

# SPELLING, GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

January 2024

## WHAT IS TESTED?

- The key stage 2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test is designed to assess grammar, punctuation, language strategies and spelling.
- Language strategies refers to words and word building (including synonyms, antonyms, prefixes and suffixes).

# WHAT IS TESTED?

present and past progressive (eg. was playing, were playing)

verbs in the perfect form (eg. had bought)

modal verbs (eg. will buy, may buy, could buy)

adverbials (eg. Before we left, we ....)

determiners (eg. much, a, an, the)

relative clauses (eg. that was moving)

subordinate clauses (eg. even though he wasn't well)

subordinating conjunctions and prepositions (eg. before)

conjunctions (and, or, but)

subjunctive verb forms (eg. I wish I were free...)

# WHAT IS TESTED?

- question tags (eg. shouldn't you?)
- commas to clarify meaning (eg. *Are you coming to see, Yusuf? Are you coming to see Yusuf?*)
- commas after fronted adverbials (eg. Full of excitement, the children entered the room at the start of their lesson.)
- punctuation for parenthesis (eg. dashes or commas or brackets)
- punctuating bullet points

# QUESTIONS

**Short answer questions:** These questions are similar to the preceding short answer questions, but linked to a text. To keep the reading demand appropriate for a test of grammar and punctuation, the text is broken into chunks, with two or three items linked to each chunk.

**Punctuation insertion:** These questions require the insertion of punctuation marks that have been omitted from a short text. The spaces for the missing marks are highlighted, so that it is clear where to add punctuation.

**Word class identification:** These questions require the identification of the correct grammatical word class of a number of words highlighted in a short text.

**Error correction:** These questions require the correction of a number of errors highlighted in a short text. Each error relates to one word.

## TEST TIMINGS/MARKS

- The test will consist of two parts, in two papers:
- **Paper 1:** short answer questions is a combined question and answer booklet. There are no contextual items in the test. Pupils will have 45 minutes to answer the questions which are worth **50** marks in total.
- **Paper 2:** spelling consists of a test transcript to be read by the test administrator and an answer booklet for pupils to complete 20 missing words. The test is expected to take approximately 15 minutes, but is not strictly timed. The questions are worth **20** marks in total.

# SOME EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS FROM PAPER I

Tick the **adverb** in the sentence below.

Tick **one**.

The lively crowd cheered loudly when the rally car race began.

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

Sentence	Active	Passive
The lost dog was found by the children.		
Everyone heard the thunder.		
Nicole was riding her bike.		

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1 mark



Which verb is a **synonym** of the verb produce?

Tick **one**.

make

buy

sell

trade

Explain how the position of the **apostrophe** changes the meaning of the second sentence.

1. What are your brother's favourite toys?
2. What are your brothers' favourite toys?

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1 mark

## MARKS REQUIRED TO PASS

We do not know what the pass mark will be this year, but we are able to use last year's to give us an idea.

Last year

Raw score of 36 = scaled score of 100 (up by 1 from previous year)

Raw score of 55 = scaled score of 110(GDS)

# SPELLING-Y5-6 WORDS

- Words containing the letter-string ough
- Words with 'silent' letters
- Words with the /i:/ sound spelt ei after c
- Homophones and other words that are often confused
- Endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt –cious or –tious
- Words ending in –able and –ible
- Words ending in –ably and –ibly
- Endings which sound like /ʃəl/ (eg. official)
- Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in –fer
- Use of the hyphen
- Words ending in –ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency
- Plus year 3-4 words

# SPELLING TEST!

1. Most poems contain \_\_\_\_\_
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ age of a child in year 6 is 10.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ was outside the shop.
4. Over 60 million \_\_\_\_\_ fought in the first world war.
5. Our \_\_\_\_\_ system contains eight main planets.
6. Kay liked flowers, \_\_\_\_\_ roses.
7. Carrots are a root \_\_\_\_\_
8. Put that pen down \_\_\_\_\_!
9. Sarah gave a thorough \_\_\_\_\_ of events.
10. Last week, the \_\_\_\_\_ was below zero.

