



Standards
& Testing
Agency

Primary assessments in 2021/22

Primary assessments in 2021/22

- STA returning to a full programme of assessments in 2021/22
- Three new statutory assessments: reception baseline assessment, multiplication tables check and engagement model
- Accountability also returning – but no performance tables in 2022, and data shared with Ofsted, RSCs, etc will carry information about how the data should be used



Primary assessments in 2021/22

- Consulted on plans with NAHT, ASCL and other unions throughout the spring, including attending 'Programme of Talks' meeting with union leaders
- Took feedback from AAIA, and met with DfE Primary Headteacher Reference Group, Teacher Reference Group, as well as several meetings with school leaders
- Also considered correspondence received, reports from campaign groups etc in advice to Ministers



Primary assessments in 2021/22

- Return of assessment seen as less controversial on balance –but mixed views, ranging from being very keen to return to normal programme to strongly against assessments in 2021/22
- More concern around return of primary accountability – understood as a key issue for schools given current context
- Demands of education recovery and other reforms in schools, as well as need to provide clarity as early as possible all considered



Primary assessments in 2021/22

- Desire for nationally-consistent data that will help schools, LAs and DfE understand impact of lost time in education, inform policy decisions around education recovery and evaluate success of initiatives to support schools
- Data also used by a range of bodies for different purposes and lack of data for two years causing concerns



Primary assessments in 2021/22

- Continued engagement with trade unions throughout this academic year
- Attended AAIA national conference and AAIA London and South East regional meeting to hear feedback
- Continued to review correspondence
- Communication from Minister Walker to address concerns raised



Reception baseline assessment

- **2019/20 – RBA pilot year**
 - c.9,000 schools participated
 - evaluation of data used to underpin validity report
- **2020/21 – RBA early adopter year**
 - statutory implementation delayed due to pandemic; system available for all primary schools to use to aid with familiarisation, but data will not be used to set a progress measure
 - 2,731 schools carried out assessments with their pupils, and 88,947 pupils completed the assessment.



RBA – latest statistics

- As of 4 February 2022
 - **99.9% of schools have logged into the ePortal**
 - **89% of schools have completed all assessments**
 - **609,187 pupils have completed assessments**



Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)

- The MTC is an on screen check consisting of 25 questions. There are also some practice questions pupils can answer before taking the actual check.
- On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.
- The check will help schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided.
- Administration window- Monday 6th June- Friday 24th June
- The administration guidance provides details on:
 - how to use the MTC service (including the pupil ‘try it out’ area)
 - how to enable access arrangements
 - how to administer the check



Engagement model

- The engagement model is statutory from 2021/22 academic year. It replaces P scales 1 to 4.
- Teachers must use the engagement model to assess key stage 1 and key stage 2 pupils working below the standard of the national curriculum assessments and not engaged in subject-specific study
- The model encourages schools to measure each pupils' progress independently and can also be used as a baseline tool to track and support ongoing progress.
- Schools will have autonomy over how it will be implemented.
- Schools should report to DfE which pupils have been assessed using the engagement model but are not required to submit any other data to DfE about the progress of these pupils.



Administration timetable

Date	Assessments
Month of May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key stage 1 administration window
Monday 9 May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 1: questions• Paper 2: spelling
Tuesday 10 May	English reading
Wednesday 11 May	Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 1: arithmetic• Paper 2: reasoning
Thursday 12 May	Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 3: reasoning
Monday 6 June-Friday 10 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phonics
Monday 6 June- Friday 24 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiplication tables check



Important dates

Deadline	Deadlines for schools to:
Friday 11 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete pupil registration & make applications for early opening
Monday 25 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make applications for additional time and compensatory marks
Friday 20 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit notifications of aids, special consideration applications, KS2 Headteachers Declaration Form (HDF)
Friday 27 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notify STA of a pupil cheating in an end of KS2 test
Friday 24 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit the MTC HDF
Tuesday 28 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit KS2 Teacher Assessment data
Thursday 30 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit KS1 HDF
Friday 1 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit Phonics screening check HDF
Tuesday 5 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS2 results will be returned to schools
Friday 15 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit marking review applications



Pupil registration

- Opens on the [Primary Assessment Gateway](#) on Monday 14 February.
- Must be complete by Friday 11 March
- Pupil registration ensures that you receive the correct quantities of test materials, and your test attendance registers are accurate.



How to vary the test timetable

KS2 tests can be moved

- within the scheduled day but at a different time to the rest of the cohort (**no** permission needed)
- up to 5 schools days after the date specified in the statutory timetable (**permission** needed)

Under no circumstances should a test be administered before the day specified in the statutory timetable.

Key stage 1 tests, the Phonics Screening Check and the Multiplication Tables Check can all be administered on dates suitable to the school within the relevant administration window.



