

2024 national curriculum tests

Key stage 2

English reading test mark schemes

Reading answer booklet



Standards
& Testing
Agency

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Structure of the test	3
3. Content domain coverage	4
4. Explanation of the mark schemes	6
5. Mark schemes for the English reading test	8
Section 1: Streaky and Squeaky	8
Section 2: The Girl who Walked on Air	16
Section 3: The Leopard	28

1. Introduction

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) is responsible for the development and delivery of key stage 1 and 2 statutory and optional tests. STA is an executive agency of the Department for Education.

The 2024 tests assess the national curriculum. This test has been developed to meet the specification set out in the [test framework](#)¹ for English reading at key stage 2. It assesses the aspects of comprehension that lend themselves to a paper test.

A new test and new mark schemes will be produced each year.

Key stage 2 tests are marked by external markers, who receive training to ensure the mark schemes are applied consistently and fairly. The mark schemes are provided to show teachers how the tests are marked. The pupil examples are based on responses gathered from the test trialling process.

Scaled score conversion tables are not included in this document. Conversion tables will be produced as part of the standards maintenance process. [Scaled score conversion tables](#)² for the 2024 tests will be published in July 2024. The standards confirmation meeting will take place in July 2024.

2. Structure of the test

The key stage 2 English reading test comprises:

- a reading booklet containing three texts that increase in demand throughout the booklet
- a reading answer booklet containing questions (50 marks).

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-2-english-reading-test-framework

² www.gov.uk/guidance/scaled-scores-at-key-stage-2

3. Content domain coverage

The 2024 test meets the specification set out in the test framework. Table 1 sets out the areas of the content domain that are assessed in the test.

Table 1: Content domain coverage for the 2024 key stage 2 English reading test

	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2g	2h
	Give or explain the meaning of words in context.	Retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.	Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.	Make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.	Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.	Identify and / or explain how information or narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole.	Identify and / or explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.	Make comparisons within the text.
Qu.	Section 1: Streaky and Squeaky							
1				1				
2	1							
3		1						
4		1						
5				1				
6a		1						
6b		1						
7				1				
8		1						
9				2				
10				1				
11		1						
12		1						
13		2						
Qu.	Section 2: The Girl who Walked on Air							
14				1				
15				1				
16		1						
17		1						
18				1				
19		1						
20				1				
21				2				

	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2g	2h
	<i>Give or explain the meaning of words in context.</i>	<i>Retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.</i>	<i>Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.</i>	<i>Make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.</i>	<i>Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.</i>	<i>Identify and / or explain how information or narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole.</i>	<i>Identify and / or explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.</i>	<i>Make comparisons within the text.</i>
22		2						
23				1				
24				1				
25				1				
26				3				
27			1					
Qu.	Section 3: The Leopard							
28				2				
29	1							
30	1							
31		1						
32		1						
33	1							
34		1						
35				1				
36		2						
37				1				
38	1							
39								3
Total	5	19	1	22				3

4. Explanation of the mark schemes

The number of marks available for each question is given at the side of the page in the reading answer booklet. Incorrect or unacceptable answers are given a mark of 0. No half marks are awarded.

The mark scheme for each question contains acceptable points, which are indicated either by a numbered list or a square bullet point (if there is only one possible answer). These must be treated as marking principles, not the exact response a pupil needs to give.

They also contain examples of some frequently occurring correct answers given by pupils in the trials. These are shown in italics and are introduced by round bullet points. Many pupils will, however, have different ways of wording an acceptable answer. In assessing each answer, markers focus on the content of what has been written and not on the quality of the writing, expression or grammatical construction.

For 'find and copy' questions, the correct answer is indicated by the word(s) outside the brackets. The word(s) inside the brackets indicate the maximum quotation that is allowed. Copying must be accurate but minor copying errors or introductions such as 'The answer is...' or 'It's...' will be permitted.

The mark schemes may also indicate commonly occurring but incorrect answers that should not be accepted.

Recording marks awarded

Pupils' test papers are scanned so that marking can be conducted on screen by trained markers.

