



Standards
& Testing
Agency

Key stage 2: test administration guidance

2017 national curriculum tests

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Introduction

This guidance is for schools administering the 2017 key stage 2 (KS2) national curriculum tests. The information builds on section 6 of the [2017 KS2 assessment and reporting arrangements](#)¹ (ARA).

It includes guidance to ensure test administrators can:

- understand the statutory requirements for the KS2 tests
- plan for the tests
- receive and securely store test materials
- administer the tests

Guidance on completing test attendance registers, returning scripts for marking and submitting the headteacher's declaration form (HDF), is provided in the [Attendance register and test script dispatch instructions](#)².

Headteachers are responsible for ensuring all test administrators (anyone responsible for, or involved with, test administration) follow the arrangements in this document. Take this guide into any room where the tests are taking place.

Headteachers are responsible for the test administration arrangements within their school. Failing to adhere to the statutory requirements detailed within this guide could lead to a maladministration investigation, potentially resulting in the annulment of KS2 test results (see section 3.1).

[Modified test administration guidance](#)³ has been published separately. Instructions for administering modified versions of the tests to pupils with a visual impairment will also be provided with the relevant packs of modified test materials.

If you have any queries, you should contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 or email assessments@education.gov.uk.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-key-stage-2-assessment-and-reporting-arrangements-ara

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-attendance-register-and-test-script-dispatch

³ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-tests-modified-test-administration-guidance-mtag

Section 1: 2017 key stage 2 tests

Details of the types of school and pupils required to participate in the tests are included in the [2017 KS2 ARA](#)⁴.

The KS2 tests consist of:

- English reading
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: questions
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: spelling
- mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic
- mathematics Paper 2: reasoning
- mathematics Paper 3: reasoning

Mark schemes will be available on [GOV.UK](#)⁵ from Monday 22 May.

1.1 Registering pupils

You should have registered and confirmed all pupils that are at the end of KS2 on [NCA tools](#)⁶ by Friday 17 March.

However, the 'Pupil registration' section of NCA tools remains open after Friday 17 March, so you can amend the data to reflect any pupils that have left or joined your school after the deadline. You can make amendments until Thursday 11 May.

1.2 Test timetable

KS2 tests must be taken on the date specified in the test timetable. Schools can decide what time to start a test on the specific day anytime between 7am and 7pm. Tests can't be taken before the scheduled date in any circumstances but an individual pupil, or part of the cohort, can take the test on the specified day before the rest of the cohort using a [start time variation](#)⁷.

⁴ www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-key-stage-2-assessment-and-reporting-arrangements-ara

⁵ www.gov.uk/sta

⁶ <https://ncatools.education.gov.uk>

⁷ www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-2-tests-how-to-apply-for-a-timetable-variation

2017 test timetable

Date	Test
Monday 8 May	English reading
Tuesday 9 May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: questions English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: spelling
Wednesday 10 May	Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic Mathematics Paper 2: reasoning
Thursday 11 May	Mathematics Paper 3: reasoning

Administer the test papers for each subject in order.

1.3 Important dates

Date	Activity or deadline
Monday 10 April	All schools that have applied for early opening or compensatory marks will have been notified of the outcome of their applications on NCA tools.
Monday 24 April	Deadline for schools to submit applications for additional time on NCA tools.
Monday 24 to Friday 28 April	Schools receive all KS2 test materials (standard and modified versions) and stationery items.
Friday 5 May	'Access arrangements' section of NCA tools opens for schools to notify us if they plan to administer a test at an alternative location.
Monday 8 May to Thursday 11 May	KS2 test week.
Thursday 11 May	'Access arrangements' section of NCA tools opens for special consideration applications. 'Access arrangements' section of NCA tools opens for notification of pupils that have used a scribe, transcript, word processor, or electronic or technical aid.

	KS2 headteacher's declaration form (HDF) is available to schools on NCA tools from 5pm.
Thursday 18 May	Deadline for schools to apply for timetable variations on NCA tools.
Friday 19 May	<p>Deadline for schools to submit any notifications that pupils have used a scribe, transcript, word processor, or electronic or technical aid on NCA tools.</p> <p>Deadline for schools to submit any notifications that they have administered the tests at an alternative location or to notify STA of a pupil cheating on NCA tools.</p> <p>Deadline for schools to submit the KS2 HDF on NCA tools.</p> <p>Deadline for schools to submit special consideration applications on NCA tools.</p>
Monday 22 May	KS2 mark schemes available to download from GOV.UK.
Tuesday 4 July	<p>Pupil results (raw scores and scaled scores) and marked script images available on NCA tools.</p> <p>Raw score to scaled score conversion tables available on GOV.UK.</p>
Friday 14 July	Deadline for schools to submit review applications on NCA tools.
Monday 4 September	Review outcomes returned to schools.

Section 2: Headteachers' responsibilities

As the headteacher at a school administering the KS2 tests you have specific responsibilities, set out in the [2017 KS2 ARA](#)⁸.

You are responsible for ensuring all test administrators (anyone responsible for, or involved with, receiving test materials, test administration or returning scripts for marking) are familiar with, and comply with, all of the [KS2 test administration guidance](#)⁹.

