TUESDAY 12 MAY 2026

2026 national curriculum tests

Key stage 2

English reading

Administering the reading booklet and reading answer booklet

CONFIDENTIAL

Please read the 2026 test administration guidance before opening this pack on **Tuesday 12 May 2026**.

You may open this pack up to 1 hour before test administration to adapt the papers to meet your pupils' needs.

Written STA approval is required to open it earlier.

Keep these materials secure until **Friday 22 May 2026**.

Pack contents:

- Administration instructions for the key stage 2 English reading test: reading booklet and reading answer booklet (overleaf)
- Pack of the reading booklet
- Pack of the reading answer booklet

Z0050AP108
satspapershub.co.uk

Key stage 2 English reading test

The following information explains how to administer the key stage 2 English reading test. If you have any questions, you should check with your headteacher or key stage 2 test co-ordinator before you administer the test.

Please follow these instructions correctly to ensure that the test is properly administered. Failure to administer the test correctly could result in a maladministration investigation.

Format	• This test consists of a reading answer booklet and a separate reading booklet. • Pupils will have a total of 1 hour to read the three 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	• Each pupil will need the equipment specified below: - a dark pencil or blue or black pen. • Rubbers are allowed, but please encourage pupils to cross out answers they wish to change instead of rubbing them out. • Highlighter pens may be used if it is normal classroom practice. • Pupils may use monolingual English electronic spell checkers, provided they do not give definitions of words. • Pupils must **not** use a dictionary or thesaurus. • You may give pupils additional lined paper if they request it.
Assistance	• You must ensure that nothing you say or do during the test could be interpreted as giving pupils an advantage, for example, indicating that an answer is correct or incorrect, or suggesting the pupil look at an answer again. • The English reading test must not be read to individuals or to a group, except for the test instructions on page 3 of the reading answer booklet. You may rephrase the test instructions 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 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 the meanings of any words or expressions. • The example below illustrates how to deal with a common situation. **Question:** I don't understand the question. **Answer:** Read the question again and underline the words that tell you what to do.
Before the test begins	• Review the list of pupils with particular individual needs, for example, pupils who are allowed additional time, who need support from a scribe or who may need a transcript made at the end of the test. • It is important that the pupils' names on their tests match the names on the test attendance register. Check with your test co-ordinator whether any pupil in your group is known by a different name in school, or has changed their name since pupil registration. This is so you can remind the pupil to write the correct name on their reading answer booklet. • Write the school's name and DfE number on a board that is visible to all pupils. • Leave space on the board to write the start and finish times of the test.
What to do at the start of the test	• Check seating is appropriately spaced and that no pupil can see another pupil's answer booklet. • Check pupils do not have mobile phones or other disruptive items. • Check pupils do not have any materials or equipment that may give them extra help. • Ensure each pupil has one unused copy of the reading booklet and one reading answer booklet. • Write the start and finish times on the board so that all pupils can see them.

How to introduce the test	

- It is important to brief pupils fully at the start of the test. You should use this script to introduce the English reading test.

This is the key stage 2 English reading test.

You should have a reading booklet and a reading answer booklet in front of you.

You will need a blue or black pen or a dark pencil.

Write your name, date of birth, school name and DfE number on the front of your reading answer booklet.

[If any pupil's name differs from the name provided during pupil registration, instruct the pupil to write both names on the paper.]

Open your reading answer booklet to page 3. I will read the instructions to you.

You have 1 hour to complete this test, answering the questions in the answer booklet. Read one text and answer the questions about that text before moving on to read the next text.

There are three texts and three sets of questions.

In this booklet, 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.

Some questions are followed by a short line or box. This shows that you only need to write a word or a few words in your answer.

Some questions are followed by a few lines. This gives you space to write more words or a sentence or two.

Some questions are followed by more answer lines. This shows that a longer, more detailed answer is needed. You can write in full sentences if you want to.

For some questions you do not need to write anything at all and you should tick, draw lines to or circle your answer.

Read the instructions carefully so that you know how to answer the question.