For each question, markers record the award of 3, 2, 1 or 0 marks as appropriate, according to the mark scheme criteria. There is provision in the software to record questions not attempted. The software aggregates marks automatically.

The diagram below exemplifies the content of the mark schemes:

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
39	Ruskin's personality made him different from the hunters he met in the forest. Explain two ways in which his personality made him different from them, using evidence from the text to support each answer. Content domain: 2h – make comparisons within the text Acceptable points: 1. he is protective / respectful (towards nature / conservation) 2. he is non-violent (towards animals) 3. he is ethical / law-abiding / not mercenary 4. he is brave 5. he is solitary 6. he is reflective Award 3 marks for two acceptable points, at least one with evidence, e.g. 1. <i>He cared for the animals. It says, "They asked me if I had seen a leopard. I said I had not."</i> [AP1 + evidence] 2. <i>He doesn't hunt animals for skin.</i> [AP3] 1. <i>Fearless.</i> [AP4] 2. <i>He didn't want to kill any animals since he had no weapon.</i> [AP2 + evidence] 1. <i>Protective as he didn't carry a gun to hurt anything.</i> [AP1 + evidence] 2. <i>He liked to be alone.</i> [AP5] Award 2 marks for either two acceptable points, or one acceptable point with evidence, e.g. 1. <i>He was worried they might kill the leopard.</i> [AP6] 2. <i>More interested in the rainforest and the animals.</i> [AP1] 1. <i>Scared for his leopard that could be kind and trust the hunters by having his trust.</i> [AP6 + evidence] Award 1 mark for one acceptable point, e.g. 1. <i>He didn't want to use any guns.</i> [AP2]	Up to 3m

Content domain reference:
Aspect of reading assessed by this question.

Acceptable points (APs):
These are to be treated as marking principles and should guide marking. Pupils do **not** have to use the exact wording.

Criteria for the award of marks

Examples of responses produced in the trials and awarded **3 marks**

Examples of responses produced in the trials and awarded **2 marks**

Examples of responses produced in the trials and awarded **1 mark**

5. Mark schemes for the English reading test

Section 1: Streaky and Squeaky

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
1	According to the text, Madagascar <i>is well known for its range of weird and wonderful wildlife.</i> This suggests... Tick one. Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for: it is very difficult to find your way around the island. ☐ tenrecs are the most famous animals on the island. ☐ there are lots of unusual animals on the island. ☒ streaked tenrecs live all over the world. ☐	1m
2	Read the paragraph beginning: <i>They are not hedgehogs...</i> Find and copy one word that means the same as 'met'. Content domain: 2a – give or explain the meaning of words in context Award 1 mark for: ■ <i>encountered.</i>	1m

Section 1: Streaky and Squeaky

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
3	How can you tell streaked tenrecs are <i>social animals</i>? Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for reference to living in family groups, e.g. • <i>it says they live in family groups</i> • <i>they are the type of tenrecs that live in families</i> • <i>they are the only tenrecs that live in groups</i> • <i>they are always in groups.</i> Also accept reference to communicating with each other, e.g. • <i>they make high pitched noises when they need to find each other</i> • <i>they communicate with each other when they are lost</i> • <i>they talk with each other.</i> Also accept reference to zoos needing to keep streaked tenrecs in pairs or groups, e.g. • <i>in zoos they must be kept in at least pairs</i> • <i>zookeepers won't keep them individually as they need to be kept in at least pairs.</i> Do not accept reference only to the quotation, <i>Both highland and lowland streaked tenrecs are very social animals</i>, e.g. • <i>the text says that they are social animals.</i>	1m

Section 1: Streaky and Squeaky

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
4	Why are beetle larvae suitable food for streaked tenrecs? Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following: - beetle larvae being soft / not too hard, e.g. <i>because larvae don't have hard bits in them</i> <i>they are soft bodied invertebrates.</i> - streaked tenrecs only being able to eat soft food / other foods hurting them, e.g. <i>because anything else could hurt them</i> <i>anything harder could damage their jaw bones</i> <i>because they need to eat soft food</i> <i>tenrecs can't eat hard foods.</i> Also accept reference to streaked tenrecs having fragile jaws, e.g. <i>because of the fragile jaws that they have.</i>	1m
5	Draw three lines to match each paragraph to its main content. Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for all correctly matched: Paragraph The paragraph beginning: <i>Imagine treading through...</i> The paragraph beginning: <i>Both highland and lowland streaked tenrecs are...</i> The paragraph beginning: <i>Tenrecs forage...</i> Content diet behaviour appearance	1m