It is also your responsibility to:

- identify which pupils will take the KS2 tests
- keep all test materials secure and treat them as confidential until Friday 19 May, the day after the last test can be administered using a timetable variation
- know what to expect should you receive a monitoring visit
- ensure all staff are fully briefed and aware of the KS2 test timetable
- ensure the tests are administered according to the published guidance, including the correct administration of any access arrangements
- ensure all staff, pupils and parents understand how the tests will be administered
- ensure test papers are only opened for the first time immediately before the administration of the tests in front of the pupils in the room(s) where they are being administered, unless the school has an approved early opening application
- ensure pupils have the correct equipment for the tests (sections 8 to 11 contain information about what equipment is allowed in each test)
- ensure that the specific content of all test materials is not used to prepare pupils for the tests
- ensure sufficient staff are available to administer tests according to the guidance
- notify STA of any issues that may have affected the security, integrity or confidentiality of the tests
- complete and submit the KS2 headteacher's declaration form (HDF) on NCA tools after all scripts have been sent for marking

Schools that do not comply could be subject to a [maladministration investigation](#)¹⁰.

⁸ www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-key-stage-2-assessment-and-reporting-arrangements-ara

⁹ www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-key-stage-2-tests

¹⁰ www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-1-and-2-school-visits-following-an-allegation-of-maladministration

Section 3: Demonstrating correct test administration

Headteachers should consider inviting a governor or another trusted member of the school community, who is not otherwise involved in administering the tests, to observe the administration of the tests.

Observation should start when test papers are opened until the completed scripts are sealed in the transparent bag after the test. If you choose to do this, your observer must be familiar with the contents of this document and other guidance on administering the tests.

Further guidance on how to [demonstrate correct test administration](#)¹¹ is available.

3.1 Maladministration

The term 'maladministration' refers to any act that:

- affects the integrity, security or confidentiality of national curriculum assessments
- could lead to results that don't reflect pupils' unaided work

Your school could be subject to a [maladministration investigation](#)¹² if it doesn't comply with this test administration guidance, and also with:

- [2017 KS2 assessment and reporting arrangements](#)¹³
- [KS2 modified test administration guidance](#)¹⁴
- [How to use KS2 access arrangements](#)¹⁵
- [Attendance register and test script dispatch instructions](#)¹⁶
- [Keeping materials secure](#)¹⁷
- printed instructions provided with the test materials

You should consider taking steps to protect staff involved in administering the tests against allegations of maladministration. Allegations of maladministration can come from

¹¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-tests-demonstrate-correct-test-administration

¹² www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-1-and-2-school-visits-following-an-allegation-of-maladministration

¹³ www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-key-stage-2-assessment-and-reporting-arrangements-ara

¹⁴ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-tests-modified-test-administration-guidance-mtag

¹⁵ www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-2-tests-how-to-use-access-arrangements

¹⁶ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-attendance-register-and-test-script-dispatch

¹⁷ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-tests-and-phonics-screening-check-keep-materials-secure

misunderstandings about correct test administration. To avoid this, make sure all staff, pupils and parents understand:

- how the tests will be administered
- the date that each test should be administered
- what assistance is allowed in the tests
- how any access arrangements will be used

Section 4: Test administrators

Test administrators should be headteachers, teachers, KS2 co-ordinators, or teaching assistants. As a test administrator, you should prepare by reading this guidance, which contains details of your responsibilities before, during and after the administration of the tests.

4.1 Preparing test administrators

We encourage schools to hold training sessions for those involved in administering KS2 tests. If schools have arranged independent observation of the tests, observers should also attend this training.

You should familiarise yourself with this guidance and also with:

- section 6 of the [2017 KS2 ARA](#)¹⁸
- sample tests and past papers available in the [practice materials](#)¹⁹ collection
- which test is being administered on each day, as detailed in the test timetable
- [how to use access arrangements](#)²⁰ and which pupils need them
- printed instructions provided with the 2017 test materials. These will include:
 - equipment required for a particular test
 - the length of the test
 - what assistance is allowed for each test
- [Notes for readers in the KS1 and KS2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test: questions](#)²¹, which gives guidance on how particular question types should be read
- [Notes for teachers: preparing pupils for on-screen marking](#)²²

Arrangements should also be in place in case a pupil needs to leave the test room, for example, if they are disruptive or become ill.

¹⁸ www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-key-stage-2-assessment-and-reporting-arrangements-ara

¹⁹ www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials

²⁰ www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-2-tests-how-to-use-access-arrangements

²¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/notes-for-readers-in-the-english-grammar-punctuation-and-spelling-test-short-answer-questions

²² www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-tests-notes-for-teachers-on-how-to-prepare-for-onscreen-marking

Section 5: Receiving and storing test materials

Before KS2 tests are delivered to schools, headteachers should think about where test materials will be stored. If your school is also administering key stage 1 (KS1) tests, you will need to ensure that you have adequate space to store all test materials securely.

Schools will receive their test materials, including any modified test orders, in the week beginning Monday 24 April.

Keep test materials secure and treat them as confidential from the point they are received in school until Friday 19 May, the day after the last test can be administered using a timetable variation.

We will deliver materials to school addresses taken from [EduBase](#)²³. Your school must make sure its details are up to date by logging in to EduBase via [Secure Access](#)²⁴.

If you haven't received your test materials by Friday 28 April, you should contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013.

As a headteacher, you must check your delivery against the delivery note to ensure the correct number and type of test materials have been received. You must delegate this activity to a senior member of staff if you're not available. If a delivery is incomplete, you must contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013.

Any packs of test papers that are unsealed or damaged on arrival must also be reported immediately to the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013. You may be asked to send a photograph of the damaged packages.

