



## National Reading and Numeracy Tests

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# 1. Learning Wales

## Raising Standards Together



A short animation to talk parents/carers through the National Reading and Numeracy Test Reports

[Learning.gov.wales](http://Learning.gov.wales)



## 2. Information for parents/carers

Children in Years 2 to 9 take national tests in reading and numeracy each summer.

### 3. Why do we have National Tests in Wales?

The national tests have been developed specifically for use in Wales and are in line with what children are being taught in our schools. Schools have always used a variety of tests to check how well children are doing.

With the national tests, which are based on the curriculum in Wales, teachers have consistent, detailed information on each individual learner's development and progress in reading and numeracy. The tests can also show where individual children may need more help to improve their skills.

# 4. What are the tests like?

## Reading

The reading tests are made up of short questions based on two or more texts. Some of the questions check how well the text has been understood, others aim to find out if children are able to make judgements about what they are reading.

Before the start of the test, children can try out some practice questions so that they will know what the different types of questions are like and what they may be asked. Each test takes up to an hour but younger children can take a break part-way through.

# 4. What are the tests like?

## Numeracy

There are two kinds of numeracy tests.

1. The procedural test measures skills in things like numbers, measuring and data.
2. The reasoning test measures how well children can use what they know to solve everyday problems. Each of the numeracy tests takes up to half an hour, but again, younger children can take a break during the tests.

## 5. When does the testing take place?

Primary schools will give the tests to their learners during the period from 2 to 9 May 2018. Within this time, it is up to the school to timetable the tests and they should let you know the dates when your child will sit the tests. Children can take the tests in classroom groups or in larger groups, perhaps in a school hall.

## 6. Do all children have to take the tests?

Most children should be able to take the tests, but some may need particular access arrangements. For example, large-print and Braille versions of the tests are available for children who have problems with their eyesight.

A very small number of children may not be able to take the tests. Headteachers will carefully consider whether to enter some children for one or more of the tests.

## 7. What can the tests tell me about my child's learning?

The tests can provide useful information to add to what your child's teacher knows about their reading and numeracy from their work every day in the classroom. Teachers can use the results to identify strengths and also areas where more help may be needed. They may share this information with you at parent meetings.

## 7. What can the tests tell me about my child's learning?

However, any test can only look at a limited range of skills and abilities. For example, the reading tests cannot provide any information on speaking, listening or writing skills. Some children will not perform at their best on the day of the test. As a result, their test results alone may not give a full picture of their ability. Each test is designed to measure achievement across the range expected for each year group.

The tests will not always give reliable information for children who are working at the extremes, or out of the range for their age. It is important to discuss your child's progress with their teacher based on all the evidence they have, rather than just focusing on a single test result. It is also important to remember that children do not all make progress at the same rate.

## 8. How will I know how my child has done in the tests?

By the end of the summer term, your child's school will give you test results for each test that your child has taken. The results should be read alongside your child's annual report.

The tests provide two kinds of result, an age-standardised score and a progress measure. These two results are very different from results you may have come across in other situations (for example 9 out of 10 or 65%).

## 9. What is an age-standardised score?

Having a score of say '6 out of 10' does not take into account how hard a test is or show how one child has done compared with other children taking the test. If most of the others taking the test scored 9 out of 10, then 6 is not a good score. But if the average score was 2 out of 10, then 6 is a very good score.

The age-standardised score from the national tests tells you how well your child has done compared with other children of the same age (in years and months) taking the test at the same time. The average age-standardised score is set to 100 and about two-thirds of all children taking the test will have age-standardised scores between 85 and 115. So, an age-standardised score lower than 85 might suggest that a child is experiencing some difficulty with the reading or numeracy skills tested. Similarly a score greater than 115 might suggest that the child's reading or numeracy skills are well developed for their age.

# 10. What is a progress measure?

The progress measure for the test shows how well your child has done compared to every other learner taking the test in their year group across Wales. Providing results in this way shows whether or not your child is maintaining their position in the year group over time and helps identify trends in their performance. Results for each year are presented in vertical blocks. Your child's performance is marked as a '+' within one of these blocks.

The text provided under each result tells you if your child's position in the year group is broadly consistent with, higher than, or lower than last year. This is based on annual test information and the change in your child's progress measure from year to year.

## 10. What is a progress measure?

Progress measures that are broadly similar from year to year would suggest that your child is making steady progress within their year group. Small variations from year to year are expected. By using information from previous tests it is possible to work out an expected range for your child.

Anything outside this range shows that the difference is likely to be due to a change in performance. If your child's performance is higher or lower than last year, it may suggest that your child would benefit from more support or challenge. Your child's teacher will be able to talk to you in more detail about the ways in which they are making progress in all aspects of reading or numeracy (not just on the tests) and what can be done to help to improve their skills.

# 11. Should I help my child to prepare for the tests?

No.

We all want our children to do well in any test, but it is important to recognise that there is no pass or fail in the national tests.

The tests are just one piece of evidence about your child's skills in reading and numeracy and the best way to prepare your child is to make sure that they are not worried or anxious.

## 12. Can I help my child to improve their reading and numeracy?

Yes, definitely! Getting involved in your child's learning while at home and out and about can make a big difference to their progress.

Any of the following will be a huge help.

- Reading and talking about any kind of text such as books, magazines, web pages, leaflets, notices.
- Using numbers when shopping, planning trips, looking at football scores, times of TV programmes.
- Sharing activities that involve reading and numeracy, such as cooking, playing board games, watching or playing sport, writing emails.
- Talking about words and numbers you come across in everyday life.
- For ideas on helping your children at home with fun activities, go to [www.facebook.com/beginsathome](http://www.facebook.com/beginsathome)

# 13. Sample Tests



# 14. Useful Contacts

Booktrust – find a range of programmes and projects designed to help people of all ages and backgrounds enjoy reading and writing.

[www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)

National Numeracy – help your child with numeracy.

[www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/your-childs-maths](http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/your-childs-maths)

(This website is only available in English.)

Bitesize – the BBC’s free online resource to help children in the UK with their school work.

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize)

(This website is only available in English.)

# 14. Useful Contacts

Lovereading4kids – helps you to explore books that will excite your child and help them to fall in love with reading.

[www.lovreading4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovreading4kids.co.uk) (This website is only available in English.)

Sumdog – a site that offers games to make mathematics fun. They are all free to play with the option to subscribe for extra features.

[www.sumdog.com](http://www.sumdog.com) (This website is only available in English.)

Summer reading challenge – help with reading through the summer holidays. [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

Hwb – the learning platform, full of useful resources.

[www.hwb.wales.gov.uk](http://www.hwb.wales.gov.uk)

# Questions



Diolch yn fawr iawn.