

1. Using the outcomes of the tests

This section provides information about interpreting the scores from the year 4 tests in English. It explains how teachers can use the test scores to find out more about children's attainments in the national curriculum, and about their performance in comparison with other children of the same age.

In order to make use of the information in this section, you should administer the tests according to the guidance given in this booklet. It is particularly important that you observe the time limits given in the test instructions, and mark questions strictly according to the mark schemes. If not, the information derived from this section cannot be used reliably.

To establish the national curriculum level attained, you must first begin with a raw score. For the reading test, you should total the marks for each child. For the writing test, the total score is comprised of four elements – longer task, shorter task, handwriting and spelling. You should add the marks obtained on the longer and shorter tasks and the score for handwriting. The number of words spelt correctly on the spelling test should be converted to a mark. This mark (out of 7) should be added to the score on the two writing tasks. It is not possible to calculate the level attained by a child if they do not complete all three parts of the writing test.

This will give you the raw scores for each child, for reading and for writing.

Content analysis of the tests

The questions in the English tests are aimed at a variety of aspects of the programme of study for key stage 2, including two sets of writing tasks, one longer, one shorter, and a spelling test.

There are also different strands in the writing mark schemes that draw together the assessment focuses, to enable judgements to be made about the most significant aspects of writing. This way of marking will give detailed information about the strengths and weaknesses of children's writing.

National curriculum levels

Reading test (max. mark 44)

Writing test (max. mark 45)

Below level 2	0–7 marks		Below level 2	0–10 marks
Level 2	8–16 marks		Level 2	11–26 marks
2C	8–10		2C	11–16
2B	11–13		2B	17–21
2A	14–16		2A	22–26
Level 3	17–28 marks		Level 3	27–37 marks
3C	17–20		3C	27–29
3B	21–24		3B	30–33
3A	25–28		3A	34–37
Level 4	29+ marks		Level 4	38+ marks