If you don't have sufficient copies of the test materials, you should contact our distribution helpline on 0800 169 4195. If additional modified tests are required, please contact the modified test agency on 0300 303 3019.

5.1 How to check your delivery

We suggest that 2 members of school staff undertake this check together. The packs of test papers must not be opened.

²³ www.education.gov.uk/edubase

²⁴ <https://sa.education.gov.uk>

You should check your delivery as soon as you receive it. You should:

- check the school's details are correct and that the delivery is for your school
- check the boxes for any damage
- check the number and type of test packs received against the accompanying delivery note and annotate it accordingly

The delivery note will be included in the first box of each consignment. You should use it to make sure you have received the correct number of boxes and all of the materials. Make a note of your checks on the delivery note. Please ensure you check all boxes thoroughly as packs of tests may be split between boxes.

When you have finished your checks, make sure you reseal the boxes and secure them in a locked cupboard, referring to the guidance in section 5.3.

Keep your annotated copy of the delivery note in an accessible place in case you receive a [monitoring visit](#)²⁵.

5.2 Stationery packs

You will receive one stationery pack during the week commencing Monday 24 April. The contents of the stationery pack are listed on the pack cover sheet. You may open the stationery pack to confirm that the correct materials are enclosed.

Your test attendance registers will be included in the stationery pack. The [Attendance register and test script dispatch instructions](#)²⁶ will be provided in hard copy and are also available online. They give details of how to check your attendance registers are correct.

5.3 Test material storage and access

Keep the test packs secure to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the tests is maintained, so no pupil has an unfair advantage over another.

Test materials must be stored in a secure, locked cupboard. They should not be stored in a room where IT equipment is also kept, as this equipment is often targeted during burglaries.

²⁵ www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-2-tests-and-phonics-screening-check-monitoring-visits

²⁶ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-attendance-register-and-test-script-dispatch

The headteacher should allocate responsibility for overseeing the storage of test materials to a member of staff who is not involved with the administration of the tests. This is to protect staff involved in the administration of the tests against allegations of maladministration. The nominated member of staff should:

- create a log to record access to the test materials. Keep a chart on the door of the store room/cupboard to record access and checks
- limit access to the store room wherever possible and control access to the keys
- ensure all spare keys are clearly numbered and kept secure
- ensure there is a reporting procedure in the event of a problem, for example, lost or stolen keys
- have a copy of the published test timetable to ensure test materials are provided to the test administrators on the correct days
- conduct regular checks of the boxes to ensure they have not been tampered with
- check individual test packs have not been opened before the published day for each test

Headteachers should also conduct their own regular checks on the boxes of test materials to make sure they haven't been tampered with. They should ensure anyone who handles test materials understands their sensitivity.

If you suspect a breach of security, you must report the incident immediately to the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013.

Section 6: Preparing to administer tests

6.1 Access arrangements

Some pupils with specific needs may need additional arrangements so that they can take part in the tests. Access arrangements are adjustments that can be made to support pupils. It may be helpful to use [practice materials](#)²⁷ with pupils before administering the 2017 tests to identify where it may be appropriate to use access arrangements. You must ensure any arrangements used don't advantage or disadvantage individual pupils.

Test administrators should be briefed about [how to use access arrangements](#)²⁸ and which pupils require them. Provide each test administrator with a list of any pupils who will be using access arrangements in advance of the tests.

You should also consider explaining to all parents and pupils what support is allowed in the tests. This should help to avoid any misinterpretation of valid access arrangements, which could lead to allegations of maladministration. Relatives, carers or guardians of pupils who need access arrangements must not be involved in administering the tests to those pupils.

Access arrangements must be based primarily on normal classroom practice for pupils with specific needs. Evidence of what is normal classroom practice should be available in case of a monitoring visit. Evidence will vary according to the type of arrangement and the tasks it is required for. Evidence may include notes recorded in teaching plans, individual pupil support plans or a pupil's classwork to demonstrate the type of support provided in the classroom.

Headteachers need to complete applications or notification forms for certain KS2 access arrangements. Read the access arrangements guidance to ensure you understand your responsibilities. If you use access arrangements inappropriately this could lead to a [maladministration investigation](#)²⁹.

6.2 Special consideration

Occasionally a pupil's performance may be affected by extremely distressing circumstances at the time of the tests. Where STA approves a school's request for

²⁷ www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials

²⁸ www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-2-tests-how-to-use-access-arrangements

²⁹ www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-1-and-2-school-visits-following-an-allegation-of-maladministration

special consideration, it will be taken into account when calculating the school performance measures.

Special consideration will not be applied where a pupil was not in a fit state to take the tests. Schools should first consider using a timetable variation to enable the pupil to take the test at a more appropriate time.

Applications for special consideration should be made in the 'Access arrangements' section of NCA tools from Thursday 11 May. The deadline for applications is Friday 19 May.

You should read [how to apply for special consideration](#)³⁰ before making an application.

6.3 Preparing test rooms

Schools should consider the test room(s) when preparing their test administration timetable to ensure appropriate quiet space is available to pupils, whether administering to a whole class, small groups or individuals. If you use access arrangements, you should consider whether it will be necessary to administer the tests to pupils in a separate room to the main group.