(gps revision booklets)

# ANSWERS

1. Most poems contain **rhyme**.
2. The **average** age of a child in year 6 is 10.
3. The **queue** was outside the shop.
4. Over 60 million **soldiers** fought in the first world war.
5. Our **solar** system contains eight main planets.
6. Kay liked flowers, **especially** roses.
7. Carrots are a root **vegetable**.
8. Put that pen down **immediately!**
9. Sarah gave a thorough **explanation** of events.
10. Last week, the **temperature** was below zero.

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Ensure your child learns their spellings
- Complete homework – use revision guides to help
- Insist on accurate grammar
- Ask children not to use slang at times
- Fun games

# Main clauses and subordinate clauses

To achieve the higher score you need to recognise and use main and subordinate clauses.



## What you need to know

- Two main clauses are joined together by the conjunctions **and**, **or**, **but**, **so**.
- A subordinate clause on its own is not a complete sentence. It includes a subordinating conjunction (e.g. **because**, **as**, **so**, **if**, **although**, **despite**, **unless**).
- The subordinate clause can appear before, inside or after a main clause.
- A main clause makes sense on its own.
- Watch out:** Some words can function as prepositions or as conjunctions, depending on their role in the sentence (**before**, **since**, **after**). A preposition introduces only a noun phrase (e.g. **before the show**) in a sentence. A subordinating conjunction introduces a whole clause, which includes a verb (e.g. **before we watched the show**) in a sentence.

## Let's practise

Tick ✓ the boxes to show the sentences that contain a subordinate clause.

We have been best friends since we first met.   
 John has lived here since January.   
 Since Alisha won the dance competition, she has practised even harder.



- 1 Read the question and read it again. What is it asking?
- 2 Find the main clause in each sentence by checking which part of the sentence can work independently.
- 3 Check that the other parts of the sentence are subordinate clauses by finding the conjunction.
- 4 Check that the other use of **since** is not a conjunction.
- 5 Check your answer.

- The question is asking you to identify which sentences contain a subordinate clause.
- We have been best friends / John has lived here since January / She has practised even harder are all main clauses.
- Since we first met / Since Alisha won the dance competition.
- In the second sentence **since** is not a conjunction because it is followed only by a noun, not a verb.
- We have been best friends since we first met.   
 John has lived here since January.   
 Since Alisha won the dance competition, she has practised even harder.



- 1 Underline the **subordinate clauses** in the passage below.  
 Otters are an endangered species that require very clean water in which to live. They have increased in number in some parts of England since rivers have become less polluted.
- 2 Add the correct words to complete the subordinate clauses.  
 that although unless when  
 The school play will be a great success \_\_\_\_\_ Sam forgets his lines again. \_\_\_\_\_ he has spent ages learning them, \_\_\_\_\_ he goes on stage, he sometimes gets so nervous \_\_\_\_\_ he forgets them.
- 3 Complete the sentence below with a subordinate clause.  
 Please feed the cat before \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Underline the **main clause** in the sentence below.  
 My favourite cousin, who lives in Germany, is coming to visit.
- 5 Tick ✓ the sentences in which the underlined words form a subordinate clause.  
Bats generally fly after dark.   
 Birds puff up their feathers when the weather is very cold.   
 Because they have incredible night vision, owls can hunt at night.   
If you feed the birds in your garden, they will visit you regularly.



Some useful revision links:

<http://www.arcademics.com/games/spelling-bees/spelling-bees.html>

<http://www.saveteacherssundays.com/spelling-games/year-6/472/>

<http://www.usingenglish.com/quizzes/248.html>

<http://www.grammarbook.com/punctuation/colons.asp>

[http://depts.dyc.edu/learningcenter/owl/exercises/colons\\_ex1.htm](http://depts.dyc.edu/learningcenter/owl/exercises/colons_ex1.htm)

[http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar\\_tutorial/page\\_04.htm](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar_tutorial/page_04.htm)

<http://www.spellzone.com/games/index.cfm?wordlist=113>