The Testbase guide to the new national curriculum tests
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Introduction

The new national curriculum will be assessed for the first time in May 2016 with new end of Key Stage 1 and 2 tests for all eligible children in maintained and special schools, academies and free schools. To help you navigate these new requirements, we’ve put together this guide containing key information about the curriculum and how it will be assessed. All information is based on the statutory test frameworks.

Testbase has been updated in line with the new curriculum. You can read about our new features and see how to use Testbase in a world without levels for effective assessment throughout the primary years.

To keep up to date with all changes, sign up for our mailing list at testbase.co.uk/signup and keep visiting our website.
Key Stage 1 English
Test from 2016

**Reading test format**

Teacher marked to support teacher assessment.

**Reporting:** The raw score (the total out of 40 marks) will be converted into a scaled score and each child will receive an overall result indicating whether or not they have achieved the required standard on the test.

**Grammar, punctuation and spelling test format**

Teacher marked to support teacher assessment.

Children get both papers but teachers can withdraw a child from the test at any point.

**Reporting:** The raw score (the total out of 40 marks) will be converted into a scaled score and each child will receive an overall result indicating whether or not they have achieved the required standard on the test.
Some new curriculum expectations

Reading
- More poetry
- The assessment of word meaning

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling
- The removal of the writing task from the external assessment
- Greater emphasis on grammar and punctuation in the external assessment
- Higher expectations of spelling
- Spelling: homophones; root words; suffixes

Question types

Selected response
- Multiple choice
- Ranking/ordering
- Matching
- Labelling

Short response
- Find and copy
- Name/state/give

Extended response
- Explain
- Describe

Text types

- Fiction
- Non-fiction
- Poetry

What’s being assessed?

Grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Grammatical terms/word classes
- Functions of sentences
- Combining words, phrases and clauses
- Verb tenses and consistency
- Punctuation
- Vocabulary
- Spelling

Reading
- Retrieve key aspects of texts
- Make inferences
- Vocabulary for understanding
- Understand the sequence of events
- Prediction
Test format

Teacher marked to support teacher assessment.
No separate higher level/extension test.

Reporting: The raw score (the total out of 60 marks) will be converted into a scaled score and each child will receive an overall result indicating whether or not they have achieved the required standard on the test.

testbase.co.uk/curriculum
Some new curriculum expectations

**YEAR 1**
- Counting and writing numerals to 100
- Writing numbers in words up to 20
- Number bonds secured to 20
- Use of vocabulary such as equal, more than, less than, fewer, etc

**YEAR 2**
- Solving problems with subtraction
- Finding/writing fractions of quantities (and lengths)
- Adding two 2-digit numbers
- Adding three 1-digit numbers
- Demonstrating commutativity of addition and multiplication
- Describing properties of shape (e.g. edges, vertices)
- Measuring temperature in °C
- Telling time to nearest 5 minutes
- Making comparisons using < > = symbols
- Recognising £ p symbols and solving simple money problems

### Question types

**Selected response**
- Multiple choice
- Matching
- True/false

**Constructed response**
- Context-free calculations
- Single/best answer
- Communicate approach

### What’s being assessed?

- Number and place value
- Four rules (calculations)
- Fractions
- Measurement
- Geometry: properties of shape
- Geometry: position and direction
- Statistics
Key Stage 2 English
Test from 2016

Reading test format
Marked externally.

_reporting: The raw score (the total out of 50 marks) will be converted into a scaled score and each child will receive an overall result indicating whether or not they have achieved the required standard on the test.

Grammar, punctuation and spelling test format
Marked externally.

_reporting: The raw score (the total out of 70 marks) will be converted into a scaled score and each child will receive an overall result indicating whether or not they have achieved the required standard on the test.
Some new curriculum expectations

- Poetry – contemporary and classic: recite, perform, learn by heart
- Reading – understand the meaning of words in context
- Writing – evaluate, edit and proofread own writing, précis
- Writing – precise use of grammar and punctuation in sentence structures

Question types

**Selected response**
- Multiple choice
- Ranking/ordering
- Matching
- Labelling

**Short constructed response**
- Find and copy
- Name/state/give

**Extended response**
- Explain
- Describe

What’s being assessed?

