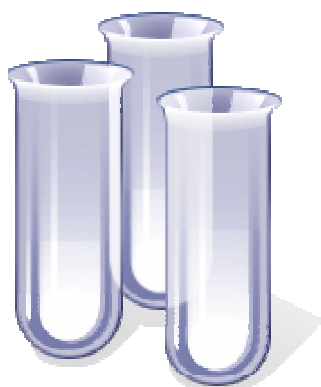


Following the recent round of NAA Conferences to LAs, I can report on the following changes or modifications planned for the 2008 round of Key Stage 3 National Tests, details of the new company administering the tests and a glimpse into the possible future of National testing in England. Please pass on details to your colleagues as appropriate.

Assessment & Reporting Arrangements: What's new in 2008?

- Changes to the 'Test orders' section of the NAA website
- Changes to login details:
Headteachers can now add up to four additional users accounts for those that need access to the 'Test orders' section of the NAA website (further details can be found in section 8.1 of the ARAs)
- Easter term dates and closures:
Schools will need to provide Easter holiday dates by visiting the 'Test orders' section of the NAA website
- P Scales:
The use of P scales and it's collection became statutory for pupils who have been assessed as working below level 1 and who have special educational needs from September 2007 (further details can be found in section 4.3 of the ARA)
- Changes to the 'Test forms' section of the NAA website
Log on at www.naa.org.uk/tests
Use same details (username, password, LA and DCSF number) as sent last year December (2006)
Schools should change their password the next time they login
The school pin number (used to order test materials) will no longer be needed (please see section 12.13 of the ARA for further details)
- Delivery of test materials
KS3: delivery will be staggered (both standard and modified materials)
1st delivery between 31 March to 4 April 2008
2nd delivery between 14 – 18 April 2008
- Online attendance register:
Paper mark sheets have now been replaced by an online attendance register which will contain both the pupils' name and their subjects. Additional pupils can be registered at the 'Test orders' section of the NAA website
The online register can be printed. Instructions on how to use the online register will be sent to schools by April 2008
- Deadline for ordering modified optional materials
In line with ordering standard versions of the tests, the deadline for ordering 3, 4 & 5, years 7 & 8 optional materials is 30 November 2007
- Return of results and pupils' scripts to school
Pupils in key stage 3 will have all their scripts returned to them by July 2008 and will include a results letter and the pupils marks and levels

- **Modified test administrators' guides**
Will only be available to download from the NAA website. Hardcopies will be available on request only. Please contact the modified test agency (statutory) for further information on 0870 321 6727
- **Implications for teaching and learning (ITLs)**
Following a review of the ITLs the NAA decided not to continue with this piece of work. From 2007 materials will no longer be produced (please see section 13.4 of the ARA for further details)
- **Additional time applications**
From 2007, data captured from the QCA optional tests, and previous national curriculum tests can no longer be used as evidence when making an application for additional time as these tests are not designed to assess pupils eligibility. Further information on guidance test eligibility can be at www.qca.org.uk/qca_12280.aspx and making an application can be found in section 12.4 of the ARA
- **Arrangements for pupils with hearing impairment who do not use sign language or lip read**
Pupils with profound hearing impairments who are unable to use a sign system or lip-read may have the mental mathematics test delivered by rolling sub-titles. Further information can be found in section 12.12 of the ARA
- **Sending Braille scripts for external marking**
Braille scripts can now be sent for external marking at the same time as the standard tests. These can be packed in the provided padded envelopes and sent in the same consignment
- **Amendment of test results**
Schools will now be able to view the effect of minor corrections to marking and/or clerical errors that do not lead to a subject level change on their performance measures. Schools should go to www.raiseonline.org
- **Science tests**
Key stage 3 – science term 'factor' will be replaced by 'variable'
Tests will now move towards pupils being required to apply correct judgement in selecting a straight line or curve when asked to draw a line of best fit through points on a graph
For the 2011 test cycle onwards, pupils will need to make a correct judgement
Currently, the *Mark scheme* will take account of this change in practice and the time taken for it to become embedded
- **Year 7 progress tests**
The year 7 progress tests will no longer be offered alongside the key stage 3 statutory tests in the 2008 or subsequent test cycles. However, year 7 progress test in English and mathematics will be made available as part of the optional test suite for years 7 and 8 in 2008 and beyond. Please see section 3.3 of the ARA for further details
- **Changes to the 2008 key stage 3 test timetable**
A change to the order for 2008
Last change was in 2004 when after consultation English Shakespeare and English writing were switched