Any rooms where tests will take place should be prepared before the tests are administered. You should:

- remove or cover any displays or materials that could help pupils
- ensure seating arrangements will allow all pupils to work quietly and independently
- make sure pupils will not be able to view other pupils' test papers
- ensure a clock is provided in the room to help pupils pace themselves
- ensure there is a board at the front of the room for writing the school name, DfE number and start and finish times

Test administrators should write the full school name and DfE number on a board at the front of the class. Pupils should copy this on to their answer booklet or test paper and any additional paper used. This information will make it easier to track test scripts during the marking process, especially if schools, or pupils, have similar names.

³⁰ www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-2-tests-how-to-apply-for-special-consideration

6.4 Staffing resource

Headteachers should ensure sufficient staff are available to administer the tests according to the guidance in this document. Anyone administering a test on their own is more vulnerable to allegations of maladministration as they would not have another adult to verify the test administration procedures. We recommend having at least 2 test administrators in each test room.

If a test administrator is a relative of a pupil they are supervising, there must be at least one other test administrator (not related to the pupil) present at all times.

All test administrators must be well briefed and understand how the tests will be administered, what assistance is allowed in the tests and how any access arrangements will be used. This will help avoid any general misunderstandings about test administration and any misinterpretation of valid access arrangements or appropriate assistance given during the tests. Failure to do so may lead to allegations of maladministration.

6.5 Preparing test materials

You can only open packs of test papers before the scheduled test date with permission from STA. The deadline for applications for early opening was Monday 27 February.

Test administrators should not view the content of the tests before they are administered. Test packs can only be opened up to one hour before the start of a particular test, without permission from STA, if:

- a written translation is needed for a mathematics test
- a test paper needs to be adapted to meet an individual pupil's needs

At least 2 members of staff should be present while test materials are opened and prepared. You should be careful when making any modifications to the papers, ensuring no pages are omitted or duplicated. We will not make any allowances for pupils where schools have incorrectly modified test papers.

If enlarging mathematics test papers do not enlarge any questions which require that a pupil measures a length or width.

6.6 Equipment

It is important to make sure all equipment is ready and working in advance of the tests.

Pupils will require the following for one or more of the tests:

- blue/black pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners and rubbers (optional)
- rulers (showing centimetres and millimetres)
- angle measurers or protractors
- mirrors

A specific list of equipment needed for each of the tests is detailed in sections 8 to 11.

Mathematics test papers include space for working, with gridlines included where these are useful to pupils. We therefore discourage the use of additional squared paper, as pupils may lose marks if they make an error or omission when they transfer their working to the test paper. However, if using squared paper is part of normal classroom practice, then it can be used as a specific access arrangement, as described in section 6.1.

Pupils must not use glitter pens or coloured pens, in particular red. These are illegible when scanned for on-screen marking. Pupils may use highlighter pens, for example to highlight sections of the reading booklet, if this is normal classroom practice.

Every room where the tests will take place should have a clock visible to help pupils pace themselves.

6.7 Dictionaries and other reference material

Dictionaries, bilingual word lists and electronic spell checkers can only be used as shown in sections 8 to 11, providing this is normal classroom practice. Pupils must not use a thesaurus during any of the tests.

6.8 Administering tests away from school

In exceptional circumstances, and at the headteacher's discretion, a test or tests may be administered to one or more pupils at an alternative location to the rest of the cohort, for example, another school, the pupil's home, a hospital or pupil referral unit. The headteacher is responsible for ensuring the security of the tests is maintained and the tests are administered in accordance with the test administration guidance. The headteacher must also complete a notification form in the 'Access arrangements' section of NCA tools, available from Friday 5 May until Friday 19 May.

Section 7: Administering the tests

The tests must be administered on the days specified in the published timetable. Where there is more than one test scheduled for the same day, the tests must be administered in order.

Date	Test	Timings
Monday 8 May	English reading	60 minutes
Tuesday 9 May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: questions	45 minutes
	English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: spelling	15 minutes (not strictly timed)
Wednesday 10 May	Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic	30 minutes
	Mathematics Paper 2: reasoning	40 minutes
Thursday 11 May	Mathematics Paper 3: reasoning	40 minutes

7.1 Timetable variations

Some pupils may need to take a test on the specified day at a different time from the rest of the cohort or after the specified day. There are 2 types of timetable variation available. If the circumstances meet the strict criteria given within the [timetable variation](#)³¹ guidance schools must complete the appropriate form in the 'Access arrangements' section of NCA tools.

- You must submit an online application for a timetable variation to administer a test up to 5 school days after the published date. Approval from STA is required before you administer the test. If a pupil is ill, you should wait until they return to school before making the application.
- You must submit an online notification of a start time variation to administer a test to a pupil on the scheduled test day, but at a different time from the rest of the

³¹ www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-2-tests-how-to-apply-for-a-timetable-variation

cohort. You don't need to wait for STA approval, but you should submit a notification before administering the test.

Guidance on [how to apply for a timetable variation](#)³² includes what action you need to take if a pupil is late or absent on the day of a test. In these cases, if the pupil has had contact with pupils who have taken the test, or accessed test content using the internet, they must not be allowed to take the test and should be marked as 'A' (absent) on the attendance register.

7.2 Opening test packs

Information about when you can open test materials is included on the front sheet of each test pack. Standard test packs should only be opened when the test is due to start. If tests are being administered in a number of different rooms, schools may consider opening the packs in one room and then taking particular pupils and their test papers to the other room(s).

Test packs can only be opened up to one hour before the start of a particular test if:

- a written translation is required for a mathematics test
- a test paper needs to be adapted to meet individual pupils' needs

You must not open the test packs early to familiarise yourself with the test content. This can lead to allegations of maladministration and the annulment of pupils' results.