Section 1: Streaky and Squeaky

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
6(a)	Look at the sections: <i>What do tenrecs eat?</i> and <i>What is stridulation?</i> Which part of their body do tenrecs use to encourage worms? Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for reference to (fore)paws / feet.	1m
6(b)	Which part of their body do they use to make sounds? Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for reference to spines, e.g. • <i>spines on their backs</i> • <i>their spines</i> • <i>special spines.</i>	1 m
7	Look at page 5. When do streaked tenrecs communicate using stridulation? Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for reference to when streaked tenrecs become separated / lost, e.g. • <i>when they are lost</i> • <i>when they are separated</i> • <i>to look for each other</i> • <i>to find each other.</i>	1m

Section 1: Streaky and Squeaky

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
8	The text uses other animals to help describe streaked tenrecs. Draw four lines to match each feature to the animal that it is compared with. Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for all correctly matched: Streaked tenrec features spines markings snout sounds Animal it is compared with cricket bird hedgehog bumblebee	1m
9	Look at the section: <i>What issues are streaked tenrecs facing?</i> What serious problems are streaked tenrecs facing? Give two problems. Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following, up to a maximum of 2 marks: 1. deforestation / the destruction of streaked tenrecs' habitat, e.g. • <i>deforestation destroys their habitat</i> • <i>tenrecs live in the rainforest and it's being destroyed</i> • <i>the landscape is being destroyed.</i>	Up to 2m

Section 1: Streaky and Squeaky

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
9 (cont.)	2. streaked tenrec numbers being in decline, e.g. • <i>they're on the decline</i> • <i>the number of tenrecs are decreasing.</i> 3. streaked tenrecs having less food (to hunt), e.g. • <i>they would go hungry</i> • <i>little food</i> • <i>it's harder for them to hunt</i> • <i>they are losing their food.</i> Also accept reference to streaked tenrecs being prey for larger animals, e.g. • <i>they are prey to many bigger animals</i> • <i>predators</i> • <i>are hunted and eaten.</i> Do not accept reference only to streaked tenrecs being unique to the rainforest / Madagascar, e.g. • <i>they can't be found anywhere else in the world</i> • <i>they are only native to Madagascar</i> • <i>because they are nowhere else.</i> Do not accept reference only to the absence of streaked tenrecs disrupting the whole food chain, e.g. • <i>without tenrecs their food chain could be disrupted</i> • <i>the whole food chain could be disrupted</i> • <i>food chain problems.</i>	

Section 1: Streaky and Squeaky

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
10	Why are streaked tenrecs important to the rainforest? Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following: - streaked tenrecs hunting prey / becoming prey, e.g. <i>because they hunt smaller creatures and are prey for larger animals</i> <i>they hunt smaller creatures</i> <i>they are prey for larger animals</i> <i>they keep the worm and grub population down and are food for a lot of other animals.</i> - streaked tenrecs being important to the food-chain, e.g. <i>tenrecs are part of the food-chain</i> <i>without tenrecs the whole food chain could be disrupted</i> <i>without them big animals would have nothing to eat.</i> Do not accept reference only to streaked tenrecs being unique to the rainforest (in Madagascar), e.g. <i>they can't live anywhere else</i> <i>they are unique to the rainforest</i> <i>they are only found in the rainforest.</i>	1m
11	According to the text, why are streaked tenrecs rarely kept in zoos? Give one reason. Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following: - streaked tenrecs' short lifespan, e.g. <i>they won't survive for very long in the zoos</i> <i>zoos won't get much time to work with the tenrecs before they die.</i> - the requirement for streaked tenrecs to be kept in groups or pairs, e.g. <i>it says you need to keep them in groups</i> <i>they're social animals that need to be kept in at least pairs.</i>	1m