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

As this is a reading test, you must use the information in the texts to help you to answer the questions. When a question includes a page or a paragraph reference, you should refer to the text on that page or in that paragraph to help you with your answer.

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

You should try to answer all of the questions. If you can't answer a question, move on to the next one and return to it later if you have time. Remember that you should keep referring back to your reading booklet.

Pay particular attention to any instructions within test questions.

To make sure your answers can be marked, don't write in the grey areas, on the barcode or on the lines at the top and bottom or the edge of the page and don't crumple your answer booklet.

If you want to change your answer, put a line through the response you don't want the marker to read. If you have to use a rubber, make sure you rub out your answer completely before writing a new one.

Remember to check your work carefully.

If you have any questions during the test, you should put your hand up and wait for someone to come over to you. Remember, I can't help you to answer any of the test questions or read any of the words to you.

You must not talk to each other.

Are there any questions you want to ask me now?

I will tell you when you have 5 minutes left. I will tell you when the test is over and to stop writing.

You may now start the test.

How to deal with issues during the test	• It is impossible to plan for every scenario. Whatever action you take, pupil safety must always be your first consideration. • In the following circumstances, you will need to stop the test either for an individual pupil, group of pupils or for the whole cohort: - test papers are incorrectly collated or the print is illegible - an incorrect test has been administered - a fire alarm goes off - a pupil is unwell - a pupil needs to leave the room - a pupil is caught cheating. • If you need to stop the test: - make a note of the time - make sure pupils are kept under test conditions and that they are supervised - if pupils have to leave the room, ensure they do not talk about the test - speak to your test co-ordinator or a senior member of staff for advice about what to do next - consider contacting the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 for further advice. • You should brief your headteacher on how the incident was dealt with once the test is over.
What to do at the end of the test	• If you need to make a transcript of a test script, complete it with the individual pupil at the end of the test, under test conditions. Particular care should be taken to ensure accurate transcriptions are made and the pupil's answers are not corrected or amended. • Ensure that you inform your senior member of staff or test co-ordinator if you have made a transcript, or if a pupil has used a scribe, word processor or other electronic or technical device. This is so they can complete the appropriate online notification. • Ensure you have collected every test script, and every reading booklet and any unused test materials. Return them immediately to the senior member of staff who is responsible for collating the tests. • Do not look at, review or amend pupils' answers in any way (unless it is necessary to make a transcript). If you tamper with or make changes to pupils' answers, it will be considered maladministration and results may be annulled. • Do not keep or photocopy test scripts for any reason. • Ensure that any unused test materials, including reading booklets, are stored securely until Friday 22 May.

[BLANK PAGE]

This page is intentionally blank.

[BLANK PAGE]

This page is intentionally blank.

satspapershub.co.uk

[BLANK PAGE]

This page is intentionally blank.

Standards & Testing Agency

Key stage 2 English reading
Administering the reading booklet and reading answer booklet
Print version product code: STA/26/9027/p ISBN: 978-1-83507-562-3
Electronic version product code: STA/26/9027/e ISBN: 978-1-83507-574-6

For more copies

Additional printed copies of this booklet are not available. It can be downloaded after the test window from www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-past-test-materials.

© Crown copyright

The texts and images have been incorporated into this test booklet solely for the purposes of the examination in accordance with Section 32 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, as amended by the Copyright and Rights in Performances (Research, Education, Libraries and Archives) Regulations 2014. No copyright or clearance for any other use has been obtained or sought.

Re-use of third-party copyright content in test materials

You must obtain permission from the relevant copyright owners, as listed in the 'key stage 2 tests copyright report', for re-use of any third-party copyright content which we have identified in this booklet. Alternatively, you should remove the unlicensed third-party copyright content and/or replace it with appropriately licensed material.

All other materials in this booklet 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.

OGL

The texts used in national curriculum assessments are carefully selected to ensure that they are suitable for pupils. Please note, however, that they are often taken from wider materials and you should review the content from the source material before using it with your pupils.

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

satspapershub.co.uk