

THE SATS at John Locke Academy

2016-2017

New-style KS1 SATs were introduced in 2016 for all Year 2 children in England. At John Locke Academy we have been working closely with other schools to ensure that we have kept abreast of all developments in this area so that your children are well prepared and can show off their full potential.

We expect and strive for high standards across the curriculum. We will support your child to achieve in line or above the national expectation.

A Parents' Guide to the Key Stage 1 SATs

Year 2 National Testing

As you may be aware, Year 2 pupils sit national tests during Year 2. *Whatever our personal view is on testing 6 and 7 years olds the fact is we are within a system that tests children. The best way to support our children is to acknowledge the downfalls of any testing system and to offer support, encouragement and practice so that children feel able to cope.*

Grit and resilience is borne out of struggle and failures. The tests will take place during the month of May for all Year 2 pupils in England (there are no fixed dates) and they cover three curriculum areas: Maths, Reading and Writing (Grammar, spelling & punctuation).

They will be in your child's usual classroom, with their usual teachers, in small groups or sometimes as a whole class. Each test lasts around 30 minutes each although they won't be strictly timed. Children won't sit in an exam style arrangement - *so there's a chance your child might not realise they're doing a test at all.*

After it's all over the tests will be marked in school and at the end of term you'll be informed of the results - *I'll explain how.*

There are six tests in total - *in no particular order:*

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- Maths - Test 1 Arithmetic
- Maths - Test 2 Reasoning
- Reading - test 1
- Reading - test 2 *which is longer than test 1 and more challenging*
- Spelling- 20 questions read by the teacher *This was scrapped in 2016 after it was published on the Gov.uk website by mistake but it is planned to be included in 2017*
- Grammar & Punctuation *This was also scrapped in 2016 but is planned to be included in 2017*

The tests in more detail

Maths Test 1 - Arithmetic

The arithmetic test has 25 questions and lasts approximately 20 minutes.

It starts with number bonds to 10 and 20 and ends with more difficult topics such as fractions and division.

The arithmetic questions have no context just calculation.

Pupils write their answers onto the sheet.

Here is a selection of questions from the sample paper from Gov.uk.

I have shrunk the size - the actual test paper has big writing and lots of blank space for working out.

1

$$5 + 7 = \boxed{}$$

4

$$17 - 6 = \boxed{}$$

7

$$\boxed{} + 5 = 9$$

10

$$36 + 24 = \boxed{}$$

14

$$2 \times 0 = \boxed{}$$

15

$$3 \times 3 = \boxed{}$$

17

$$35 \div 5 = \boxed{}$$

24

$$\frac{1}{3} \text{ of } 21 = \boxed{}$$

Maths Test 2 - Reasoning

This paper requires pupils to apply their knowledge to solve simple problems.

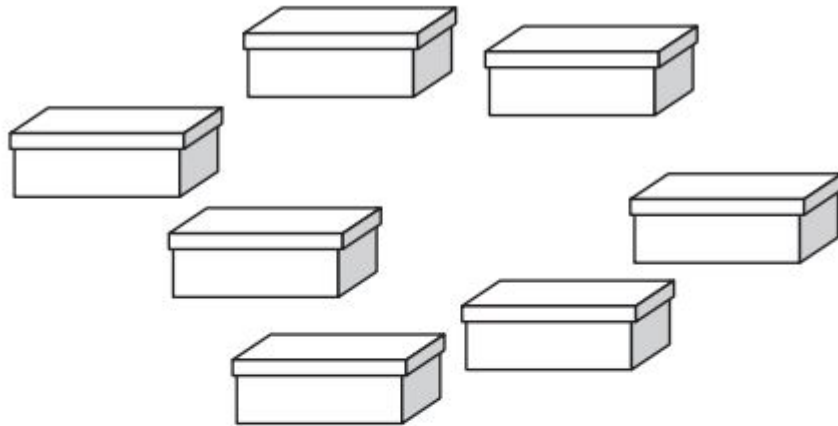
The problem is usually described in a picture.

This test may take a little longer - approximately 35 minutes.