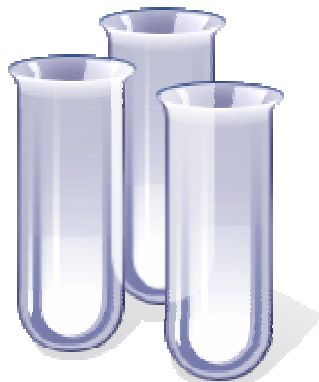


- 2008 Key Stage 3 statutory timetable

Tuesday 6 May	Wednesday 7 May	Thursday 8 May	Friday 9 May
Mental Mathematics Test A (higher tiers) and Test C (lower tier) = 20mins Mathematics Paper 1 = 1hr	English Writing Paper Longer Task = 45mins Shorter Task = 30mins	English Reading Paper Reading Time = 15mins plus 1hr to answer questions	Science Paper 1 = 1hr
AFTERNOON SESSION			
Mathematics Paper 2 = 1hr	Mental Mathematics Test B (higher tiers) = 20mins	English Shakespeare Paper = 45mins	Science Paper 2 = 1hr

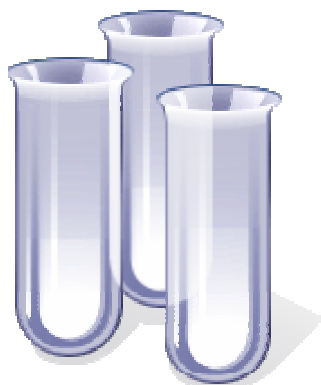
- Key stage 3 ICT tests
Pilot onscreen test has now concluded
In January 2007 it was announced the test will not become statutory in 2008
A bank of formative assessment tasks covering the programme of study will be available for use throughout key stage 3
A first set of tasks will be available to schools during the autumn term 2007 via the same delivery software as the pilot tests. For further information on KS3 ICT please visit www.naa.org.uk/ks3ict
- Absence from the tests
Following a pilot during summer 2007, the DCSF is considering introducing a requirement that schools report reasons for pupils absence during test week
DCSF intends to undertake a consultation on this proposal and further information will be available in autumn 2007 on the DCSF website at www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations
For further information please see section 10.6 of the ARA
- Move to a two-play model for Shakespeare in 2009
Please see section 5.1 of the ARA for further information
- Delivery of the tests (* Including modified tests)

Key Stage 3	(delivery 1) 31 March to 4 April 2008 *
	(delivery 2) 14 to 18 April 2008 *
Optional Tests 3, 4 & 5	March 2008 *
Optional Tests 7 & 8	March 2008 *



Who is *ETS* Europe?

- ETS Europe has been appointed by the NAA to deliver national curriculum assessments in England
- Part of the largest private provider of educational testing in the world, ETS
- ETS already delivers more than 50 million assessments every year in 180 countries
- What will ETS Europe be doing?
The NAA partnership covers five national curriculum assessment cycles from 2008 to 2012, to include:
 - managing the test orders process
 - recruitment of markers
 - external marking of tests
 - the collection and return of scripts and results to schools
 - handling reviews
 - collection of teacher assessments
 - managing the test operations agency helpdesk
- Central Distribution Centre
Moves collation activities away from the schools and markers to a single, central location in Dewsbury
Provides full operational visibility of the process
Reduces potential for lost scripts
- Online training for markers
Markers can self-train at their convenience
Markers can access training before test day saving time
Reduces number of training venues
- Online mark capture
Marks are entered immediately – eliminating delays
Team leaders can provide immediate feedback on marker performance against the benchmarks
Transcription and data entry errors are reduced
Markers no longer need to tabulate marks, reducing the potential for error