Schools that need to open test packs more than one hour early should have made applications for early opening in the 'Access arrangements' section of NCA tools. We will inform schools about the outcome of any applications for early opening on, or by, Monday 10 April. Test packs can only be opened more than one hour before the tests if an application for early opening has been approved.

Modified test packs may be opened earlier – you should refer to the information on the front of each pack.

7.3 Insufficient test papers

If you require additional test papers on the day of the test, your headteacher must contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 for advice. Schools must not photocopy test papers without permission.

³² www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-2-tests-how-to-apply-for-a-timetable-variation

7.4 At the start of a test

Two members of staff should collect the test packs from your secure storage. This should be recorded in the log. If there is more than one test on the day, packs for a particular test should only be collected when you are ready to administer that test.

Test packs should be opened in front of the pupils immediately before the administration of the tests in the room(s) where they are being administered. You should do this with another member of staff present. If tests are being administered in a number of different rooms, schools may consider opening the packs in one room and then taking pupils and their test papers to the other rooms to administer them.

You should take care to ensure that the correct test packs are opened. If an incorrect test pack is opened you must call the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 for advice on securing the test materials.

Once the test pack has been opened, teachers and test administrators must not:

- discuss the content of the test papers with anyone
- publish or discuss specific content that could compromise the test on social media or online
- use question-specific information to prepare pupils for the test

7.5 After the tests

After the tests have been administered, the test materials must be kept secure until Friday 19 May. A breach of security of the test materials, or using test content to prepare pupils, could lead to a maladministration investigation at the school.

Section 8: Administering tests on Monday 8 May

The test scheduled to be administered on Monday 8 May is English reading.

English reading

Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This test consists of a reading answer booklet and a separate reading booklet. All pupils must be given an unused reading booklet. Do not re-use reading booklets if you administer the test to groups of pupils at different times.• Pupils will have a total of 1 hour to read the 3 texts in the reading booklet and complete the questions at their own pace. They can approach the test as they choose, for example, working through one text and answering the questions before moving on to the next.
Equipment	<p>Pupils will need the equipment below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a blue/ black pen or dark pencil• a rubber (optional). However, please encourage pupils to cross out any answers they may wish to change, instead of rubbing them out <p>Pupils may use monolingual English electronic spell checkers or highlighter pens, if this is normal classroom practice.</p> <p>You may give pupils additional lined paper if they request it. However, pupils should be encouraged to use the extra space in the answer booklet before using additional paper. The answer space provided in the answer booklet should be sufficient for most pupils; it can be a guide to the length of answer expected for each question.</p>
Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You must ensure that nothing you say or do during the test could be interpreted as giving pupils an unfair advantage, for example, indicating that an answer is correct or incorrect, or suggesting the pupil looks at an answer again.

- The English reading test must not be read to individuals or to a group, except for the general instructions. However, you may rephrase the explanations provided in the test instructions on page 3 of the reading answer booklet to ensure all pupils understand them. No other part of the reading answer booklet or reading booklet may be read to pupils or rephrased.
- There is no specific hearing impairment guidance for this test, but be careful when signing to ensure you do not convey information that would give pupils an unfair advantage. Guidance for administering the test to pupils with a visual impairment is contained in the modified test packs.
- If a pupil asks a question about test content, you must not explain subject-specific terms or expressions.

The example below illustrates how to deal with a common situation.

Q. I don't understand the question.

A. Read the question again and underline key words that tell you what to do.

Section 9: Administering tests on Tuesday 9 May

The tests scheduled to be administered on Tuesday 9 May are:

- English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: questions
- English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: spelling

The papers must be administered in order.

English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: questions

Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This component of the test consists of a single test paper.• Pupils will have 45 minutes to complete the test, answering the questions in the test paper.
Equipment	<p>Each pupil will need the equipment below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a blue/black pen or dark pencil• a rubber (optional). However, please encourage pupils to cross out any answers they may wish to change, instead of rubbing them out <p>Pupils are not allowed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• dictionaries• electronic spell checkers• bilingual word lists
Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You must ensure that nothing you say or do during the test could be interpreted as giving pupils an unfair advantage, for example, indicating that an answer is correct or incorrect, or suggesting the pupil looks at an answer again.• You may explain or rephrase a question provided you do not give away subject-specific information. For example, if a question asks to “insert a pair of commas”, ‘insert’ may be explained, but not ‘commas’.

- You must not give alternative explanations, for example, explain ‘inverted commas’ as ‘speech marks’, or name punctuation.
- There is no specific hearing impairment guidance for this test, but be careful when signing to ensure you do not convey information that would give pupils an unfair advantage. Guidance for administering the test to pupils with a visual impairment is contained in the modified test packs.

[Notes for readers in the KS1 and KS2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test](#)³³ gives examples of how to read particular types of question in Paper 1: questions.

The examples below illustrate how to deal with some common situations.

Q. I don’t understand the question.

A. Read the question again and underline key words that tell you what to do.

Q. What does ‘adverb’ mean?

A. I can’t tell you, but think hard and try to remember. We can talk about it after the test.

- If any everyday context or words related to a question are unfamiliar to a pupil, you may show them related objects or pictures, or describe the related context.