Modified tests

- Modified versions of the tests are available from STA:
 - enlarged print
 - modified large print
 - braille
- Schools should contact STA's modified test agency on 0300 303 3013 to order modified tests **as soon as possible**
- Past versions of modified tests are available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)
- The modified test agency also provides advice about which modified materials may be suitable for pupils



Access arrangements

- Additional arrangements to enable pupils to take part in national curriculum tests
- They must never give an unfair advantage or disadvantage a pupil
- Arrangements must be based on normal classroom practice
- Evidence required for monitoring visits
- Notifications or permission required for some arrangements

Schools may need to apply to make use of:

- additional time
- early opening
- compensatory marks



Other access arrangements

Notification required on the Primary Assessment Gateway

- Scribes
- Transcripts
- Word processors, other technical or electronic aids

No notification required

- Oral and written translations (for mathematics only)
- Readers
- Rest breaks
- Prompters
- Administering a test at an alternative location



Special consideration

If a KS2 pupil is affected by extremely distressing circumstances in test week, or the weeks immediately before, the school can apply for special consideration of the pupils' results

Applications must only be made for pupils who:

- were in a fit physical and mental state to take the tests
- are working at the standard of the tests
- have completed the full key stage 2 (KS2) programme of study
- have taken the tests
- fulfil one or more of the 5 reasons for Special Considerations

Applications open on the Primary Assessment Gateway on 12 May and must be submitted by 20 May 2022

Schools will be notified of the outcomes of applications by the end of June



Test administration guidance

- Important information for headteachers and test administrators about what to do before, during and after the tests
- Guidance published at www.gov.uk/sta in March **including:**
 - [KS1 test administration guidance](#)
 - [KS2 test administration guidance](#)
 - [KS1 modified test administration guidance](#)
 - [KS2 modified test administration guidance](#)
 - [Phonics screening check administration guidance](#)
 - [Multiplication tables check administration guidance](#)
 - [Security of test materials](#)
 - [Returning test scripts instructions](#)

Failure to administer tests according to the guidance could lead to results being amended or annulled



Security of test materials

Headteachers are responsible for keeping test and check materials secure until the end of the test and check administration periods.

This includes electronic versions and any materials subsequently printed in hard copy.

	Test materials will be delivered to schools	Headteachers must keep test materials secure until
KS1	w/b 21 March	Wednesday 1 June
KS2	w/b 25 April	Friday 20 May
Phonics	w/b 16 May	Monday 20 June

STA will conduct [monitoring visits](#) to a sample of schools to ensure that guidance has been followed



Preparing for the tests

- Read all the relevant guidance
- Plan access arrangements & make necessary applications
- Make sure pupils, parents and staff are aware of any access arrangements to be used
- Ensure that all equipment necessary for the tests is available and functioning well
- Prepare test administrators
- Arrange timings and rooms

Test administrators must ensure that nothing they say or do during a test could be interpreted as giving pupils an advantage



Headteacher's declaration form (HDF)

- The headteacher, must complete and submit the headteacher's declaration form on the Primary Assessment Gateway after all tests have been administered and before the relevant deadline.
- Confirm you have administered the tests according to the published guidance, or you have reported any issues to STA

Test/check	Available from	Deadline for HDF to be submitted
KS2	Thursday 12 May	Friday 20 May
MTC	Monday 6 June	Friday 24 June
KS1	Wednesday 1 June	Thursday 30 June
Phonics	Monday 6 June	Friday 1 July



Help and support

- For general enquiries about test administration, ordering modified test papers, access arrangements, or using the Primary Assessment Gateway contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 or email assessments@education.gov.uk
- For advice about a specific pupil's needs, contact STA using the 'Message us-access arrangements' form on the Primary Assessment Gateway
- Videos to support schools, including how to use the Primary Assessment Gateway, will be published on [STA's playlist on YouTube](#).



Changes for 2022

- All STA assessments will return following their usual timetable
- School level data will not be published in performance tables
- The multiplication tables check is statutory for all year 4 pupils
- The engagement model replaces P scales 1 – 4 and is a new statutory teacher assessment tool for pupils working below the standard of the national curriculum and not engaged in subject-specific study
- The KS2 English reading test is now available in uncontracted braille
- The 'D' code which was previously used to 'disapply' a pupil from the national curriculum assessments has been withdrawn from teacher assessment. It will still be used in the Phonics screening check



Lessons learned

- Lack of assessment and related data *does* have an impact:
 - schools using own/commercial assessments
 - information about decisions
- Online does give us more flexibility: optional MTC went well
- Schools remain resilient: despite the challenges, schools were able to undertake the autumn phonics screening check
- As always, strong lines of communication with stakeholders essential to inform good decisions



Looking to the future

- Working with new ministers – their priorities still developing
- Return to full programme proceeding but monitoring school context very carefully
 - Ensuring guidance published as early as possible
 - Planned light-touch evaluation of engagement model implementation
- Trialling of further digital approaches to RBA



Looking to the future

- Should further changes be required, STA clear on:
 - Importance of stakeholder engagement and consultation
 - Importance of STA communication to stakeholders
 - Timing critical – need for as much notice as possible
- Will continue routine engagement with AAIA, unions and other stakeholders



Thank you

Questions?

Contact STA:

- www.gov.uk/sta
- sta.policy@education.gov.uk



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