**Reading**
- Retrieve and record information
- Make inferences
- Give/explain the meaning of words in context
- Summarise main ideas from a text
- Predict what might happen
- Understand how content is related and contributes to meaning
- Understand how meaning is enhanced through language

**Grammar, punctuation and spelling**
- Grammatical terms/word classes
- Function of sentences
- Combining words, phrases and clauses
- Verb forms, tense and consistency
- Punctuation
- Vocabulary
- Standard English and formality
- Make comparisons within a text

Text types

- Fiction
- Non-fiction
- Poetry
Key Stage 2 Mathematics
Test from 2016

Test format
Marked externally.
No separate higher level/extension test.

Reporting: The raw score (the total out of 110 marks) will be converted into a scaled score and each child will receive an overall result indicating whether or not they have achieved the required standard on the test.
The importance of the mathematics curriculum that will not be tested

Aspects of mathematics that require practical equipment for valid assessment and those that require mental mathematics skills do not lend themselves to paper-based assessment. However, these aspects are still important elements of the mathematics curriculum and should be taught.

For instance, the quick recall of number facts will not be assessed in 2016, but children that have fluency with number bonds and tables are more able to spot number patterns and solve problems effectively. They are also more likely to be able to complete the test papers within the time allowed.

Children who have had experience making 3D shapes using modelling materials are more likely to be able to visualise 3D shapes and hence answer test questions about nets. Likewise those taught about the collation of data and construction of graphs will have a better understanding of the different ways data can be collected and represented, in order to easily spot patterns and trends, and determine results.

Question types

- Selected response
  - Multiple choice
  - Matching
  - True/false

- Constructed response
  - Single/best answer
  - Communicate approach
  - Context-free calculations

What’s being assessed?

- Number and place value, approximation and estimation/rounding
- Four rules (calculations)
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Ratio and proportion
- Algebra
- Measurement
- Geometry: properties of shape
- Geometry: position and direction
- Statistics
Key Stage 2 Science
Test from 2016

Test format
External administrators and marking.
Science sampling tests for 9,500 randomly selected children from 1,900 schools (five children per school).

**Reporting:** Test results reported as national data only, with a summary report.

testbase.co.uk/curriculum
### What’s being assessed?

**Biology**
- Animals including humans
- Living things and their habitats
- Evolution and inheritance
- Plants

**Chemistry**
- States of matter
- Properties and changes of materials
- Rocks

**Physics**
- Electricity
- Forces
- Forces and magnets
- Light
- Sound
- Earth and space

### Working scientifically

- Planning
- Carrying out
- Measuring
- Recording
- Concluding
- Reporting
- Predictions

### Question types

**Selected response**
- Multiple choice
- Matching
- True/false

**Short response**
- Naming parts or processes
- Completing a sentence
- Completing a table/chart
- Labelling a diagram or key

**Extended response**
- Explanations/justifications
- Elements of planning an investigation
- Graphing or describing a data set

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### Primary science and working scientifically

The science tests to be introduced from 2016 will only cover the aspects of the national curriculum that lend themselves to paper-based assessment. Important elements that cannot be assessed in this way and which relate to ‘**Working scientifically**’ are outlined on pages 15-19 of the science sampling test framework.

**Practical work** in the classroom and beyond, including the processes involved in scientific enquiry forms the core of these elements: classifying materials; asking relevant questions prior to planning appropriate methods of enquiry; carrying out enquiries using a range of equipment; making timely and accurate measurements using suitable instruments; recording findings; reporting and presenting these findings from, where possible, pupils’ own investigations.
“I use Testbase for tests, for diagnostic assessment, for end of unit assessments, for homeworks, for differentiation, to give pupils a chance to apply what they have learned, as lesson starters and plenaries. It is a most useful tool.”