Section 1: Streaky and Squeaky

Qu.	Requirement	Mark																		
12	How are zoos trying to help streaked tenrecs? Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for reference to breeding streaked tenrecs / building a population of streaked tenrecs, e.g. • <i>breeding them</i> • <i>zoos are breeding them around the world</i> • <i>they are building a population of tenrecs</i> • <i>zoos are increasing tenrec numbers.</i> Also accept reference to raising awareness of streaked tenrecs, e.g. • <i>zoos are teaching people around the world about tenrecs.</i> Do not accept reference only to keeping streaked tenrecs in groups or pairs, e.g. • <i>zoos should keep them in pairs or groups.</i> Do not accept reference only to zoos keeping streaked tenrecs, e.g. • <i>by taking them and keeping them safe</i> • <i>they are letting them stay in zoos.</i>	1m																		
13	Look at the whole text. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false. Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for four correct or 2 marks for all five correct: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>True</th><th>False</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>There are many different types of tenrec.</td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Highland tenrecs have white streaks.</td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Tenrecs communicate by stamping their forepaws on the ground.</td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tenrecs live for a long time.</td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lowland streaked tenrecs like to live alone.</td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		True	False	There are many different types of tenrec.	✓		Highland tenrecs have white streaks.	✓		Tenrecs communicate by stamping their forepaws on the ground.		✓	Tenrecs live for a long time.		✓	Lowland streaked tenrecs like to live alone.		✓	Up to 2m
	True	False																		
There are many different types of tenrec.	✓																			
Highland tenrecs have white streaks.	✓																			
Tenrecs communicate by stamping their forepaws on the ground.		✓																		
Tenrecs live for a long time.		✓																		
Lowland streaked tenrecs like to live alone.		✓																		

Section 2: The Girl who Walked on Air

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
14	Her friend Ned was the first person to see Louie walk the tightrope. Why did she choose Ned? Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following: 1. Louie trusting Ned to be straight with her, e.g. • <i>it is because she trusted him</i> • <i>she knew he would tell her if she was good or not</i> • <i>he would be straight with her.</i> 2. Ned's expert knowledge, e.g. • <i>he's seen all the acts</i> • <i>Ned's experienced at circus acts</i> • <i>he had seen a lot of acts so he would know if hers was a good one</i> • <i>he'd know a star if he saw one.</i> Do not accept reference only to Ned being Louie's friend, e.g. • <i>it's her best friend</i> • <i>they're friends.</i>	1m

Section 2: The Girl who Walked on Air

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
15	Ned thought that it was just <i>one big prank</i> when Louie wanted to climb onto the tightrope. Why did Ned think Louie was joking? Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following: - Ned not knowing Louie has experience / Ned thinking Louie is inexperienced, e.g. <i>she'd kept her tightrope walking a secret</i> <i>he thought it was her first time</i> <i>he didn't know she could do it</i> <i>no-one had ever seen her do it.</i> - tightrope walking being dangerous (for Louie to attempt), e.g. <i>because the rope was about ten feet off the ground</i> <i>because it was very dangerous</i> <i>it isn't safe.</i> - tightrope walking being for experts / being difficult, e.g. <i>he thought it was a prank because it takes years to perfect</i> <i>because it takes years of practice to do</i> <i>it's super tricky and hard to do.</i> Do not accept reference only to Ned's disbelief, e.g. <i>he did not believe Louie was going up the rope</i> <i>he thought she would not do it.</i>	1m

Section 2: The Girl who Walked on Air

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
16	Look at page 6. Write two things Louie had to do before walking the tightrope. Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following: - kicking off her clogs, e.g. <i>kicked off her clogs</i> <i>took off her shoes.</i> - tying back her hair, e.g. <i>tie her hair back</i> <i>tie up her hair.</i> - getting helped up, e.g. <i>asked for a leg up on the rope</i> <i>get helped up</i> <i>she had to be helped up.</i> Also accept reference to practising / learning the skill, e.g. <i>learn skills</i> <i>have years of practice</i> <i>practise it.</i>	1m

