

ANALYSIS OF THE 2024 STA SPELLING TEST FOR KS2

The first three columns are taken directly from the 2024 STA Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Test, specifically the [spelling test mark scheme](#).

Information relating to the content domain reference codes in the third column of the following table can be found in the key stage 2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test framework.

Further information about the spelling rules listed in the content domain reference column, including the International Phonetic Alphabet can be found in the [Spelling Appendix](#) of the national curriculum.

The fourth column indicates further aspects of spelling of the target word that could be difficult for children. These aspects were not listed in the STA mark scheme.

The final column shows where these domains are taught within the ESSENTIALspelling programme.

Question	Spelling	Content domain reference	Additional knowledge that often proves tricky	ESSENTIALspelling
1	young	S40 – the /ŋ/ sound spelt ou		Y3 sequence 26 Y4 sequence 22 Y5 sequence 16 Y6 sequence 9
2	island	S60 – words with ‘silent’ letters (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word)		Y5 sequence 21 Y6 sequence 15
3	famous	S46 – the suffix –ous		Y3 sequence 27 Y4 sequence 22 Y5 sequence 16 Y6 sequence 9
4	texture	S44 – words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/		Y4 sequence 21 Y6 sequence 13
5	social	S54 – endings which sound like /ʃəl/		Y5 sequence 11,12 Y6 sequence 7
6	replacing	S38 – adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable S41 – prefixes	Soft c from Y2* Y2 sequence 11 Y4 sequence 29 Y5 sequence 8,9 Y6 sequence 10	Y3 sequence 9, 24, 25 Y4 sequence 4, 12, 13 Y5 sequence 4 Y6 sequence 4, 17
7	symbol	S39 – the /i/ sound spelt y other than at the end of words		Y3 sequence 30 Y5 sequence 28 Y6 sequence 26
8	increase	S41 – prefixes	Phoneme /i:/ spelt ea from KS1 Y2 sequence 17 Y3 sequence 2	Y3 sequence 24,25 Y4 sequence 12,13,14 Y5 sequence 5,19

				Y6 sequence 17,18
9	examination	S42 – the suffix –ation		Y3 sequence 22 Y4 sequence 8 Y5 sequence 5 Y6 sequence 12
10	frequently	S43 – the suffix –ly;	S55 – words ending in –ant, –ance, –ancy, –ent, –ence, –ency*	Y3 sequence 18 Y4 sequence 7 Y5 sequence 3 Y6 sequence 3
				*Y5 sequence 17,18 *Y6 sequence 11,12
11	vein	S52 – words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey	S61 – homophones and near homophones*	Y3 sequence 29; Y4 sequence 17; Y6 sequence 26
				Y5 sequence 1, 26 Y6 sequence 2, 22
12	league	S50 – words ending with the /g/ sound spelt –gue and the /k/ sound spelt –que	Phoneme /i:/ spelt ea from KS1 Y2 sequence 17 Y3 sequence 2	Y4 sequence 25 Y6 sequence 20, 26
13	chaos	S48 – words with the /k/ sound spelt ch		Y4 sequence 28
14	queue	S61 – homophones and near homophones (Years 3 and 4) homophones and other words that are often confused (Years 5 and 6)	The /k/ phoneme spelt que Y4 sequence 26;	Y4 sequence 26 Y6 sequence 20, 26
			The phoneme /u:/ spelt ue from KS1 Y3 sequence 5	
15	solution	S47 – endings that sound like /ʃən/, spelt –tion, –sion, –ssion, –cian		Y3 sequence 22,23; Y4 sequence 8, 9,10; Y5 sequence 5 Y6 sequence 12
16	reluctance	S55 – words ending in –ant, –ance, –ancy, –ent, –ence, –ency		*Y5 sequence 17,18 *Y6 sequence 11,12
17	memorable	S56 – words ending in –able and –ible; words ending in –ably and –ibly		Y5 sequence 14,15; Y6 sequence 8
18	persuasion	S45 – endings that sound like /ʒən/		Y3 sequence 22,23; Y4 sequence 8,9,10; Y6 sequence 12
19	referring	S57 – adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in –fer; S38 – adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable		Y4 sequence 23; Y5 sequence 6; Y6 sequence 4

20	nutritious	S53 – endings which sound like /jəs/ spelt –cious or –tious		Y3 sequence 27; Y4 sequence 22; Y5 sequence 16; Y6 sequence 9
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Y5/6 expectations only	Y5/6 & Y3/4 expectations/ KS1 expectations or those not covered in national curriculum	Y3/4 expectations only	Y3/4 & KS1 expectations or those not covered in the national curriculum	Total of words relating to expectations outside of Y5/6
5/20	4/20	8/20	3/20	15/20