Nick Wood, Assistant Head
St Egwin’s CE Middle School
What is Testbase?
Testbase offers teachers instant access to thousands of past and specimen national curriculum Test questions and related mark schemes from papers between 1995 and 2015. It is flexible and well organised, so you can find and use assessment items to match your chosen scheme of work and/or assessment system.

You can also choose questions according to:
- level of demand
- type of question
- topic
so you can create your own class and homework assignments, topic tests and practice materials in minutes.

Year 3, 4, 5 mid-year practice tests
These tests meet the new Key Stage 2 test specifications in reading, grammar and punctuation, reasoning and arithmetic. They will help you accurately assess the progress of your pupils in the new world without levels.

Updated for the new curriculum
All questions are categorised by the new national curriculum yearly objectives so you can find what you need to assess your pupils from Year 1 to Year 6.
Assessing progress across the years

While no one wants to over-test children, a properly designed assessment system provides valuable feedback on strengths, weaknesses and progress towards the end of Key Stage 2.

Testbase Optional Year 3, 4, and 5 tests offer schools a holistic perspective on individuals and classes in line with expected standards.

Coming soon – Year 6 Progress tests

We are currently trialling a suite of progress tests for Year 6 which will be standardised against the final 2016 national curriculum tests. These will be available for sale from September 2016 and will provide teachers with the ability to identify strengths and weaknesses to inform teaching and learning throughout Year 6. As the tests will be fully standardised they will also enable teachers to make valid and reliable assessment judgements pertaining to their pupils’ end of Key Stage 2 results.

For more information, sign up to our mailing list at testbase.co.uk/signup
Ideas for using Testbase effectively

“We use Testbase for 101 different reasons – as an assessment tool, as an exemplar at the start of the lesson or sometimes as an extension activity at the end. Whenever a child needs to ‘see’ the question and actually physically work it out with a teacher then Testbase is excellent when using it in conjunction with the interactive whiteboard. We use it for homework activities, we have even used Testbase during INSET with staff. Being able to search and locate questions on a particular topic plus at variant levels of difficulty is invaluable – what would take hours of research is completed within minutes.”

Leanda Taylor, Deputy Head, Fairlop Primary School

“Since using the reading resources on Testbase, I have found that the children are much more engaged during their sessions, being actively involved, wanting to use the interactive features and look forward to the following week, particularly wanting to know what the extract or short story will be. I believe Testbase will be a vital tool, not only in helping to improve our reading results but developing essential reading skills in children across the school.”

Tracey Baptiste, Upper KS2 Coordinator, Shenley Primary School

“We are easily able to tailor questions to the different learning needs of our pupils thus saving us time and energy in planning and preparation of lessons – we love it!”

Gilly Condon, Deputy Head, The Hermitage Junior School
## Testbase: subject by subject

Explore the content, use the search to find what you need from past and new assessment materials aligned to the new national curriculum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KS1 English</th>
<th>KS1 Mathematics</th>
<th>KS2 English</th>
<th>KS2 Mathematics</th>
<th>KS2 Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All content mapped to Year 2 standard</td>
<td>All content mapped to the new national curriculum yearly objectives and end of Key Stage standard</td>
<td>All content mapped to Year 6 standard</td>
<td>Nearly 3000 questions mapped to:</td>
<td>Over 400 questions mapped to the new national curriculum yearly objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>the new national curriculum yearly objectives</td>
<td>With information on curriculum coverage of each question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>year by year standard</td>
<td>Contents include</td>
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<td>Expected standard</td>
<td>Expected standard</td>
<td>Expected standard</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>Ten new arithmetic tests for each year group</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2016 DfE sample test questions</td>
<td>2016 DfE sample test questions</td>
<td>Challenging</td>
<td>Individual arithmetic questions searchable by topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Solving problems</td>
<td>Ready-made topic tests organised by Year</td>
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<td>GPS</td>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>Reasoning</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grammar from reading activities</td>
<td>Problem solving search</td>
<td>Communicating</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>50 reading comprehensions</td>
<td>Reading comprehensions organised by form and theme including poetry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing tasks</td>
<td>Complete grammar papers</td>
<td>Ready-made topic tests organised by Year</td>
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<td>Whiteboard resources</td>
<td>Whiteboard resources</td>
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<td>Guided reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Spelling</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Mental Arithmetic