Section 2: The Girl who Walked on Air

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
17	What was Ned doing every day while Louie practised? Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for reference to the quotation, <i>snoring away in his cosy bed</i>, e.g. • <i>snoring in his bed</i> • <i>sleeping</i> • <i>snoring away</i> • <i>he was in bed</i> • <i>laying in bed.</i>	1m
18	How do you know that Louie had thought about tightrope walking for a long time? Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for reference to the quotation, <i>I'd been practising every morning for as long as I could remember</i>, e.g. • <i>Louie practised every morning</i> • <i>because she did it as long as she could remember</i> • <i>because she had been doing it every morning.</i> Also accept reference to Louie keeping a scrapbook, e.g. • <i>she made a scrapbook.</i> Do not accept reference only to Louie's hero being Blondin / a famous tightrope walker, e.g. • <i>because her hero did it</i> • <i>her hero was Charles Blondin who was a tightrope walker.</i>	1m

Section 2: The Girl who Walked on Air

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
19	Read the paragraph beginning: <i>“Help me up,” I said...</i> to the paragraph ending: <i>...feel wonderfully light.</i> Write the numbers 1–4 to show the order that Louie got onto the rope. Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for: Louie balanced on her stomach on the rope. 2 Louie stood up straight and looked forward. 4 Louie looked down towards Ned. 3 Louie pushed off Ned’s hands. 1	1m
20	Look at page 7. Louie said to Ned, <i>“Now step back and watch.”</i> What two things does this show about Louie? Tick two. Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for: She wanted Ned close by for safety. ☐ She was confident that she would be safe. ☒ She was showing off by going backwards. ☐ She wanted Ned to be able to see her properly. ☒ She was teaching Ned how to do it. ☐	1m

Section 2: The Girl who Walked on Air

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
21	Look at page 7. Give two pieces of evidence that tightrope walking is difficult. Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following, up to a maximum of 2 marks: - Louie requiring help to get up onto the rope, e.g. <i>help me up</i> <i>you have to be cupped up in order to get on.</i> - the need for slow / careful movement, e.g. <i>she eased herself into a crouch position</i> <i>you had to go very slowly</i> <i>you have to crouch first then slowly get taller.</i> - Ned's concern that Louie could fall, e.g. <i>Ned says 'Shouldn't I stay here? Just in case you fall?'</i> <i>you could fall.</i> - the need for concentration / focus, e.g. <i>you must focus</i> <i>you need to concentrate</i> <i>the entire world had shrunk right down on this one length of rope</i> <i>she had to really think about what she was doing.</i> - the need for balance, e.g. <i>you have to have really good balance</i> <i>the rope swayed slightly</i> <i>having only your ankle movement keeping you on.</i> Also accept reference to the tightrope being high in the air, e.g. <i>you have to be high in the air</i> <i>you are really high up</i> <i>she said I've got a birds-eye view.</i>	Up to 2m

Section 2: The Girl who Walked on Air

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
22	Read the paragraph beginning: <i>Arms out to the side...</i> How can you tell that Louie was feeling more confident on the rope at this point in the story? Give two ways. Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following, up to a maximum of 2 marks: - the quotation, <i>making more of a show</i>, e.g. <i>the second time she made more of a show</i> <i>she put on a bit of a show</i> <i>she tried to make a show out of it.</i> - the quotation, <i>It felt good to be watched. It made me think harder about how I moved</i>, e.g. <i>it felt good for her to be watched</i> <i>she thought about how she moved</i> <i>it made her think harder about her moves.</i> - the quotation, <i>flourishing my wrists</i>, e.g. <i>she flourished her wrists</i> <i>twisting her wrists.</i> - the quotation, <i>stretch out each leg in turn</i>, e.g. <i>she stretched out each leg every time</i> <i>she started to crouch down and stretch</i> <i>she was using her legs to make shapes and bending them.</i> - the quotation, <i>I started walking again</i>, e.g. <i>she turned and went the other way</i> <i>she moved forwards and back</i> <i>she started walking again.</i>	Up to 2m

