2026 national curriculum tests

Key stage 2

English grammar, punctuation and spelling

Paper 1: questions

First name						
Middle name						
Last name						
Date of birth	Day		Month		Year	
School name						
DfE number						

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Instructions

Questions and answers

There are different types of question for you to answer in different ways. The space for your answer shows you what type of answer is needed. Write your answer in the space provided. Do not write over any barcodes.

Multiple-choice answers
For some questions, you do not need to do any writing. Read the instructions carefully so that you know how to answer each question.

Short answers
Some questions are followed by a line or a box. This shows that you need to write a word, a few words or a sentence.

Marks

The number under each line at the side of the page tells you the number of marks available for each question.

You should work through the booklet until you are asked to stop.

Work as quickly and as carefully as you can. If you finish before the end, go back and check your work.

You have 45 minutes to answer the questions in this booklet.

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1 Which sentence must end with a **question mark**?

Tick **one**.

- Orla wants to know when you are coming to the cinema with us ☐
- Will Orla buy tickets for all of us ☐
- I will ask Mum if I can come today ☐
- I need to find out what time the film starts ☐

1 mark

2 Which sentence is the most **formal**?

Tick **one**.

- Come on – find a seat! ☐
- Sit down, won't you? ☐
- Have a sit-down. ☐
- Please be seated. ☐

1 mark

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3 Draw a line to match each word to the correct **suffix**.
Use each suffix only once.

Word	Suffix
develop	ness
outrage	less
weak	ment
power	ous

1 mark

4 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

Tick **one**.

- Flo – my youngest – sister is in year three. ☐
- Flo – my youngest sister – is in year three. ☐
- Flo my youngest – sister – is in year three. ☐
- Flo my youngest sister – is in year – three. ☐

1 mark

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5 Which sentence uses a **colon** correctly?

Tick **one**.

- Plants cannot live without: these three things light, water and nutrients. ☐
- Plants cannot live: without these three things light, water and nutrients. ☐
- Plants cannot live without these: three things light, water and nutrients. ☐
- Plants cannot live without these three things: light, water and nutrients. ☐

1 mark

6 Which sentence is **not** written in **Standard English**?

Tick **one**.

- We were all at the skate park yesterday evening. ☐
- Jay did a brilliant trick on his skateboard. ☐
- I am not as good at them tricks as Jay is. ☐
- Jay said he would show me how to improve. ☐

1 mark

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7 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

Tick **one**.

We saw horses from the train window? ☐

Look at that horse! ☐

What a lovely sight it was? ☐

Where are the horses. ☐

1 mark

8 Which word is a **synonym** of apparent in the sentence below?

It was apparent that Yasir had worked hard on his model.

Tick **one**.

curious ☐

surprising ☐

exciting ☐

obvious ☐

1 mark

9 Which sentence uses a **comma** correctly after a **fronted adverbial**?

Tick **one**.

According to the weather forecast, it will be sunny this afternoon. ☐

Whatever, the cost she was determined that she would own a horse one day. ☐

Unfortunately he overslept and, missed the school trip to the Science Museum. ☐

This is a new game that we learnt, in PE today. ☐

1 mark

10 Draw a line to match each word to its **synonym**.

Word	Synonym
vast	nasty
unpleasant	small
agreeable	enormous
tiny	pleasant

1 mark

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11 Circle the more **formal** option in each underlined pair in the sentence below.

We are writing to ask / request that you consider / think about

using some of the proceeds / money from the school fair to

buy / purchase a wooden bench for the playground.

1 mark

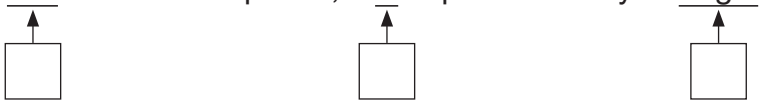
12 Insert a pair of **brackets** in the correct place in the sentence below.

Pepper a black cat from York hid in the back of his owner's car for a whole night.

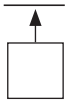
1 mark

13 Tick one box to show which verb is in the wrong **tense** in the sentence below.

When you use watercolour paints, it is important that you begin with



lighter shades and built up colour gradually.



1 mark

14 Insert a **pair of commas** in the correct place in the sentence below.

She decided although she was feeling tired that she would still go to Rita's party.

1 mark

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15 Explain how the change of **modal verb** affects the meaning of the second sentence.

1. We will walk home from the station.

2. We might walk home from the station.

_____

_____

1 mark

16 What is the grammatical term for the underlined part of the sentence below?

You cannot borrow books from the local library <u>unless you are a member</u>.

Tick **one**.

- a preposition phrase ☐
- a subordinate clause ☐
- a main clause ☐
- a noun phrase ☐

1 mark

17 Tick one box in each row to show whether each sentence is a **statement**, a **command** or an **exclamation**.

Sentence	Statement	Command	Exclamation
How I hate tidying my bedroom			
Your bedroom is always neat and tidy			
Before we go out on our bikes, help me tidy my bedroom			

1 mark

18 Circle the **conjunction** in the sentence below.

Salma decided to cook dinner while her mum enjoyed a rest after a tiring day at work.

1 mark

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19 Which sentence uses the **past progressive**?

Tick **one**.

- What did you do? ☐
- What are you doing? ☐
- What were you doing? ☐
- What could you have done? ☐

1 mark

20 Draw a line to match each **prefix** to a word to form its **antonym**.
Use each prefix only once.

Prefix	Word
im	direct
in	loyal
dis	construct
de	perfect

1 mark

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21 Which option completes the sentence in the **past perfect**?

