

End of Key Stage Two Assessments 2026



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• **What are end of key stage two assessments?**

What you might know as SATs or Standard Attainment Tests, are national curriculum tests that are usually taken by children at the end of key stage two.

- All children are assessed during the last term of year 6; for 2026, this is in the week beginning 11th May.
- The aim of the tests is to establish whether pupils are working at an expected level in English and maths for the end of primary school and the start of secondary school.
- The results of the tests do not tell us how accomplished children are in other areas, such as sport, music or art.
- Pupils sit six different tests in three subject areas: maths, English reading and English grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- English writing judgements are made by the pupils' teachers through teacher assessment, based on evidence of independent writing gathered over the course of year 6.

- **When do they happen?**

Every primary school will test their pupils on the same subject at the same time during the week.

Assessment week 2026	Tests
Monday	English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: questions Paper 2: spelling
Tuesday	English reading
Wednesday	Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic Paper 2: reasoning
Thursday	Mathematics Paper 3: reasoning
Friday	No tests planned!



- **What are the children tested on?**

English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Paper 1: questions (45 minutes) 50 marks

A combined question and answer booklet which assesses pupils' understanding of the grammar, punctuation and spelling elements of the national curriculum English programmes of study for key stage two.

Paper 2: spelling (15 minutes but not strictly timed) 20 marks

The paper that pupils receive has 20 sentences, each with a missing word. The teacher reads the sentences one at a time and pupils write in the missing word on their paper.

• Sample Questions

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper 1

40

Tick one box in each row to show whether the sentence is written in the **active voice** or the **passive voice**.

Sentence	Active	Passive
Otters live in clean rivers.		
Fish are eaten by otters.		
Usually, otters are playful creatures.		

• Sample Questions

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper 1

44

Which verb completes the sentence so that it uses the **subjunctive form**?

I wish I _____ able to join you, but it will not be possible.

Tick **one**.

am

was

were

be

• Sample Questions

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Paper 2

Spelling task

1. The dragon is an imaginary _____.
2. There was _____ food for everyone.
3. My little brother is in _____ class.
4. Playing in the snow made my fingers _____.
5. We learned how to do _____ in mathematics.
6. Charlie _____ with relief.

- **What are the children tested on?**

English Reading

(1 hour) 50 marks

Pupils will have a reading booklet with three different texts to read and a corresponding question and answer booklet. The texts are presented in increasing levels of difficulty and pupils' comprehension skills will be assessed against the comprehension elements of the English programme of study for key stage two.

• Sample Questions

Reading Paper

39

What impressions do you get of the relationship between Piper and Micah?

Give **two** impressions, supporting your answer with evidence from the text.

1. _____

2. _____

3 marks

• Sample Questions

Reading Paper

17

Look at the section headed: ***What's so different about the bumblebee?***

The text refers to the bumblebees' *cousins*.

Who are their *cousins*?

1 mark

- **What are the children tested on?**

Mathematics

Paper 1: arithmetic (30 minutes) 40 marks


Pupils will have a booklet of arithmetic questions based on the national curriculum maths key stage two programmes of study.


Papers 2 and 3: reasoning (40 minutes each) 35 marks each

Both papers will ask children to reason and solve problems, again based on the national curriculum maths programmes of study.

• Sample Questions

Maths Paper 1: Arithmetic

14	$25.34 \times 10 =$	<input type="text"/>	1 mark
			

15	$60 \div (30 - 24) =$	<input type="text"/>	1 mark
			

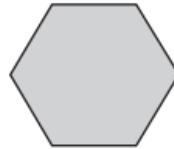
• Sample Questions

Maths Paper 2 / Paper 3 : Reasoning

17

These two shapes have the **same** perimeter.

regular hexagon



square

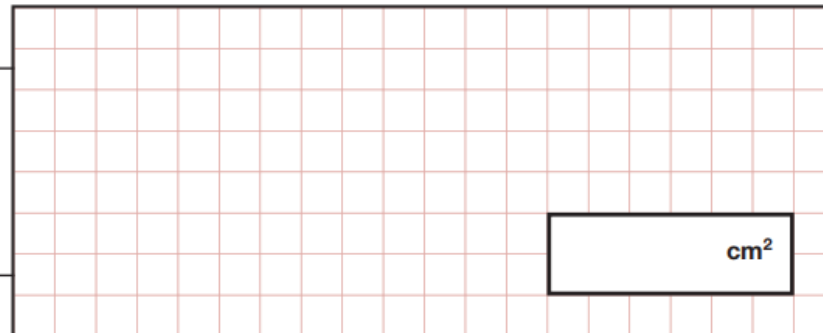


Not actual size

The length of each side of the **hexagon** is **8** centimetres.

Calculate the **area** of the **square**.

Show
your
method



cm²

2 marks

• Sample Questions

Maths Paper 2 / Paper 3 : Reasoning

18

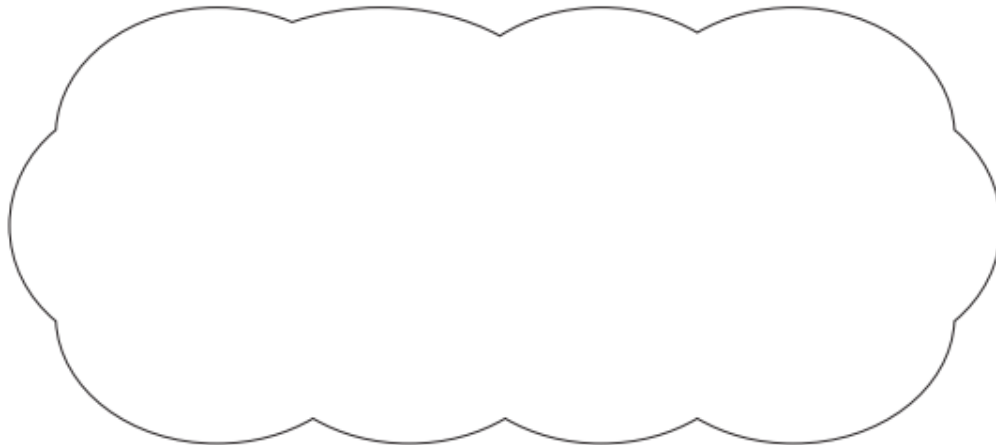
Circle the **prime** number.

95

89

87

Explain how you know the other numbers are **not** prime.



1 mark

- **How are the tests administered?**

- For most pupils, tests will be administered in the classroom.
- Some pupils may be in individual or small group rooms if appropriate.
- Some pupils may receive additional time, readers, scribes or movement breaks in line with access arrangement criteria.
- There will always be two adults in a room.
- The school day and organisation for others will be adapted as needed to minimise disruption for year 6.
- We will provide year 6 with toast and squash when they come into school and with a biscuit after each test.



• What happens with the results?

- For 2026, school results in the end of key stage assessments will be published in performance tables.
- School results will be shared with the school, the local authority and Ofsted to support school improvement.
- Each child will receive a scaled score for their performance on the tests. This is a score between 80 and 120, where a score of 100 is considered to be average or working at the expected level of attainment at the end of primary school.
- We will share pupils' results with their end of year data sheet, which is sent home to parents in July.



- **How can I help my child?**

Support your child to complete any home learning tasks sent home.

Use online activities like Times Tables Rock Stars to practise skills at home.

Make sure they go to bed at a reasonable time, have a good breakfast and arrive at school on time during the assessment week.

Encourage them to try their best, commend their efforts and plan to celebrate their hard work at the end of the testing week, rather than focusing on the test results.

Questions?