Section 2: The Girl who Walked on Air

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
22 (cont.)	Also accept general references to Louie performing tricks / movements, e.g. • <i>she was making it harder for herself</i> • <i>she did tricks</i> • <i>she started doing bolder moves</i> • <i>she was making shapes.</i>	
23	Look at page 8. <i>The flames were there inside me.</i> How did Louie feel at this point? Tick one. Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for: hot ☐ amused ☐ nervous ☐ excited ☒	1m
24	<i>Focus, Louie.</i> Who said this and how? Tick one. Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for: Louie said it loudly. ☐ Louie said it in her head. ☒ Ned whispered it to himself. ☐ Ned shouted it as a warning. ☐	1m

Section 2: The Girl who Walked on Air

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
25	Look at page 8. How can you tell that Louie enjoyed performing to an audience? Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following: - Louie wanting more people to watch / cheer her, e.g. <i>she wanted more people to watch her and more cheering</i> <i>it says that now she had stared she wanted more cheers and more people.</i> - the quotation, <i>The flames were there inside me</i>, e.g. <i>the flames were inside her showing she was so proud of herself</i> <i>she felt a fire inside her</i> <i>she had flames inside her.</i> - Louie's confidence on the tightrope, e.g. <i>it says she got on one foot and spun around like a dancer</i> <i>she has now done it once and is more confident</i> <i>she says it was like strolling in a park</i> <i>she performed a trick</i> <i>she's confident.</i> - Louie going back along the rope again, e.g. <i>Ned asked her to do it again and she did</i> <i>she did it twice</i> <i>she walked back and forth</i> <i>she didn't want to stop</i> <i>she wanted to do more.</i> - Louie grinning at Ned, e.g. <i>she leaned on the tree and grinned at him.</i>	1m

Section 2: The Girl who Walked on Air

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
25 (cont.)	6. Louie being pleased by Ned's reaction, e.g. <i>she was loving the gasp of Ned</i> <i>he enjoyed watching her which made her enjoy it</i> <i>she is excited at one friend being awed.</i> 7. Louie not wanting to come down, e.g. <i>she didn't want to come down.</i> Do not accept reference only to the quotation, <i>Back on the ground, I felt suddenly shy</i>, e.g. <i>she felt shy</i> <i>she was shy at the end</i> <i>when she got on the ground she suddenly felt shy.</i>	

Section 2: The Girl who Walked on Air

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
26	Look at the whole text. Write three pieces of evidence that show Ned was nervous about Louie's tightrope walking. Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following up to a maximum of 3 marks: - the quotation, <i>You ain't getting up on that?</i> - the quotation, <i>It isn't safe, Louie / You can't just get up on the rope and...</i>, e.g. <i>he told her that it wasn't safe for her</i> <i>he wasn't sure that it was safe for her to be on it.</i> - the quotation, <i>It's a proper skill / It takes years of practice</i>, e.g. <i>he pointed out it takes years to master</i> <i>he thought she needed more practice.</i> - the quotation, <i>Shouldn't I stay here? / Just in case you fall?</i>, e.g. <i>he thought she would fall</i> <i>he wanted to stay beneath the rope incase she falls</i> <i>he offered to help if she fell</i> <i>he was asking if he should stay there</i> <i>he hesitated to move – thinking she would fall.</i> - the quotation, <i>Ned breathed in sharp.</i> Do not accept reference to the quotation, <i>You better come down.</i> Do not accept reference to the quotation, <i>He thought it was all one big prank.</i>	Up to 3m

Section 2: The Girl who Walked on Air

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
27	Look at the whole text. Draw three lines to match Louie's feelings to the moment that she felt them. Content domain: 2c – summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph Award 1 mark for all correctly matched: before going on the rope while walking along the rope back down on the ground shy anxious focused	1m

