



Standards
& Testing
Agency

Key stage 1 modified test administration guidance

**Administering to pupils with a hearing
impairment**

March 2022

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1 Introduction

This guidance will help you prepare to administer the key stage 1 (KS1) tests to pupils with a hearing impairment. You should follow it to ensure these pupils can access the tests properly and are not at a disadvantage.

The information expands on section 7 of the [2022 KS1 assessment and reporting arrangements](#)¹ (ARA).

You should use this guidance together with the:

- 2022 [KS1 test administration guidance](#)²
- test administration instructions provided with the standard test materials

The test administration instructions include information about what you should do before, during and after each test. Schools may also want to use [practice materials](#)³ to help prepare for the tests.

Headteachers are responsible for the test administration arrangements within their school. Failing to adhere to this guidance could lead to a [maladministration investigation](#)⁴.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/2022-key-stage-1-assessment-and-reporting-arrangements-ara

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-tests-test-administration-guidance-tag

³ www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials

⁴ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stages-1-and-2-investigating-allegations-of-maladministration

2 Planning for the tests

2.1 Access arrangements

In addition to the [KS1 access arrangements guidance](#)⁵ you should follow the specific guidance below when administering the tests to pupils with a hearing impairment. Adults administering tests to pupils who need access arrangements must not be a relative, carer or guardian of the pupil.

Making further adaptations to the tests

If schools need to make modifications to test papers to meet a pupil's needs, or if signers need access to the papers to prepare for the administration of the tests, they must not open test materials before Tuesday 3 May.

You should consider administering the tests to pupils who need specific access arrangements after the initial test administration has taken place. You can then use the opened test materials to make the necessary arrangements. Alternatively, you can use the downloadable versions that will be available on the [Primary Assessment Gateway](#)⁶ from Tuesday 3 May.

Use of communicators and sign language

Pupils who use British Sign Language, or other sign-supported communication, may be supported in the tests if it is normal classroom practice. Section 3 provides specific guidance for each test.

⁵ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-tests-access-arrangements

⁶ www.primaryassessmentgateway.education.gov.uk

3 Administering the tests

3.1 English reading

Sign language can be used to outline and explain the general instructions, including the information on the front cover of the test papers and any directions that are not part of the actual questions. The practice page and practice questions may also be signed.

3.2 Mathematics

Test administration instructions for pupils with hearing impairments accompany the standard test materials. For pupils with hearing impairments, you may use sign language to communicate the test questions but be careful when signing numbers and mathematical signs. This is to ensure that pupils are not given an unfair advantage by having the function inadvertently explained to them. Guidance on using sign language for specific questions will be provided in the test administration guidance, where appropriate.

Paper 2: reasoning

The test administration instructions include an optional script. This is for pupils who need extra visual support to access the first 5 aural questions.

Pupils should use the script alongside their test booklet whilst the questions are read by the teacher. Pupils using the optional pupil aural script may need support so they can manage the script and test paper whilst the test administrator is reading aloud.

You should only use the optional script where you are confident that its use will not confuse pupils.

3.3 English grammar, punctuation and spelling (optional)

Schools may choose to administer the optional English grammar, punctuation and spelling test and use the result to inform teacher assessment of writing, but there is no requirement to do so.

If you choose to administer this test, you can use sign language and give additional explanation:

- to outline the general instructions
- where test administrators are instructed to read the questions to the pupil
- to read, or sign back to the pupil, any part of their response

Paper 1: spelling

A communicator or sign language interpreter may be used. If the spelling paper is presented through sign language, finger spelling must not be used.

Compensatory marks for spelling

Compensatory marks may be awarded to pupils who have a profound hearing impairment and who do not use lip-reading or a signing system or can only use fingerspelling signing. They are available for the spelling paper of the English grammar, punctuation and spelling test.

A compensatory mark for the spelling test will be available to schools, by request, from the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 at the beginning of June. Schools should add this compensatory mark to the raw score from the English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: questions before converting the overall raw score to a scaled score.

Paper 2: questions

You should use the [Notes for readers in the English grammar, punctuation and spelling tests](#)⁷ to help understand how to communicate particular types of questions.

⁷ www.gov.uk/government/publications/notes-for-readers-in-the-english-grammar-punctuation-and-spelling-test-short-answer-questions

4 Marking

Mark schemes will be published on the [Primary Assessment Gateway](#)⁸ on Tuesday 3 May.

Refer to the KS1 test administration guidance for general information about marking the tests.

You should use the standard mark schemes to mark test scripts completed by pupils with a hearing impairment. There are no amendments to mark schemes for pupils with a hearing impairment.

⁸ www.primaryassessmentgateway.education.gov.uk

5 Further information

5.1 Modified tests

Schools can discuss the suitability of, and order, braille and modified large print versions of KS1 tests by contacting the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 or email modifiedtestshelpline@pia.co.uk.

5.2 General enquiries

For general enquiries about test administration at KS1, contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 or email assessments@education.gov.uk.

5.3 Message us

Message us forms can be found on the [Primary Assessment Gateway](#)⁹.

For queries relating to access arrangements to meet a pupil's specific needs, schools can use the 'Message us – access arrangements' form.

For general enquiries about test administration at KS1, schools and local authorities can use the 'Message us – general enquiry' form.

⁹ www.primaryassessmentgateway.education.gov.uk



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