

# Star Assessment Pack for Testing with Fidelity

## What are Star Assessments?

Computer-adaptive Star Assessments for Reading and Maths are used by almost 6,000 schools across the UK and Ireland. Star Assessments provide reliable data showing progress made by each pupil and if they are on track to meet expected standards in the learning pathway. These robust and reliable standardised Reading and Mathematics attainment tests have been built for the English National Curriculum. They provide instant attainment data in 20-25 minutes, charting pupils' skills on the Core Progress Learning Progressions, which were created in collaboration with the National Foundation of Educational Research. Addressing both the Primary and Secondary market, Star Assessments evaluate curriculum-linked ability on a single scale that runs from year 1 through to year 11 ensuring a test without a ceiling effect. Details of the tests are as follows:

- Star Reading: a test of 34 items, testing 43 skill areas in 4 domains
- Star Maths: a test of 24 items, testing 50 skill areas in 10 domains

In addition, Star Early Literacy is available for pupils who are not yet reading independently and who tend to have a reading age of below 7 years. This assessment is an audio and visual diagnostic test designed to identify a pupil's specific areas of strength and weakness and to determine any difficulties that a pupil may have in learning to read. This assessment will help to identify when pupils are likely to have sufficient skills to read independently and access Star Reading. Details of this test are as follows:

- Star Early Literacy: a test of 27 items, testing 41 skill areas in 10 domains.

## Administrator User tasks in advance of the Star Assessment:

1. Ensure relevant pupils are enrolled in classes with the correct dates of birth.
2. Confirm which assessment(s) the pupils will be taking and ensure these products have been assigned
3. [Print the list of usernames and passwords](#) for classes who will be testing
4. Ensure Authorisation Password is switched off for the testing window – [Star Reading](#) / [Star Maths](#) / [Star Early Literacy](#). Ensure that **Invigilator** is aware of the Authorisation Password in case there is a need to pause a Star Assessment such as a Fire Alarm.
5. Ensure pupils needing extra time or a lower starting level for their initial test have been allocated this under the preferences – [Star Reading](#) / [Star Maths](#)
6. Check that Screening Dates are set up – [Star Reading](#) / [Star Maths](#)
7. Provide **Invigilators** with the school's unique site address that pupils will be taking the Star Assessments on. If possible, have a shortcut created to the site on devices ahead of the test.
8. Ensure that computers, laptops or tablets pupils will be accessing the assessment on are powered/charged. Additionally:
  - For Star Maths, ensure each pupil has access to a pencil and piece of paper. No calculators are permitted for this test.

- For Star Early Literacy, ensure each pupil's device has working audio and that the pupil has access to headphones.
9. It is recommended that testing suites have a visual timer to help pupils to pace themselves. The timer should start from zero and count up – this is to help staff and pupils know if they are taking adequate time. Star Reading and Maths should take close to 20 minutes or above, while Star Early Literacy should take approximately 15 minutes.
- Decide what pupils will do on completing the test as pupils will finish at different times. You may wish for pupils to bring along their reading book or provide a worksheet for pupils to complete silently while waiting for their class to complete the test.

### Pre-test Instructions for **Invigilators**, **Administrator Users** and **Relevant Staff**:

1. Ensure that the **class teacher or a relevant member of staff** has time before the test to prepare pupils. Presentations are available for [Star Reading – Primary](#) / [Star Reading – Secondary](#) / [Star Maths](#) to assist with this. Pre-test instructions are embedded within the Star Early Literacy assessment.
2. Ensure **staff members** have a list of Usernames and Passwords to give out to the pupils.
3. Before pupils arrive, re-confirm that devices are switched on and ready to log into the correct site – each site is unique to a school and will need to be exact. This may be set as a favourite/shortcut on the devices.
4. As pupils enter and take their seats, be sure to remind them they should be quiet as these are testing conditions.
5. Once the pupils have settled, read the relevant paragraphs below:
  - **Star Reading**: 'You are going to take a test called Star Reading. It is a reading test that has fill-in-the-blank and short-answer questions. You will answer 34 questions on a computer. It will take about twenty minutes to answer all the questions. Do not worry if someone finishes the test before you because every test is different. Do not worry about how many questions you think you get right, or how many you think you get wrong; everyone will probably miss some of the questions. The main objective is for you to do the best you can.'
  - **Star Maths**: 'You are going to take a test called Star Maths. It is a maths test that has multiple-choice questions. You will answer the questions on a computer or a tablet, but you can work the problems out on note paper. There are 24 questions and it should take you somewhere between 20 and 30 minutes to answer all of the questions. This test may be harder than other maths tests you have taken. That is because Star Maths selects questions just for you to see how much you know about maths. You will probably even see maths concepts or problems that you have never been taught in school. This is normal for how this special type of test works, so try not to get frustrated by this. Just try to give the best answer to each problem and you will do fine. Do not worry if someone finishes the test before you because every test is different. Do not worry about how many questions you think you get right or how many you think you get wrong; everyone will probably miss some of the questions. The main objective is for you to do the best you can.'