³³ www.gov.uk/government/publications/notes-for-readers-in-the-english-grammar-punctuation-and-spelling-test-short-answer-questions

English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: spelling

Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This component of the test consists of an answer booklet for pupils to complete and a test transcript to be read by the test administrator. The transcript is included in the guidance provided with the answer booklets.• Pupils will have approximately 15 minutes to complete the test (not strictly timed) by writing the 20 missing words in the answer booklet.
Equipment	<p>Each pupil will need the equipment below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a blue/black pen or dark pencil• a rubber (optional). However, please encourage pupils to cross out any answers they may wish to change, instead of rubbing them out. <p>Pupils are not allowed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• dictionaries• electronic spell checkers• bilingual word lists
Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils should not require any assistance during the administration of Paper 2: spelling. You must ensure that nothing you say or do during the test could be interpreted as giving pupils an unfair advantage, for example, indicating that an answer is correct or incorrect, or suggesting the pupil looks at an answer again.• You should take care not to over emphasise spelling when reading out the words pupils need to spell.• There is no specific hearing impairment guidance for this test, but be careful when signing to ensure you do not convey information that would give pupils an unfair advantage. Guidance for administering the test to pupils with a visual impairment is contained in the modified test packs.

Section 10: Administering tests on Wednesday 10 May

The tests scheduled to be administered on Wednesday 10 May are:

- mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic
- mathematics Paper 2: reasoning

The papers must be administered in order.

Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic

Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This component of the test consists of a single test paper.• Pupils will have 30 minutes to complete the test, answering the questions in the test paper.
Equipment	<p>Pupils will need the equipment specified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a blue/black pen or a dark pencil• ruler• rubber (optional). However, please encourage pupils to cross out any answers they may wish to change, instead of rubbing them out <p>Pupils are not allowed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• calculators• tracing paper• squared paper (see section 6.6)• other mathematical equipment, such as angle measurers or mirrors
Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teachers may use photocopying to enlarge pages from the test papers as part of the access arrangements for specific pupils.• You must ensure that nothing you say or do during the test could be interpreted as giving pupils an unfair advantage, for example, indicating that an answer is correct or incorrect, or suggesting the pupil looks at an answer again.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a pupil requests it, a question may be read to the pupil on a one-to-one basis. • If reading to a pupil, you can read words and numbers but not mathematical symbols. This is to ensure that pupils are not given an unfair advantage by having the function inadvertently explained by reading its name. • There is no specific hearing impairment guidance for this test, but be careful when signing numbers, mathematical signs and words. Ensure you do not convey information that would give pupils an unfair advantage. Guidance for administering the test to pupils with a visual impairment is contained in the modified test packs. <p>The example below illustrates how to deal with a common situation.</p> <p>Q. Do I need to multiply when I calculate 95% of 240?</p> <p>A. I can't tell you, but think hard and try to remember. We can talk about it after the test.</p>
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Mathematics Paper 2: reasoning

Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This component of the test consists of a single test paper. • Pupils will have 40 minutes to complete the test, answering the questions in the test paper.
Equipment	<p>Pupils will need the equipment specified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a blue/black pen or a dark pencil • a sharp, dark pencil for mathematical drawing • ruler (showing centimetres and millimetres) • angle measurer or protractor (papers 2 and 3 only) • mirror (papers 2 and 3 only)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rubber (optional). However, please encourage pupils to cross out any answers they may wish to change, instead of rubbing them out <p>Pupils may use the following equipment, if this is normal classroom practice, provided they only give word-for-word translations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bilingual dictionaries or electronic translators • bilingual word lists • monolingual English electronic spell checkers <p>Pupils are not allowed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • calculators • squared paper (see section 6.6) • tracing paper
Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers may use photocopying to enlarge pages from the test papers as part of the access arrangements for specific pupils. However, please refer to the test administration instructions within the test pack for advice about any specific question that should not be enlarged. • You must ensure that nothing you say or do during a test could be interpreted as giving pupils an unfair advantage, for example, indicating that an answer is correct or incorrect, or suggesting the pupil looks at an answer again. • If a pupil requests it, a question may be read to them on a one-to-one basis. • If reading to a pupil, you can read words and numbers but not mathematical symbols. This is to ensure that pupils are not given an unfair advantage by having the function inadvertently explained by reading its name. • For pupils with a hearing impairment, be careful when signing numbers, mathematical signs and words. Guidance on any specific words that should be

signed in a particular way are included in the standard test packs.

- Guidance for administering the test to pupils with a visual impairment is contained in the modified test packs.
- At a pupil's request, you may point to parts of the test paper such as charts, diagrams, statements and equations, but you must not explain the information or help the pupil by interpreting it.

The examples below illustrate how to deal with some common situations.

Q. What does 'quadrilateral' or '>' or '<' mean?

A. I can't tell you, but think hard and try to remember. We can talk about it after the test.

Q. What is '0.6'?

A. That's nought point six.

- If any everyday context or words related to a question are unfamiliar to a pupil, you may show them related objects or pictures, or describe the related context.

Section 11: Administering tests on Thursday 11 May

The test scheduled to be administered on Thursday 11 May is mathematics Paper 3: reasoning.

Mathematics Paper 3: reasoning

Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This component of the test consists of a single test paper.• Pupils will have 40 minutes to complete the test, answering the questions in the test paper.
Equipment	<p>Pupils will need the equipment specified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a blue/black pen or a dark pencil• a sharp, dark pencil for mathematical drawing• ruler (showing centimetres and millimetres)• angle measurer or protractor (papers 2 and 3 only)• mirror (papers 2 and 3 only)• rubber (optional). However, please encourage pupils to cross out any answers they may wish to change, instead of rubbing them out <p>Pupils may use the following equipment, if this is normal classroom practice, provided they only give word-for-word translations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• bilingual dictionaries or electronic translators• bilingual word lists• monolingual English electronic spell checkers <p>Pupils are not allowed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• calculators• squared paper (see section 6.6)• tracing paper
Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teachers may use photocopying to enlarge pages from the test papers as part of the access arrangements for specific pupils.