Section 3: The Leopard

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
28	Read the first paragraph, beginning: <i>I first saw the leopard...</i> Ruskin noticed several signs that the leopard was nearby before he actually saw it. Give two signs that the leopard was nearby. Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for reference to any of the following, up to a maximum of 2 marks: - pebbles rattling down the hill, e.g. <i>there was a shower of pebbles.</i> - the monkeys' grunting and chattering increasing, e.g. <i>the monkeys got louder.</i> - the monkeys warning of danger, e.g. <i>monkeys were sounding an alarm that danger was near</i> <i>the monkeys were chattering a warning</i> <i>the monkeys warned Ruskin.</i>	Up to 2m
29	<i>...he must have sensed my presence...</i> What does <i>sensed my presence</i> mean? Content domain: 2a – give or explain the meaning of words in context Award 1 mark for reference to the leopard realising Ruskin was there, e.g. <i>became aware of him</i> <i>knew I was there without looking</i> <i>felt him there.</i> Do not accept reference to the leopard hearing / smelling / seeing Ruskin, e.g. <i>noticed him from far away</i> <i>knew he was there by scent</i> <i>the leopard saw him.</i> Do not accept repetition of <i>sensed</i> or <i>presence</i>, e.g. <i>he sensed he was there</i> <i>felt his presence.</i>	1m

Section 3: The Leopard

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
30	...he melted into the shadows... What does the word <i>melted</i> mean in this sentence? Content domain: 2a – give or explain the meaning of words in context Award 1 mark for reference to either of the following: - disappeared (into the shadows), e.g. <i>silently disappeared</i> <i>vanished.</i> - camouflaged / faded (into the shadows), e.g. <i>he became part of the shadow</i> <i>he merged with the shadow.</i> Also accept reference to (the writer) no longer being able to see the leopard, e.g. <i>he couldn't be seen anymore.</i>	1m
31	Read the paragraph beginning: <i>He was not looking toward me...</i> What did Ruskin think the leopard had been doing before he noticed it? Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for reference to hunting (deer), e.g. <i>looking for food</i> <i>on a hunt</i> <i>on a quest for food</i> <i>chasing a deer.</i>	1m

Section 3: The Leopard

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
32	Read the paragraph beginning: <i>The leopard, like other members...</i> In the weeks after he first saw it, what sign did Ruskin have that the leopard was still in the area? Tick one. Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for: He saw it at twilight. ☐ He heard its heartbeat. ☐ He heard it coughing. ☒ He saw it on the rock. ☐	1m
33	Look at page 11. Find and copy one word that shows the hunters made Ruskin uncomfortable. Content domain: 2a – give or explain the meaning of words in context Award 1 mark for either of the following: 1. <i>uneasy</i> 2. <i>disturbed</i>	1m
34	Look at page 11. How did the hunters know that there was a leopard in the forest? Give two ways. Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for reference to both of the following: 1. paw prints / leopard prints 2. the (deer's) carcass Do not accept reference only to a deer, e.g. • <i>because they saw a deer.</i>	1m

Section 3: The Leopard

Qu.	Requirement	Mark															
35	Read the paragraph beginning: <i>One day...</i> What made Ruskin suspect that the leopard was inside the cave? Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for reference to the scent / odour (of a cat / leopard), e.g. • <i>it smelled of cats</i> • <i>there was a strong smell of one of the cat family</i> • <i>the strong feline odour of one of the cat family</i> • <i>there was a weird odour coming from the cave</i> • <i>because of an odour.</i>	1m															
36	Look at page 11. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false. Content domain: 2b – retrieve and record information or identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for three correct or 2 marks for all four correct: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>True</th><th>False</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Exporting skins was not allowed.</td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>The leopard could be heard from outside the cave.</td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr> <tr> <td>The hunters used their weapons carefully.</td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr> <tr> <td>The pine martens were scared of Ruskin.</td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		True	False	Exporting skins was not allowed.	✓		The leopard could be heard from outside the cave.		✓	The hunters used their weapons carefully.		✓	The pine martens were scared of Ruskin.	✓		Up to 2m
	True	False															
Exporting skins was not allowed.	✓																
The leopard could be heard from outside the cave.		✓															
The hunters used their weapons carefully.		✓															
The pine martens were scared of Ruskin.	✓																