Nearly 2000 questions covering KS1, 2 and 3

- Search by
  - Topic
  - Time allowed
  - Old NC level for indicative difficulty

- Audio files
- Make your compilation and get matching:
  - Audio files
  - Pupil answer sheets
  - Transcripts for you
  - Mark scheme

### Primary Grammar and Punctuation

Hundreds of individual grammar and punctuation questions

- Searchable by new national curriculum objectives
- Also includes:
  - Writing tasks and exemplars indexed by audience and theme

### Get the Complete Package

Use the Key Stage 3 English, Maths and Science materials to find more assessment resources

- * Only available with the Complete Package
- Questions searchable by old NC levels until new standards are established
The Optional Tests

With a team of assessment experts, using evidence-based design we have developed a suite of engaging and accessible end of year tests for Years 3, 4 and 5 in English and maths. The tests are demonstrably high quality, like the QCA Optional Tests, but reflect the new national curriculum and the new national standards.

Measuring progression through Key Stage 2

Our end of year tests, alongside Testbase ready-made assessments, can be used side by side a wide range of approaches to assessment and reporting so there is no need to change your school’s scheme of work or strategy.

FREE diagnostic pupil, class and cohort reports will be available to help you make valid and reliable assessment judgements based on the results from our fully standardised test papers. Simply upload your pupils’ marks into our free online mark-capture and reporting app to access real-time reports that can be used to identify:

- how your school compares with others,
- pupil strengths and weaknesses,
- where you should target interventions,
- routes for progression,
- and whether your pupils are on track.*
Through extended research, over time we will also be able to provide you with personalised flight-paths for your pupils from Year 3 through to their end of Key Stage 2 results.*

Local Authorities and school federations will be able to benefit from an overview of performance at individual school level through our school reports.

*After the new Key Stage 2 national curriculum test standard is established.

The Finished Product

Our tests have been carefully developed to meet all aspects of the new Key Stage 2 test specifications for the different subjects and the mark schemes have been designed to give you information on how your pupils have performed against the national curriculum strand areas and content domains that are being assessed.

Exemplification of standards and exemplars of pupils’ work will also be made available to support teachers with the challenges of assessing a new curriculum with new standards.

For more information, visit optionaltest.org/primary
Order Testbase at: testbase.co.uk and Optional Tests at: optionaltest.org or return a copy of this form to: Testbase, PO Box 68318, London NW1 2SD

Contact Name:          Position:

Name of School:        DfE No:

Postcode:              Purchase Order No:

EMAIL ADDRESSES REQUIRED to complete your order

* Your email at the school (for login details):

* Finance or office email (for invoices):

Order Testbase

The Complete Package includes:
- KS1: English, Maths
- KS2: English, Maths and Science
- KS3: English, Maths and Science
- KS1-KS3 Mental Arithmetic
- Using and Applying Mathematics
- KS2 Maths Stretch and Challenge
- Primary Grammar and Punctuation
- KS3 Writing
- Working Scientifically

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Order The Optional Tests

A school pack (Years 3, 4 and 5) includes:
- 30 x Test papers for all subjects and year groups
  - Reading source booklet and answer booklet
  - Grammar and Punctuation
  - Spelling
  - Reasoning
  - Arithmetic
- 1 x Teacher’s Guide containing answers, marking guidance and access to our free online mark capture and reporting service.

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<td>Three form entry</td>
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All Online Packages provide the purchasing organisation with an annual licence for three concurrent users per subject valid from the date of purchase. VAT will be added to all orders at the current rate.