- You must ensure that nothing you say or do during the test could be interpreted as giving pupils an unfair advantage, for example, indicating that an answer is correct or incorrect, or suggesting the pupil looks at an answer again.
- If a pupil requests it, a question may be read to them on a one-to-one basis.
- If reading to a pupil, you can read words and numbers but not mathematical symbols. This is to ensure pupils are not given an unfair advantage by having the function inadvertently explained by reading its name.
- For pupils with hearing impairment, be careful when signing numbers, mathematical signs and words. Guidance on any specific words that should be signed in a particular way are included in the standard test packs.
- Guidance for administering the test to pupils with a visual impairment is contained in the modified test packs.
- At a pupil's request, you may point to parts of the test paper such as charts, diagrams, statements and equations, but you must not explain the information or help the pupil by interpreting it.

The examples below illustrate how to deal with some common situations.

Q. What does 'quadrilateral' or '>' or '<' mean?

A. I can't tell you, but think hard and try to remember. We can talk about it after the test.

Q. What is '0.6'?

A. That's nought point six.

- If any everyday context or words related to a question are unfamiliar to a pupil, you may show them related objects or pictures, or describe the related context.

Section 12: Problems or queries during test administration

12.1 Answering pupils' questions

You must ensure nothing you say or do during a test could be interpreted as giving pupils an unfair advantage. If a pupil asks for clarification of a mathematics question you may read words and numbers but not mathematical symbols. Sections 8 to 11 contain examples of how to deal with particular questions, and examples will also be included in the printed instructions with the test materials.

If any everyday context or words related to a question are unfamiliar to a pupil, you may show them related objects or pictures, or describe the related context, as long as nothing you say or do provides the pupil with an unfair advantage.

12.2 Dealing with issues during the tests

It is impossible to plan for every scenario. Whatever action you take, pupil safety must always be your first consideration. This section provides guidance on what to do in some common situations. If any of these situations occur during the course of a test you should brief your headteacher on how the incident was dealt with once the test is over.

If a fire alarm goes off

Stop the test and note the time. Evacuate the room following school procedures and tell the pupils to remain calm and silent. Pupils should be supervised at all times to ensure they don't talk about the test. The test papers should be left in the test room.

Once it is safe to do so, pupils may continue with the test using the correct amount of remaining time. If the pupils do talk to each other about the test, you must phone the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 for advice before you continue.

If a pupil is unwell

If a pupil complains of feeling unwell before the start, the test should not be administered. The school should make a notification of a start time variation or apply for a timetable variation to administer the test later, or on a different day, when the pupil is feeling better.

However, if a pupil is unwell once a test has started, stop the test for the individual pupil and note the time. After a rest break, if the pupil is well enough, they should be given the correct amount of remaining time to continue with the test. The test must be completed

on the same day. If the pupil is too ill to continue the test, send the partially completed test script for marking.

If the test script is spoiled, give the pupil a new one to continue working on. A member of staff should make a transcript by copying the answers from the spoiled test script on to the new test paper (see section 13.1). You should do this once the pupil has completed the test and is still under test conditions. If the test script is unreadable, ask the pupil for their answers at the end of the test and record them in a different colour on the new test paper. Do not send the spoiled test script for marking. You must make a notification of the use of a transcript on [NCA tools](#)³⁴.

If other pupils have been disturbed, you may stop the test for all pupils in the room. Make a note of the time so pupils receive the correct amount of remaining time. If necessary, move the pupil(s) to another room, ensuring they remain silent.

If a pupil needs to leave the test room during the tests

Pupils taking the tests must be supervised at all times. If a pupil needs to leave the test room, a test administrator must accompany them.

When deciding on the number of test administrators needed to maintain adequate supervision for a particular test, you should consider the possibility of at least one test administrator needing to leave the room with a pupil.

If a mobile phone rings or a pupil is found to be using one

Pupils must not have any items that may cause disturbances during the tests. You may consider collecting mobile phones from pupils before the tests.

If a mobile phone makes any sound, it should be removed from the pupil. After the test, follow the school's own behaviour and disciplinary procedures.

If the pupil has gained an advantage as a result of using the mobile phone, follow the guidance on cheating in the following paragraph. If the pupil has gained no advantage, there is no need to contact us.

³⁴ <https://ncatools.education.gov.uk>

If a pupil is caught cheating

Record details of the incident, including the pupil's name, the name of the test and any specific questions in which the pupil was advantaged by cheating. If appropriate, move the pupil to another location for the remainder of the test.

If you believe the pupil has gained an advantage as a result of cheating, notify STA of the incident using the 'Notification of a pupil cheating' form, available in the 'Access arrangements' section of NCA tools.

By completing the form, the headteacher agrees to either:

- the removal of marks by STA for the specific questions where the pupil has gained an advantage
- the annulment of the pupil's result in that test by STA

The pupil's test script must be collated with the other pupils' test scripts. Do not enclose any information regarding the incident when sending the test scripts for marking.

You do not need to notify us if the pupil has disrupted the test but not cheated, or if the pupil has attempted to cheat but gained no advantage from their actions. You should follow your school's behaviour policy in dealing with such incidents.

