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Primary assessment

Action: place KS1 and KS2 modified test orders on NCA tools by Friday 25 November

The 'Test orders' section of [NCA tools](#) opened on Monday 31 October.

We have produced a short video to help schools place their key stage 1 (KS1) and key stage 2 (KS2) test orders. You can watch the video on the [STA media and training site](#).

Schools can order modified versions of KS1 and KS2 tests until Friday 25 November. There are modified large print (MLP), braille and enlarged print (EP) versions of all the KS2 papers. Only MLP and braille versions are available for the KS1 tests.

MLP versions have a large font, high contrast diagrams and greater white space around the content. Braille versions of the test, available in Unified English Braille (UEB), are suitable for pupils with extremely limited or no vision. Some of the content of the MLP and braille tests is adapted by Qualified Teachers of the Visually Impaired (QTVIs) to make individual questions more accessible to pupils with significant visual impairment. This may include the removal of some of the visual stimulus, which may be replaced with text if necessary to aid understanding.

EP versions of KS2 tests are produced in a larger format booklet and all text, pictures, and non-scaled diagrams are larger than the standard versions. There are no adaptations to the content of the tests.

The materials are primarily designed for pupils with significant visual impairments, although they may be suitable for other pupils such as those with dyslexia. The modified test agency can also provide further advice on 0300 303 3019, or via email at modifiedtestshelpline@pia.co.uk.

Schools can use the 2016 sample tests from the [practice materials](#) collection to help inform decisions about whether modified tests are suitable for their pupils.

Maintained schools, academies and free schools do not need to place orders for standard versions of the tests. Quantities of KS1 standard test materials for English reading and mathematics will be based on schools' autumn census data. KS2 standard test materials will be based on schools' census and pupil registration data.

Action: confirm your term dates in NCA tools

You can now confirm your school's term dates in [NCA tools](#). This will help us to plan the delivery of test materials. Occasionally we also need to contact schools by telephone so this information will let us know when you are unavailable.

Action: independent schools, pupil referral units, hospital schools, secure units and maintained special schools to place KS1 and KS2 test orders for standard and modified materials

Independent schools, pupil referral units, hospital schools, secure units and maintained special schools that choose to participate in the tests must place a test order for both standard and modified versions in [NCA tools](#) by Friday 25 November. Independent schools should also issue privacy notices to parents by the same date.

Any of these schools choosing to take part in KS2 tests should enter into an agreement with the LA that will complete external moderation of their teacher assessment.

Publication: read the new guidance on external moderation of teacher assessment (TA)

We have published updated guidance on external moderation of TA. We have used feedback from local authorities (LAs), schools, teaching unions and senior moderators to make improvements. For example, we have provided greater clarity on independence of writing evidence, clarified the professional discussions between teachers and external moderators, and simplified the format so school and LA guidance is now in one document.


We use statutory external moderation to confirm that TA judgements are accurate and consistent with national standards. If you are responsible for KS1 TA or for KS2 writing TA, you must comply with the guidance to ensure that the process results in valid and accurate TA judgements. Please read the following guidance:

- [2017 teacher assessment external moderation: key stage 1](#)
- [2017 teacher assessment external moderation: key stage 2 writing](#)

Publication: early years foundation stage (EYFS) profile handbook

We have updated the [EYFS profile handbook](#) for the 2016 to 2017 assessment cycle. The handbook supports practitioners in making accurate judgements about each pupil's attainment. You should use the handbook if you are responsible for assessing, reporting or moderating the EYFS profile. It should be used alongside the 2017 [EYFS assessment and reporting arrangements](#).

Information: register for live webinars taking place on Tuesday 15 November

[Register now](#)  to take part in live, interactive webinars on Tuesday 15 November. The webinars offer schools and other stakeholders the opportunity to put questions about the 2017 national curriculum tests and assessments to our panel of experts.

The key stage 1 webinar will be broadcast from 12:30pm and key stage 2 will be broadcast from 3.45pm. If you register in advance, you can submit questions before and during each live session. Each webinar will last 45 minutes and both will be available on GOV.UK as recorded versions afterwards.

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