_____ before school.

Tick **one**.

I eat breakfast ☐

I was eating breakfast ☐

I had eaten breakfast ☐

I have eaten breakfast ☐

1 mark

22 Circle the three **verbs** in the sentence below.

Jackson waited for everyone else to choose their food before he served himself.

1 mark

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23 Insert a **relative pronoun** to complete the sentence below.

The gymnast, _____ has represented his country at the Olympics, will visit our sports club next week.

1 mark

24 Insert **inverted commas** in the correct places in the passage below.

Imran looked up from the microscope . I can see the bacteria really clearly ! he exclaimed .

1 mark

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25 Rewrite the underlined verbs so that they are in the **simple past**.

The plane flies high above the clouds, while the passengers sit

in their seats and relax.

1 mark

26 Underline the **relative clause** in the sentence below.

One of the greatest inventions was the wheel, which first appeared over 5000 years ago.

1 mark

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27 Insert a **semi-colon** in the correct place in the sentence below.

The lovely county of Cornwall has a long, rugged coastline its secluded coves provide safe, sheltered harbours.

1 mark

28 Write the **contracted form** of the underlined words in the boxes below.

I never send my aunt emails because she <u>does not</u> own a

[ ]

computer. I send her letters instead, but they <u>do not</u> reach her

[ ]

for several days. I hope <u>she will</u> come and visit us soon.

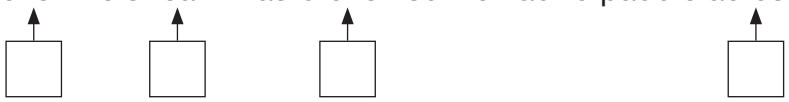
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1 mark

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29 Tick one box to show which word is a **preposition** in the sentence below.

The bridge over the stream was broken so we had to paddle across.



1 mark

30 Insert a **dash** in the correct place in the sentence below.

My fruit salad will include strawberries, blueberries and grapes they're so delicious.

1 mark

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31 Complete the sentence below with a word from the same **word family** as motivated.

The girl was motivated to go swimming every day.

Her _____ was the chance to swim for her county.

1 mark

32 In which sentence is right an **adjective**?

Tick **one**.

Rani wanted to make the right decision. ☐

We went right to the top of the tower. ☐

You have the right to fair treatment. ☐

Kyle tried to right his mistakes. ☐

1 mark

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33 Insert two **apostrophes** in the correct places in the sentence below.

Toms one of those boys whos always happy to help .

1 mark

34 Circle the **subordinating conjunction** in the sentence below.

Unfortunately, the youth club will be closed until we have completed the repairs and replaced the sports equipment.

1 mark

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35 Insert a **hyphen** in the correct place in the sentence below.

After the long shopping trip, we did not have a lot of time to cook dinner, so we bought a ready made pasta sauce and garlic bread.

1 mark

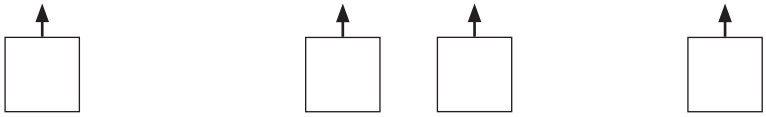
36 Sam wants to know what time the game starts.
Write a **question** he could ask to find out.
Remember to punctuate your sentence correctly.

_____

1 mark

37 Label each box with **subject (S)** or **object (O)**.

When Seema reached the playground, she greeted her friends.



1 mark

38 Explain how the **comma** changes the meaning of the second sentence.

1. We often eat lunch near the pond in the park or under the trees.

2. We often eat lunch near the pond, in the park or under the trees.

1 mark

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39 Circle the three **nouns** in the sentence below.

They were so excited about going to Cardiff that they wouldn't let the bad weather dampen their enthusiasm.

1 mark

40 Insert **capital letters** and **full stops** in the correct places in the passage below.

camels live in the desert they can survive extremes of temperature and manage without food for a long time although some camels have one hump, others have two

1 mark

41 Rewrite the sentence below in the **active**.
Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

The trees are being harmed by pollution.

1 mark

42 Circle the **possessive pronoun** in the passage below.

Sandip introduced me to the new girl in year 6, whose name was Rashida. She had forgotten to bring a pen so I gave her one of mine.

1 mark

43 Underline the longest **noun phrase** in the sentence below.

The beautiful grey elephants walked slowly through the forest.

1 mark

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44 Which sentence uses the **subjunctive**?

Tick **one**.

If I were to look inside the box, what would I find? ☐

If I had to choose my favourite food, I would choose pizza. ☐

If your soup is too hot, wait for it to cool down. ☐

If you are late, you might miss the bus. ☐

1 mark

45 Rewrite the sentence below in the **passive**.
Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

Rabia broke the mug.

1 mark

46 Underline the **adverbial** in the sentence below.

I'm going to visit my uncle at the weekend.

1 mark

47 Which sentence is an **exclamation**?
The punctuation at the end of each sentence has been removed.

Tick **one**.

That's my favourite band ☐

This music is too loud ☐

What a brilliant song this is ☐

Let's dance ☐

1 mark

48 Circle the two **co-ordinating conjunctions** in the sentence below.

Because my brother couldn't decide whether to wear trainers or boots, we left late and almost missed the bus.

1 mark

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49 Circle the two **adverbs** in the passage below.

I'll always remember the day that we won the cup. Dad and I sang jubilantly as we walked through the park.

1 mark

50 Circle the three **determiners** in the sentence below.

I go to the swimming pool every week with my best friend Peter.

1 mark

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