

SATs Parents Survival Guide 2019



Content:

1.	Overview of SATs Tests and Reporting	p.1
2.	The Tests	p.2
3.	Important Dates	p.2
4.	Mathematics and Sample Questions	p.2-3
5.	Reading and Sample Questions	p.3
6.	SPaG & Sample Questions	p.4
7.	How to Help Your Child	p.4-5

1. Overview of SATs Tests and Reporting

Overview

In 2014, the previous national curriculum levels (e.g. level 3, 4, 5) were replaced by a system based on scaled scores.

Scaled Scores

A pupil's scaled score is based on their raw score in the tests. The raw score is calculated by the number of correct responses in the test.

This raw score is then converted into a scaled score.

A scaled score of 100 represents the expected standard for the test. However, because the difficulty of the test varies year by year, the number of marks needed to achieve this scaled score may vary.

The range of scaled scores for the tests:

- 80 (the lowest scaled score that can be awarded)
- 120 (the highest scaled score)

Each pupil receives:

- a raw score (number of raw marks awarded)
- a scaled score in each tested subject
- confirmation of whether or not they attained the national standard

Results

The Department for Education expects at least 65% of children to reach the expected standard.

In July, when the results are published, the scaled scores can be used as a measure of whether a child has met the expected standards for Year 6.

- If a child is awarded a scaled score of 100 they are judged to have met the 'national standard'.
- If a child is awarded a scaled score close to 120, they are working beyond the expected national standard.
- If a child is awarded a scaled score close to 80, they are judged to have not yet met the national standard.

2. The Tests

The Key Stage 2 SATs take place nationally in the week commencing 13th May 2019.

The tests will include:

- Mathematics
 - Paper 1: Arithmetic - 30 minutes
 - Paper 2: Reasoning - 40 minutes
 - Paper 3: Reasoning - 40 minutes
- Reading - 60 minutes
- Punctuation, Vocabulary and Grammar - 45 minutes
- Spelling - approximately 20 minutes

All the tests are externally marked. Writing is assessed within the school and will be marked by teachers.

3. Important dates

The SATs in 2019 will take place between the 13th and 16th of May. The results will be available early July 2019.

4. Mathematics

Children sit three tests: paper 1, paper 2 and paper 3.

Paper 1 is arithmetic, lasting 30 minutes and covers calculation methods including multiplication and division. Questions gradually increase in difficulty.

Papers 2 and 3 are reasoning and are each 40 minutes long. Pupils will answer questions based on problem solving and will have to explain their approach for their answers.

Mathematics: Sample Questions

- How many sides does a heptagon have?

- 6
- 7
- 9

- Use the following words to fill in the blanks:

isosceles *scalene* *equilateral*

A triangle that has two equal length sides is called an _____ triangle.

A triangle that has three different sizes angles is called a _____ triangle.

5. Reading

Children will receive a reading booklet, containing three different unrelated texts. The test lasts one hour.

There is a selection of questions designed to test skills such as deduction and inference. Some questions will be multiple choice, whilst others will require short or extended responses.

Reading: Sample Questions

- *'He was bowled over in an instant by the impatient and contemptuous Mole.'* Which word can replace 'contemptuous' in the sentence?

- Lazy
- Incompetent
- Disrespectful
- Determined

- *'She had always lived in a beautiful bungalow.'* What is there an example of in this sentence?

- Onomatopoeia
- Personification
- Hyperbole
- Alliteration

6. Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

The spelling test is approximately 20 minutes, and includes 20 words. Followed by a separate test covering grammar, punctuation and vocabulary. The two parts of the tests are marked together.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: Sample Questions

- Which sentence contains a subordinating conjunction?
 - Daniel does not like pizza, nor does he like sandwiches.
 - You must lock the door when you leave.
 - The girls decided to have a snack at midnight.
- Match the sentences to their types.

Sentences:

- My mum gave me a lift because it was raining.
- I hurt my leg playing netball, so I decided to rest.
- Jack has been baking cakes this morning.

Types of Sentences:

- Simple
- Complex
- Compound

7. How to help your child with SATs Prep

- The SATs Tests can be stressful. Whilst they are in place, it is useful to work with the school and your child to try and minimise the stress around the test. Here at SATs Companion, we believe the tests themselves are not the focus. The SATs Tests do not test how kind a child is, or how creative they are. They aren't representative of who a child is. But they are still in place. Whilst they are, we recommend approaching the tests as a way of building on key skills. Each task your child completes related to these key skills in Maths, Reading and Spelling can be thought of as a way of helping your child enhance their understanding in these foundational subjects. As they will be covering these topics in secondary school, developing understanding in these areas will be useful for Secondary too.
- Sometimes, children focus on topics they like or understand the most. Whilst this is good for improving confidence, it is also advisable to try and focus on topics they might need extra support with. With SATs Companion, you'll get a

a well-rounded understanding of the areas your child is doing well in, and needs support in with our full reporting and tracking tool.

8. How to Help your child with Maths

- Play mental maths games in the car. Fluency helps to build confidence.
- Discover 2D and 3D shapes around home or at the playground or try building your own using lolly sticks or toothpicks.
- Weigh and measure items from your kitchen. Play a guessing game to see how much you think something weighs.
- Play games involving logic such as dominoes, card games or chess.

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10. How to Help Your Child with Reading

- Try reading together with your child every day for 15 minutes
- Discuss the story during and afterwards – the plot, character, action, feelings and predictions.
- Discover definitions of words together using an online dictionary

A final note

The SATs tests can prove to be challenging for everyone involved. Your child's scores do not impact their secondary places but the knowledge they are learning for the tests will form part of the secondary curriculum.

If you are looking for a comprehensive SATs package which will also help your child get secondary ready, try SATs Companion.

With instant marking and full reporting, you can see exactly how your child is doing and plug those gaps with our bank of 50+ video lessons.

SATS Companion

Visit www.satscompanion.com