that form part of the English SATs.
- National curriculum tests: This is the official name for the SATs, but the vast majority of people refer to them simply by SATs.
- National standard: This is the level that children are expected to reach in their SATs, which is set at 100 for both KS1 and KS2.
- Expected level/standard: A score of 100 means that your child is working at the expected standard.
- Raw score: This is the number of marks your child can get on the tests.
- Scaled Score: This is a score that is converted to allow SATs results to be compared year on year. This helps to take into account particularly difficult test years and other factors.
- The DfE: This stands for the Department of Education, and this is the part of government that is tasked with all things education.

Sample Papers

Sample test materials can be accessed through the website addresses listed below:

- **Reading:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-tests-2018-english-reading-test-materials>
- **Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-tests-2018-english-grammar-punctuation-and-spelling-test-materials>
- **Maths:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-tests-2018-mathematics-test-materials>
- **KS1 Teacher Assessment Framework:**
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740343/2018-19_teacher_assessment_frameworks_at_the_end_of_key_stage_1_WEBHO.pdf