

2016 national curriculum tests and assessments



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Context of changes

- September 2014 - new curriculum introduced
- Revised national curriculum assessed for the first time in May 2016
- Applies to pupils at the end of key stages 1 and 2
- New curriculum, new standards, new tests



New curriculum, new standards, new tests: KS1

- Extensive changes
- Previous tests and tasks replaced by new set of tests
- New tests include:
 - a grammar, punctuation and spelling test
 - an arithmetic paper
- No set days for the administration
- To be administered during May 2016



New curriculum, new standards, new tests: KS2

- Mental maths test will be replaced with an arithmetic test
- No level 6 tests
 - all pupils will take just 1 set of tests
 - tests will include a small number of questions that will stretch the most able pupils



Scaled scores

- Used for reporting national curriculum test outcomes
- Schools not required to change preparation for, or administration of, tests
- Helps test results to be reported consistently and maintain meaning over time - 2 pupils achieving the same scaled score in different years will have demonstrated the same attainment
- National standard will be '100'
- The 'raw score' that equates to 100 might be different each year



Reporting scaled scores

- Raw scores translated to scaled scores using a conversion table
- KS1 conversion tables published on GOV.UK by the end of May 2016
- KS2 test results published on NCA tools in July 2016
- Pupils to receive a raw score, scaled score and confirmation of attainment of the national standard
- KS2 conversion tables published on GOV.UK on return of results day



Science sampling

- Science sampling will take place in 2016
- Approx. 1/3 of questions from 2014 science sample to be released in December 2015, to illustrate the style of the new tests
- Sufficient materials made available for schools to see how tests will look in 2016



2016 sample tests and frameworks

- Sample tests and frameworks already published on GOV.UK
- **Key stage 1**
 - English reading
 - English grammar, punctuation and spelling
 - Mathematics
- **Key stage 2**
 - English reading
 - English grammar, punctuation and spelling
 - Mathematics



Sample tests

- Design similar to 2016 live tests
- Sample mark schemes and test administration instructions available
- Modified versions of the tests published before the start of the autumn term
- Description of pupil performance at the national standard is included in the test framework - used to set the raw score that links to a scaled score of 100 on the test
- The sample tests can be used as practice tests prior to pupils taking the live tests



Test frameworks

- Test frameworks available for each test
- Primarily for test developers, teachers may be also interested in them
- Each sets out:
 - what will and won't be assessed
 - how each subject element will be assessed
 - test structure
 - a performance descriptor describing the range of knowledge and skills required to demonstrate the expected standard in each key stage test, in each subject
- Frameworks do not provide information on how the new curriculum should be taught



KS1 tests: key changes

English reading

- 2 papers:
 - 1 with text and questions combined
 - 1 more challenging text with the questions in a separate booklet
- All pupils should be given the opportunity to sit both papers

Grammar, punctuation and spelling

- Emphasis on technical aspects of grammar
- Separate spelling test
- No English writing test

Mathematics

- New arithmetic test introduced



KS1 English reading

- Greater emphasis on comprehension elements of the new curriculum
- Each test includes a selection of unrelated texts of increasing difficulty
- A mixture of 2 text types
- Paper 2 offered to all pupils



KS1 English grammar, punctuation and spelling

- No contextualised questions
- Written task has been removed
- Spelling tested by asking pupils to complete sentences with a word missing



KS1 mathematics

- New arithmetic test introduced
- Some arithmetic test items have a grid in the answer / working out space
 - pupils may benefit from using more formal methods for calculations



KS2 tests: key changes

English reading

- Greater focus on fictional texts

English grammar, punctuation and spelling

- Greater focus on knowing and applying grammatical terminology with the full range of punctuation tested
- Technical terms in grammar tested
- Spelling patterns and methodologies form the basis of spellings tested



KS2 tests: key changes (cont)

Mathematics

- Mental mathematics test removed
- Arithmetic test introduced to assess basic mathematical calculations
- No contextualised questions
- 36 questions, 40 marks available, 30 minutes duration
- Questions will cover:
 - straightforward addition and subtraction
 - more complex calculations with fractions
 - long divisions and long multiplications



KS2 tests: key changes (cont)

Science sampling

- Statutory science sampling tests in 2016
- Tests will be securely administered in selected schools by external administrators
- No access for schools to the test papers after their administration
- A set of questions will be made public after the assessment cycle



KS2 English reading

- Retained a similar structure to the previous KS2 reading test
- Greater emphasis on the comprehension elements of the new curriculum
- Each test will have 3-4 unrelated texts of increasing difficulty
- There will be a mixture of text types



KS2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling

- No contextual items
- Design of the test unchanged:
 - 1 short answer paper with questions, 50 marks available
 - 1 spelling test with questions, 20 marks available
- Spelling tested by asking pupils to complete sentences with a word missing



KS2 mathematics

- 3 papers:
 - 1 arithmetic paper
 - 2 mathematical reasoning papers
- Gridded paper provided in answer spaces for questions on the arithmetic paper and some questions on Paper 2



Information available

- Sample test materials for 2016:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-2016-sample-materials>
- 2016 test frameworks:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-test-frameworks>
- STA training materials available for schools and local authorities in the autumn term



Further queries

- Achievement and Improvement through Assessment (AaIA) Show: 9 October 2015 - Peterborough (www.aaiia.org.uk)
- Academies Show: 25 November 2015 - Birmingham, NEC (www.academiesshowbirmingham.co.uk)
- Education Show 2016: 17-19 March 2016 - Birmingham, NEC (www.education-show.com)
- National curriculum assessments helpline: 0300 303 3013



Thank you for listening