- Key improvements for schools
 - A 'one stop shop' - all national curriculum tasks and tests, including modified versions, can now be ordered online at www.naa.org.uk/tests
 - Improved security of personal data online with separate delivery of PIN and User ID
 - Online attendance register will replace paper mark sheets
 - Simplified script handling for schools with one central distribution point
 - Key stage 3 English results will be returned at the same time as other results
 - Online mark capture should reduce errors, queries and marking reviews
- Support for schools
 - Test ordering instruction letters sent to all schools in September
 - 'Quick guides' to help schools use the website at www.naa.org.uk/tests
 - Regular guidance & updates through familiar communication channels (ARAs, school circulars etc)
 - A new test operations agency helpdesk for schools and LAs. For enquiries about statutory standard and modified test orders, pupil registration, teacher assessments, external marking and reviews
 - Open Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm
 - Telephone: 0870 1614530
 - Email: schools@testoperations.org.uk

Looking Ahead to 2008 and beyond

- Single level tests as part of the Making Good Progress **pilot**
 - 2 year Making Good Progress **pilot** launched to look at four elements to encourage progress:
 - Assessment for learning and level by level tests for progress
 - Progression tutoring
 - Progression targets
 - Progression premiums

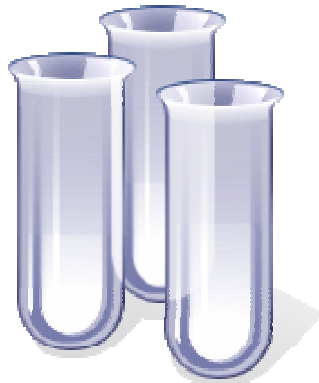
To align more closely the criteria for teacher assessment and externally marked tests, so that tests become mainly confirmatory of accurate, well-founded teacher assessments

To enable schools to focus on the progress of every individual pupil against national curriculum requirements within the school year and the key stage - not delayed until after the end of the key stage

To enable parents, pupils and teachers to have shared understanding of the steps of progress achieved (celebrated by a certificate), and of the next steps of learning

To experiment with new, less burdensome, more reliable test delivery methods (transmission of test papers and scripts, sitting tests, marking and calibrating them, recording results, storing data and analysing it)

To provide reliable data to measure progression by two national curriculum levels for school and national accountability. This will be an incidental benefit, and is not the main rationale for the new types of test.



- Principal characteristics
 - Tests will not be key stage specific
 - Tests will focus on key aspects of the national curriculum programmes of study and level descriptions
 - Pupils will receive a certificate to celebrate success
- Entry criteria
 - Pupils to be entered only after robust teacher assessment
 - Pupils to be entered only when a pupil has progressed by a secure level
 - Pupils to be entered 'when ready' throughout key stages 2 and 3
- Single Level Test (SLT) Model
 - Single level test papers for:
 - English reading
 - English writing
 - shorter task & longer task
 - Mathematics
 - calculator
 - non-calculator
 - Tests assess single levels only at levels 3,4,5 & 6 for December 2007, the pilot will be extended to include levels 7 & 8 from June 2008
 - Test model underpinned by the Assessing Pupil Progress (APP) model
- Key messages for schools
 - Accessibility for pupils
 - Pupils who are working securely at the level
 - Straight in to level appropriate questions
 - Time pressures – keep going
 - Maturity, readability, interest
 - Modified papers

If you require further information on any of the above consult the NAA website at <http://www.naa.org.uk/>, the most recent ARA booklet (reference QCA/07/3117) available to order from:

- The QCA order line on Tel: 0870 060 6015
- An electronic copy from the web at <http://www.qca.org.uk/eara/> or from me, Steve Edwards via email address - steve.edwards@southglos.gov.uk

Steve Edwards

31/10/07

