



Before taking your literacy test

This information sheet is designed to help you prepare for your literacy test. Further materials are available from the Department for Education's (DfE) website at www.education.gov.uk/sta/professional including:

- literacy practice materials (interactive and non-interactive); and
- glossary of terms used in the test.

Booking your test

Make sure you book your test for a time when you are not likely to be rushed or tired.

At the start of the test

Only start the test when you feel ready. Make sure that you are calm before you click to start the test.

Spelling

- Remember that you can click on the audio icon to hear a word as often as necessary.
- Ensure you have completed this section to the best of your ability before leaving it; the spelling section is the only part of the test that you can't return to once you have moved on.

Punctuation

- Read the instructions carefully. They will tell you how to add punctuation to the text.
- Once you have added punctuation to a word, it turns blue.
- If you want to change something, click on the blue word and reset it. The clear option removes all your punctuation from the passage.
- You may only add 15 pieces of punctuation.
- You will need to click on 'OK' to ensure that your changes are saved.

Grammar

- Remember that each question is part of a continuous text; if you have difficulty identifying the correct answer, it might help you to read through the whole passage.
- When you have completed your selections, read the whole passage to check you have made the best selection in each place.

Comprehension

- It is important that you are familiar and comfortable with the text before you try to answer any of the comprehension questions. Be sure to spend enough time reading through the text

before you move onto the questions. The text will continue to appear on each question screen, so that you can refer to it if necessary.

- Try to maximise the number of marks you pick up by answering the questions you find easiest first.
- You can return to any questions that you need to complete. Don't dwell for too long on any particular question.

Results

You will receive a printout when you complete your literacy test. This will tell you whether you have passed or failed the test.

If you haven't been successful, the printout will include details of how many more marks you would have needed to pass the test. You don't need a set number of marks from each section. Each of your responses carries 1 mark. You must pass the test 'overall', not necessarily every section of the test. The printout lists any sections in which you achieved less than half of the available marks.

It may take up to 48 hours for your literacy skills test result to upload onto the results database.

Resits

If you need to book a resit, please don't feel pressured to take your next test straight away. Give yourself time to prepare first.

You will need to wait 48 hours before you can book your next test. Make sure it is at a time when you are not likely to be rushed or tired.

Any further questions?

For any queries relating to this document, please contact the helpdesk by telephone on 0300 303 9613 or email support@sta.learndirect.com. The helpdesk is available from Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 4.00pm.

Alternatively, Teacher Support Network is a group of independent charities and a social enterprise that offers advice, support and counselling for teachers and trainee teachers. Visit www.teachersupport.info or telephone 08000 562 561.

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