The questions start easy and get progressively harder often requiring a calculation to get the answer.

Here is a selection of questions from the sample paper from Gov.uk:

7



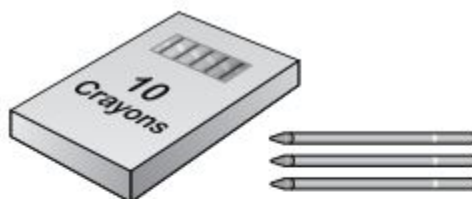
Sita puts **2** shoes in each of these boxes.

How many shoes are there altogether?

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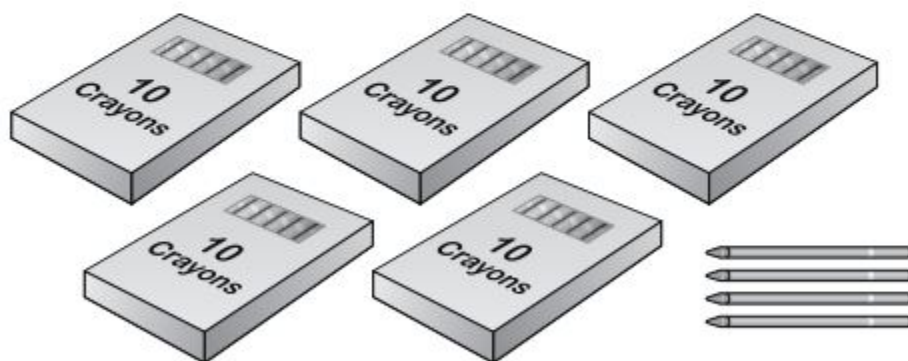
shoes

- 13 Ben has 13 crayons.



Here are Abdul's crayons.

How many crayons does Abdul have?



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crayons

- 24 Write a digit in each box to make the sum correct.

7		+		=	8	3
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31

Complete the number sentence below.

$$3 \times 8 = 2 \times \square$$

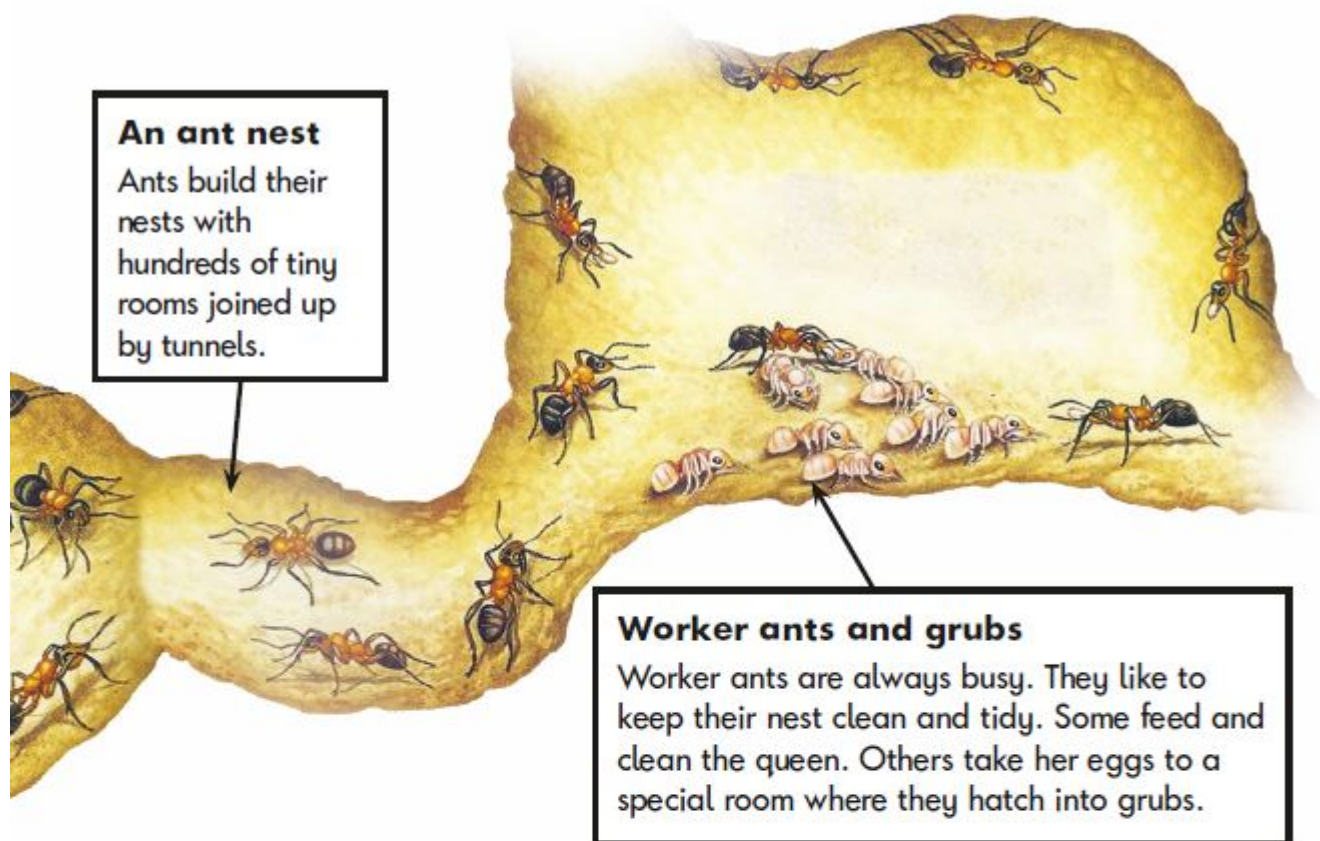
As you can see, deep understanding of maths is necessary to do well at the reasoning and problem solving aspect of tests.