If a pupil is being disruptive

If a pupil's behaviour is disturbing other pupils, stop the test, note the time and remove the pupil. You can decide whether the disruptive pupil should continue the test in a separate room. If the test is not completed, the partially completed test script must be sent for marking.

Give the other pupils a few moments to refocus and then continue the test with the correct amount of remaining time.

If test papers are incorrectly collated or the print is illegible

Stop the test for the affected pupils, making a note of the time, and tell them you will organise replacement papers. The pupils must not discuss the test content while the replacement papers are being arranged. Once the replacements are provided, allow the pupils the appropriate amount of time they have remaining to complete the test. Pupils must not be allowed to start the test again.

All schools receive additional copies of each test paper. If there are insufficient additional copies to give all affected pupils a replacement, you should contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 for approval to make a photocopy. At

the end of the test, insert the replacement test paper inside the original incorrect paper and inform the headteacher of the action you took.

You should be careful if photocopying the papers, ensuring no pages are omitted or duplicated. We will not make allowances for pupils where schools have incorrectly photocopied test papers.

If a pupil asks for additional paper

The test papers and answer booklets have been designed so most pupils will have enough room to record their answers. You may give pupils extra paper if they need additional space for their answers. Ensure the pupil's name and school DfE number are written on any additional paper used and the paper is attached or put inside the pupil's test script.

If an incorrect test has been administered

If a test has been administered incorrectly on a day before the published test date you must keep the pupils under test conditions and contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 for advice.

12.3 Transcribing test scripts

If it would be very difficult for a marker to read a pupil's writing, you can transcribe all or part of the pupil's test script. A transcript can be made on the pupil's test script or on a separate script or sheet of paper. Unless it has been spoiled, the pupil's original test script must also be sent for marking, along with the transcript. A separate transcript should be clipped or stapled to the pupil's original test script.

If the marker can read the pupil's writing, they will mark the original work.

Braille test scripts must not be transcribed.

When transcribing a pupil's answers, test administrators must adhere to the following guidance.

- A transcript can only be made at the end of the test.
- Wherever possible the transcript must be made with the pupil present, before the pupil leaves the test room.
- The pupil must be kept separate from the rest of the cohort until the transcript is complete. If the pupil needs to leave, for example because of illness, the test administrator must transcribe what they can and send this for marking.

- You must make the transcript in a different coloured ink from the one used by the pupil, and not in red pen.
- Ensure the pupil's answers are not changed.
- All punctuation and phrasing must be the pupil's own. Particular care should be taken when transcribing the English grammar, punctuation and spelling test papers.
- No assistance with spelling should be given in any of the tests.
- Extensive or full transcripts should be transcribed on to a new test paper.

Pupils who cannot read their own writing may use a word processor or scribe if this is part of normal classroom practice.

You do not need to request permission from STA or your local authority to create a transcript of a pupil's script, but you do need to complete an online notification form in the 'Access arrangements' section of NCA tools. This will be available from Thursday 11 May. The form should be filled out once all tests have been completed and must be submitted before the HDF, by Friday 19 May.

You must not send printed copies of notification forms with the test scripts, as this will slow down the marking process.

Section 13: After the tests

13.1 Packing tests scripts for marking

Headteachers are responsible for making sure their school's test scripts are collated, packed and stored correctly, as soon as possible on the day of each test. All test papers, including partially completed test scripts, must be collected, ensuring every pupil is accounted for. Any separate transcripts must be packaged with the pupil's original test script. We advise that headteachers are personally involved in packing the school's scripts. The [Attendance register and test script dispatch instructions](#)³⁵ explain exactly how to do this.

Any individual left alone with test materials is vulnerable to allegations of maladministration. Make sure test scripts:

- are collected and collated by more than one person
- aren't left with an individual at any point

Test administrators should return test scripts to the headteacher immediately after each test. Headteachers should emphasise that test administrators must not review pupils' test scripts, unless they are making a transcript. Test administrators should know which pupils are likely to need a transcript before administering the tests.

Headteachers are responsible for ensuring pupils' answers are their own and that they are not amended after the tests.

The test materials, including unused test papers and English reading booklets, must be kept secure until Friday 19 May. Other schools may be administering the tests using timetable variations until Thursday 18 May and it is essential no pupils are advantaged or disadvantaged.

Teachers and test administrators must not discuss the content of the test papers with anyone. In particular, specific content that could compromise a test must not be discussed on social media or published online.

Mark schemes will be available on [GOV.UK](#)³⁶ from Monday 22 May.

³⁵ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-attendance-register-and-test-script-dispatch

³⁶ www.gov.uk/sta

13.2 Completing the headteacher's declaration form

Headteachers, or a delegated senior member of staff, must complete and submit the headteacher's declaration form (HDF) after all KS2 test scripts have been collected for marking. The HDF is an online form on NCA tools and must be completed and submitted by Friday 19 May.

The form confirms either you have administered the tests according to the published guidance or you have reported any issues to STA.

Test administrators should inform the headteacher of any issues that occurred during the administration of the tests.

If for any reason you can't complete the HDF, you should notify the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013.

Once submitted, you can't amend the HDF so any mistakes should be reported to the national curriculum assessment helpline on the number above.

Full guidance is available in the [Attendance register and test script dispatch instructions](#)³⁷.

³⁷ /www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-attendance-register-and-test-script-dispatch

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