

Year 6 Reading SAT - a Quick Guide

Year 6 SATs reading papers test comprehension through 1-mark (retrieval/vocabulary) to 3-mark (inference) questions over a 1-hour, 3-text, 2000-word paper. Key strategies include scanning for keywords, using "P.E.E." (Point, Evidence, Explanation) for 3-mark answers, and checking line numbers for text location. The pass mark is around 50%, requiring focused time management.

Top Tips for Answering Y6 Reading SATs

- **1-Mark Questions (Retrieval/Vocabulary):** Directly locate information or find and copy one word/phrase.
- **3-Mark Questions (Inference/Explanation):** Use the "Point, Evidence, Explanation" method: make a point, find a quote to support it, and explain *how* the quote proves your point.
- **Time Management:** Spend about 15 minutes per text/question set.
- **Text Familiarity:** Use the "skim, scan, and annotate" method to mark key information.
- **Check Answer Space:** The amount of lines provided tells you how long the answer should be (e.g., short lines = short answer).

Common Question Types

- **Retrieval:** Finding specific details from the text.
- **Inference:** Using clues to understand things not directly stated.
- **Vocabulary/Word Meaning:** Finding words that fit a definition.
- **Summarising:** Identifying the main points of a text.
- **Prediction:** Guessing what happens next based on evidence.

Key Advice:

- Always refer back to the text—do not rely solely on prior knowledge.
- If you cannot answer a question, move on and return to it later.
- Check that your answer fits the command words (e.g., "Find and copy," "Explain").

Revision resources:

[2026 SATS: My 7 Top Tips To Smash The Reading Paper](#)

[2026 SATS: Reading Question Types Explained](#)

[KS2 English SATs paper - Reading - Year 6 Practice - BBC Bitesize](#)