At John Locke, we have invested heavily in Inspire maths which is based on The Singapore method of mastery. It sets very high expectations in terms of pace and insists on practise and deep understanding before moving onto next steps.

In the afternoons the children will have time to practise skills and deepen their maths learning via a wide range of challenges.

Reading Test 1

This test lasts around 35 minutes and can be broken into shorter tests. Pupils are provided with written information to read and questions to answer.



3 What joins the rooms in an ant nest together?

4 Give **two** jobs that the worker ants do.

1. _____

2. _____

5 What happens to the eggs in the special room?

Reading Test 2

Most pupils will also sit the second reading test. This is more of a traditional comprehension exercise with a longer passage of text and a series of questions that require retrieval of information or the meaning of phrases.

Spelling Test

In the spelling test, the teacher reads out 20 sentences which use the word to be spelled in context. As with the maths test the spellings get harder towards the end of the test.

Spelling 6: The word is **paints**.

The **paints** in the box are different colours.

The word is **paints**.

Spelling 7: The word is **kitten**.

Our new **kitten** is black with white paws.

The word is **kitten**.

Grammar & Punctuation Test

The grammar test starts with using the rules for punctuation and moves onto constructing a correctly structured and punctuated sentence answer.

3

Tick one box to show where a **comma** should go in the sentence below.

Tick **one**.

Aisha found some red blue and purple beads in the box.

↑ <input type="checkbox"/>	↑ <input type="checkbox"/>	↑ <input type="checkbox"/>	↑ <input type="checkbox"/>
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- 14** Tick to show whether each sentence is in the **past tense** or the **present tense**.

Sentence	Past tense	Present tense
Becky was thinking.		
I am reading my book.		
Jo is going for a walk.		

- 18** Joe wanted to buy a present. He asked his mum if Gran would like flowers.

