

SPaG Practice TEST

Grammar, punctuation and spelling

Short answer questions.

This test emulates the current Key Stage 3 SPaG test to help students familiarise themselves with the format and types of questions they might see.

- 1** Commas can be used to clarify the meaning of a sentence. Put **commas** in the appropriate places in the following sentences.

She however wanted to visit the exhibition.

A large whale which had beached itself in the Thames was rescued and towed out to sea.

2 marks

- 2** Put a **colon** in the correct place in the sentence.

I have three horses an elderly mare (called Ruby), and two younger horses, Lucas and Sylvie.

1 mark

3

The sentence below uses the active voice. Which is the correct **passive** form of the sentence? Tick the box.

The storm surge smashed the little boats into matchwood.

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| In the storm surge, the waves smashed the little boats to matchwood. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The waves of the storm surge smashed the little boats. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The little boats were smashed into matchwood by the storm surge. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The storm surge caused the smashing of the little boats. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1 mark

4

Use a connective **or** a connective phrase to complete the second sentence below.

Jess wanted to be an actress. _____, she

was too nervous to go on stage.

1 mark

5

Complete the table by adding a synonym **and** an antonym. One has been done for you.

| | synonym | antonym |
|--------|----------|-----------|
| happy | blissful | miserable |
| clever | | |
| angry | | |

1 mark

- 6** Choose a preposition to complete each sentence and write it in the space. Use each preposition only once.

to on from with

The decoration must be placed _____ the cake.

This chocolate is different _____ my usual choice.

This hat is dear compared _____ that one.

My coat is similar _____ the one you wear.

1 mark

- 7** Put a semicolon in the correct place in the sentence below.

I have to write my story with a pen my sister, however, is allowed to use the laptop.

1 mark

- 8** Write the correct contraction for the underlined words in the space beside them.

You should not have (_____) come home on your own so late. It is (_____) very dangerous, and if I had (_____) known you were going to, I would have (_____) given you the money for a taxi.

2 marks

9 Show which adverb is which by ticking the correct box.

| | adverb of time | adverb of manner | adverb of frequency | adverb of place |
|-----------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| happily | | | | |
| inside | | | | |
| yesterday | | | | |
| seldom | | | | |

1 mark

10 Make the noun into an expanded noun phrase by adding information. One has been done for you.

tree the tall pine tree on the long promontory

theatre _____

bird _____

cloud _____

1 mark

11 Write the infinitive form of the verb in the table. One has been done for you.

| verb | infinitive |
|--------------------|------------|
| running, ran, runs | to run |
| did, done | |
| have, had | |
| was, am | |

1 mark

12 Re-write the sentence below in the past simple tense.

Whenever I go to the beach to have a holiday, I always enjoy the time I spend with my relations.

1 mark

13 This sentence is written in the personal form. Tick the box of the correct impersonal form.

I think that it's wrong to waste resources as it's bad for the environment.

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| I don't like waste, it's wrong and bad. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wasting resources seems bad to me. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The waste of resources is wrong, and bad for the environment. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I save the environment by not wasting resources. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1 mark

14 Write an example of each type of noun in the boxes.

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| abstract noun | <input type="text"/> |
| common noun | <input type="text"/> |
| collective noun | <input type="text"/> |
| proper noun | <input type="text"/> |

2 marks

15 Tick the box to show which pronoun is which.

| | relative pronoun | personal pronoun | possessive pronoun |
|--|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 'That's not your ice cream, it's mine! ' shouted Bob. | | | |
| Show me the girl who teased you. | | | |
| James decided he had had enough to eat. | | | |

1 mark

16 This sentence is made up of a main clause (*in italics*) and a subordinate clause (underlined).

The sea at Barfleur, which is always very clean, meets the European Blue Flag standard all year round.

Add a subordinate clause to the main clause below.

London, _____, has many attractions for visitors.

1 mark

17 Tick which type of conjunction is being used in each sentence.

| | co-ordinating conjunction | subordinating conjunction |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| I like sitting outside when the weather is warm and sunny. | | |
| Please either wipe your shoes or take them off. | | |
| I've never enjoyed netball despite being quite good at it. | | |
| I don't like coffee but I do like tea. | | |

1 mark

18 Underline the correct form of the verb in each set of brackets.

My mum and dad (was / were) going on holiday without us for the first time.

Everyone (is / are) entitled to a voucher for 10% off the price of their book.

The government (have / has) made changes to the legislation.

The herd of deer (look / looks) very majestic.

Nobody (want / wants) to see war in their country.

1 mark

TES SPaG KS3 PRACTICE TEST – answer sheet

Answers for the TES SPaG KS3 PRACTICE TEST are given below. Where an alternative answer is possible it is flagged. Tips for students who get a question wrong are also included.

1 Commas can be used to clarify the meaning of a sentence. Put commas in the appropriate places in the following sentences.

She, however, wanted to visit the exhibition.

A large whale, which had beached itself in the Thames, was rescued and towed out to sea.

2 Put a colon in the correct place in the sentence.

I have three horses: an elderly mare (called Ruby), and two younger horses, Lucas and Sylvie.

3 The sentence below uses the active voice. Which is the correct passive form of the sentence? Tick the box.

The storm surge smashed the little boats into matchwood.

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| In the storm surge, the waves smashed the little boats to matchwood. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The waves of the storm surge smashed the little boats. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The little boats were smashed into matchwood by the storm surge. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| The storm surge caused the smashing of the little boats. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

TIP:

An active voice sentence is usually constructed 'subject – verb – predicate', and a sentence in the passive voice is constructed 'subject – passive verb – agent'.

4 Use a connective or a connective phrase to complete the sentence below.

Jess wanted to be an actress. However / Nevertheless / Despite this she was too nervous to go on stage.