- Star Early Literacy: 'You are going to take a test called Star Early Literacy. You will answer 27 questions. It will take about 20 minutes to answer all the questions. Do not worry if someone finishes the test before you because every test is different. Do not worry about how many questions you think you get right, or how many you think you get wrong; everyone will probably miss some of the questions. The main objective is for you to do the best you can.'
6. Ask the pupils to log in on the site by selecting 'I am a Student' and if anyone has issues to raise their hand.
  7. Explain that no help can be given in answering any of the questions.
  8. Permission will be given by the **Invigilator** to start the test. The test must not start until all pupils are logged on and ready. This allows the visual timer to be started at the same time for all.
  9. Inform the pupils on what to do once the test is complete as this will occur at different times (e.g. to silently read, to put up their hand).
  10. If this is the pupil's first test of the academic year, they will be met with practice questions for each Star Assessment, and for Star Early Literacy an introductory video. Pupils need to pass these in order to proceed into the main assessment. No help must be given here but be aware that the system will prompt pupils to speak to a member of staff if they do not pass the practice. More information is under Testing Environment.
  11. For pupils unable to log in, ensure they are on the correct site. Check the username and password they are using against the list of details. If this is correct, try a different browser or device (if available).
    - If the problem persists, speak to the **Administrator User** or **relevant member of staff** who can check the account or contact Customer Service on 020 7184 4000 or through Live Chat.

### Testing environment for **Invigilators**, **Administrator Users** and **Relevant Staff**:

1. If at the start of a Star Assessment a pupil is shown the message to speak to a member of staff, this is indicating they have not passed the Practice Questions. Ask the pupil to re-attempt the questions with adult supervision. If the pupil is still unable to, this means they do not have the minimum ability to access the test. Speak to a **member of staff** and find a suitable activity to do in the meantime so that other pupils are not disturbed.
2. Ensure that pupils remain quiet and focused.
3. As pupils start to finish, make a note of how many pupils finish long before the recommended testing times. Tests that are far below the recommended length are often a poor reflection of the pupil's ability and can skew data, affecting reliability. Also note down any factors which could have detrimentally impacted the pupils' results (e.g. a noisy environment or interruptions).
4. Encourage pupils who have completed the test to continue sitting quietly and move onto the next activity (e.g. silent reading, a worksheet).
  - Once the final pupil has finished and has been approached, thank the pupils for being quiet and ask them to calmly exit the room.

Post-Test Advice for **Invigilators**, **Administrator Users** and **Relevant Staff**:

1. Once testing has been completed, the **Invigilator** should speak with the **Administrator User** or **relevant staff member** regarding the test. If there were any concerns regarding fidelity i.e. multiple pupils finishing quickly, raise this with the staff member.
2. If there were no fidelity concerns, the role of the **Invigilator** is complete. The **Administrator User** or **relevant staff member** will be responsible for reassigning Authorisation Passwords and Printing Reports.
  - For turning on the authorisation password: [Star Reading](#) / [Star Maths](#) / [Star Early Literacy](#).
  - For printing reports: [Star Reading](#) / [Star Maths](#) / [Star Early Literacy](#)

Contact us:

Our Customer Service team are available to help 8am-5pm:

- To call: 020 7184 4000
- To email: [support@renlearn.co.uk](mailto:support@renlearn.co.uk)
- Live Chat is also available in the upper right corner of your Renaissance site