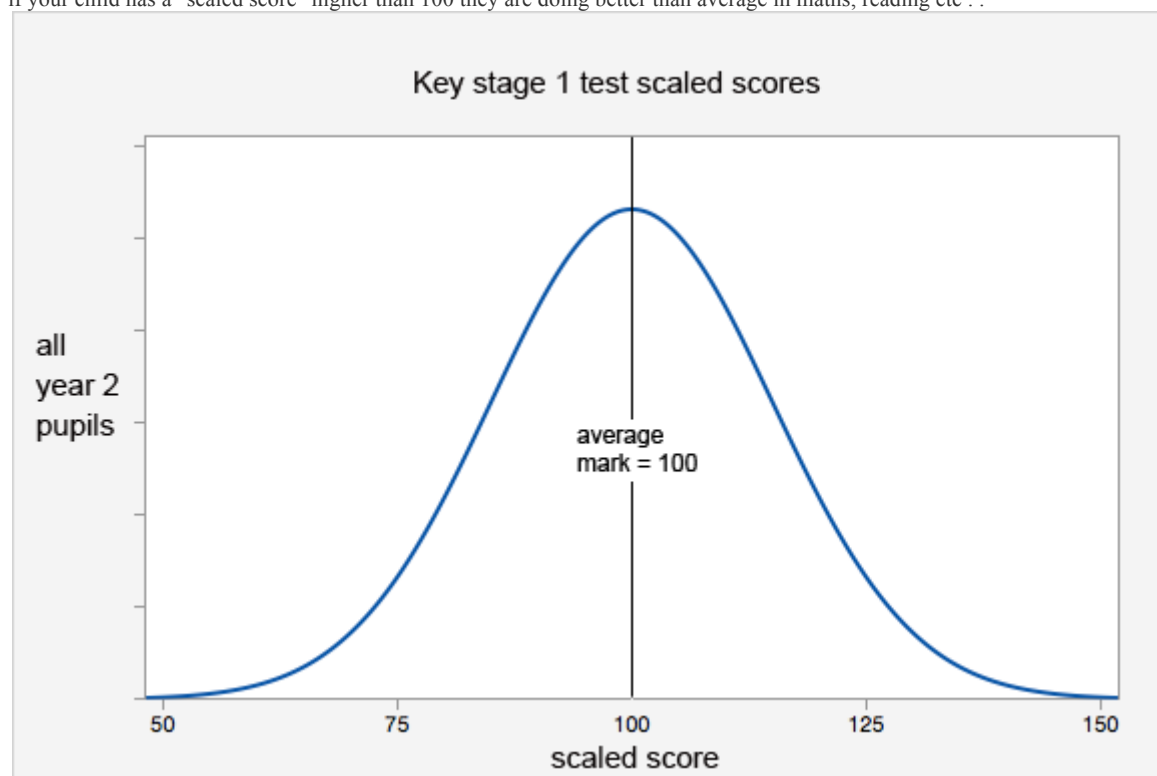
Write Joe's question to his mum in the speech bubble.
Remember to use correct punctuation.



Scoring and Reporting

The tests are scored and reported in three separate sections: maths, reading and writing - *which comes from the spelling and grammar tests*.

The raw scores are standardised or "scaled" across the whole country so the average score nationally is fixed to be 100. This means if your child has a "scaled score" higher than 100 they are doing better than average in maths, reading etc . .



Towards the end of the summer term, your school will report back to you on the May Key Stage 1 test results.

It's possible they'll give the scaled scores for maths, reading and writing, but my guess is it's more likely they will summarise the score in a general statement such as *"your child is working at the national standard"*.

How Can Parents Help?

The resounding advice coming from teachers is to remain calm and not to panic or worry as your anxiety is likely to be passed onto your child.

In addition, it's really just general advice which goes all year round for supporting your child's education:

- Maintaining a good attendance record and punctuality.
- Ensuring children complete homework tasks.
- Supporting learning with good reading habits.
- Sufficient rest and a healthy balanced diet.
- Contact with the school - attend parents and information sessions. Read school notes/emails and any other communication initiatives your child's school provides to keep parents informed.

You may also find our article and video ["7 Tips to Boost Your Child's Concentration"](#) worth a look in the run-up to the tests.

Final Thoughts

Reassured? I hope you are! The tests are intended to be as informal as can be.

You may well ask why bother having them at all? The answer is about measuring learner progress both individually and at school level. To measure progress you need a before and after measurement and that's where the Key Stage 1 and 2 tests come in.

They will eventually allow the department of education to rank primary schools in terms of the "progress value" they have provided pupils. I say "eventually" because it will be five years before the current year 2 pupils get their Key Stage 2 test.