TIP:

A subordinate clause introduced by ‘however’ or ‘despite this’ is known as a clause of concession, where the main clause is modified by a contrasting point of view.

5 Complete the table by adding a synonym and an antonym. One has been done for you.

| | synonym | antonym |
|--------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| happy | blissful, content | miserable, unhappy |
| clever | wise, intelligent | dim, unintelligent |
| angry | cross, irate | pleased, calm |

Examples are given; accept any adjectives that are appropriate.

6 Choose a preposition to complete each sentence and write it in the space. Use each preposition only once.

| |
|--|
| The decoration must be placed on the cake. |
| This chocolate is different from my usual choice. |
| This hat is dear compared with that one. |
| My coat is similar to the one you wear. |

TIP:

The terms ‘similar to’ and ‘different from’ can be used in the same spirit as ‘nearer to’ and ‘further from’. The former case is to do with the degree of likeness between two objects or concepts, and in the latter it is the degree of difference. ‘Compare to’ is also correct, since you can compare something both with and to another thing, but in the above case, ‘to’ can only be used once so ‘compare with’ is the answer here.

7 Put a semicolon in the correct place in the sentence below.

I have to write my story with a pen; my sister, however, is allowed to use the laptop.

TIP:

Semicolons can be used to avoid comma splicing (separating two related main clauses with a comma). An appropriate conjunction could be used instead of a semicolon.

8 Write the correct contraction for the underlined words in the space beside them.

You should not have (shouldn't have) come home on your own so late. It is (It's) very dangerous, and if I had (I'd) known you were going to, I would have (I would've / I'd have) given you the money for a taxi.

TIP:

A common mistake with contractions is to use 'would of', 'could of' and 'should of'.

9 Show which adverb is which by ticking the box.

| | adverb of time | adverb of manner | adverb of frequency | adverb of place |
|-----------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| happily | | ✓ | | |
| inside | | | | ✓ |
| yesterday | ✓ | | | |
| seldom | | | ✓ | |

TIP:

Adverbs are classified depending on their function in the sentence. The type of adverb can also give its name to the clause it introduces: e.g. an 'adverbial clause of manner', or an 'adverbial clause of time'.

10 Make the noun into an expanded noun phrase by adding information. One has been done for you.

| | expanded noun phrase |
|---------|---|
| tree | the tall pine tree on the long promontory |
| theatre | the old theatre at the corner of High Street |
| bird | a white-winged bird on the branch |
| cloud | a fluffy cloud in the azure sky |

Examples only are given: look for the use of an adjective or two before the noun, and perhaps a prepositional phrase after it.

11 Write the infinitive form of the verb in the table. One has been done for you.

| verb | infinitive |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Running, ran, runs | to run |
| did, done | to do |
| have, had | to have |
| was, am | to be |

TIP:

The infinitive is the unchanging form of the verb, preceded by 'to'. It is often the root form, from which the verb is conjugated. The verbs 'to be' and 'to have' are also auxiliary verbs which are used to form tenses.

12 Re-write the sentence below in the past simple tense.

Whenever I go to the beach to have a holiday, I always enjoy the time I spend with my relations.

Whenever I go (went) to the beach to have a holiday, I always enjoy (enjoyed) the time I spend (spent) with my relations.

13 This sentence is written in the personal form. Tick the box of the correct impersonal form.

I think that it's wrong to waste resources as it's bad for the environment.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| I don't like waste, it's wrong and bad. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wasting resources seems bad to me. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The waste of resources is wrong, and bad for the environment. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| I save the environment by not wasting resources. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

TIP:

The impersonal form is often used in science writing, to divorce the writer's personality, views or agency from a scientific fact.

14 Write an example of each type of noun in the boxes below.

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| abstract noun | goodness, bravery |
| common noun | silk, book |
| collective noun | pride, herd |
| proper noun | Joe, Bristol |

Accept any appropriate noun.

15 Tick the box to show which pronoun is which.

| | relative pronoun | personal pronoun | possessive pronoun |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 'That's not your ice cream, it's mine! ' shouted Bob. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Show me the girl who teased you. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| James decided he had had enough to eat. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

TIP:

The word 'my' when used after a noun ('my book') is a possessive pronoun (also called a possessive determiner).

16 This sentence is made up of a main clause (in italics) and a subordinate clause (underlined).

The sea at Barfleur, which is always very clean, meets the European Blue Flag standard all year round.

Add a subordinate clause to the main clause below.

London, although it is rather crowded, has many attractions for visitors.

Accept any appropriate subordinate clause.

17 Tick which type of conjunction is being used in each sentence.

| | co-ordinating conjunction | subordinating conjunction |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| I like sitting outside when the weather is warm and sunny. | | ✓ |
| Please either wipe your shoes or take them off. | ✓ | |
| I've never enjoyed netball despite being quite good at it. | | ✓ |
| I don't like coffee but I do like tea. | ✓ | |

TIP:

Co-ordinating conjunctions join two main clauses of equal weight. Subordinating conjunctions join a main to a dependent clause, where the meaning of the dependent clause is not complete without referral to the main clause.

18 Underline the correct form of the verb in each set of brackets.

My mum and dad **were** going on holiday without us for the first time.

Everyone **is** entitled to a voucher for 10% off the price of their book.

The government **has** made changes to the legislation.

The herd of deer **looks** very majestic.

Nobody **wants** to see war in their country.

TIP:

Collective and group nouns can cause confusion when it comes to deciding the number of the verb and whether it should be singular or plural. In example four above, 'The herd of deer run' would be incorrect because the collective noun 'herd' (meaning one herd) takes the singular verb 'runs'. You can show this by putting 'herds' in the plural, which requires the plural verb: The herds of deer run.