Section 3: The Leopard

Qu.	Requirement	Mark												
37	Read the paragraph beginning: <i>I paused...</i> to the paragraph ending: <i>...ignoring me altogether.</i> Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is something Ruskin knew or something Ruskin imagined. Content domain: 2d – make inferences from the text or explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for all three correct: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>Ruskin knew</th><th>Ruskin imagined</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>There was no movement inside the cave.</td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>The leopard was hiding inside the cave.</td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr> <tr> <td>The leopard recognised Ruskin.</td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Ruskin knew	Ruskin imagined	There was no movement inside the cave.	✓		The leopard was hiding inside the cave.		✓	The leopard recognised Ruskin.		✓	1m
	Ruskin knew	Ruskin imagined												
There was no movement inside the cave.	✓													
The leopard was hiding inside the cave.		✓												
The leopard recognised Ruskin.		✓												
38	Read the paragraph beginning: <i>Perhaps I had made...</i> <i>I did not venture any further...</i> Which of the following is closest in meaning to <i>venture</i> in this sentence? Tick one. Content domain: 2a – give or explain the meaning of words in context Award 1 mark for: think about things ☐ plan ahead ☐ ask questions ☐ dare to explore ☒	1m												

Section 3: The Leopard

Qu.	Requirement	Mark
39	Ruskin's personality made him different from the hunters he met in the forest. Explain two ways in which his personality made him different from them, using evidence from the text to support each answer. Content domain: 2h – make comparisons within the text Acceptable points: 1. he is protective / respectful (towards nature / conservation) 2. he is non-violent (towards animals) 3. he is ethical / law-abiding / not mercenary 4. he is brave 5. he is solitary 6. he is reflective Award 3 marks for two acceptable points, at least one with evidence, e.g. • 1. <i>He cared for the animals. It says, "They asked me if I had seen a leopard. I said I had not."</i> [AP1 + evidence] 2. <i>He doesn't hunt animals for skin.</i> [AP3] • 1. <i>Fearless.</i> [AP4] 2. <i>He didn't want to kill any animals since he had no weapon.</i> [AP2 + evidence] • 1. <i>Protective as he didn't carry a gun to hurt anything.</i> [AP1 + evidence] 2. <i>He liked to be alone.</i> [AP5] Award 2 marks for either two acceptable points, or one acceptable point with evidence, e.g. • 1. <i>He was worried they might kill the leopard.</i> [AP6] 2. <i>More interested in the rainforest and the animals.</i> [AP1] • 1. <i>Scared for his leopard that could be kind and trust the hunters by having his trust.</i> [AP6 + evidence] Award 1 mark for one acceptable point, e.g. • 1. <i>He didn't want to use any guns.</i> [AP2]	Up to 3m

[BLANK PAGE]

This page is intentionally blank.

[BLANK PAGE]

This page is intentionally blank.



Standards
& Testing
Agency

2024 key stage 2 English reading test mark schemes

Reading answer booklet

Print PDF version product code: STA/24/8812/p ISBN: 978-1-83507-007-9

Electronic PDF version product code: STA/24/8812/e ISBN: 978-1-83507-027-7

For more copies

Printed copies of this booklet are not available. It can be downloaded after the test window from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials>.

© Crown copyright 2024

Re-use of Crown copyright in test materials

With the exception of third-party copyright content, the 2024 key stage 2 test materials are Crown copyright. You may re-use them (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium in accordance with the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 which can be found on the National Archives website and accessed via the following link: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence. When you use this information under the Open Government Licence v3.0, you should include the following attribution: 'Contains material developed by the Standards and Testing Agency for 2024 national curriculum assessments and licensed under Open Government Licence v3.0' and where possible provide a link to the licence.



Exception – third-party copyright content in test materials

Schools and other educational establishments, as defined in the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 (CDPA), may re-use the test materials in their entirety for teaching purposes: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exceptions-to-copyright>. However, if not expressly permitted under the CDPA, you must obtain permission from the relevant copyright owners, listed in the '2024 key stage 2 tests copyright report', for re-use of any third-party copyright content which we have identified in the test materials. Alternatively, you should remove the unlicensed third-party copyright content and/or replace it with appropriately licensed material.

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