Which Reading Test is right for you?

We compare four of the most popular reading tests on the market for UK secondary schools.

Feature	Bedrock Reading Test	NGRT (Digital) New Group Reading Test	Star Reading	Sparx Reader
Accuracy	✅ The reliability of Bedrock's Reading Test is 0.94	✅ The reliability of NGRT is 0.9 (Sept '23)	✅ The reliability of Star Reading is 0.88	❌ Sparx Reading test is purely design to assign a learner to a Sparx Reading Level
Ease of use	✅ Setup test in just a few minutes. One-click entry for learners. SSO access also available. Live dashboard gives real-time view	❌ Time-consuming test setup. Access codes are required for learners. No live-test monitoring available	❌ One time setup if using Accelerated Reader or Accelerated Maths. Tests take around 15 minutes to set up	❌ Tests must be set up by class and each learner selected or unselected from test
Variety of question types	✅ A variety of question types including multiple choice, sorting activities, ordering activities and summary completion	❌ EEF reported that an over-reliance on multiple choice questions compromised test validity	❌ Only multiple choice questions	❌ Multiple choice and find the sentence. Questions are basic fact-retrieval questions, not designed to address higher-order skills such as inference
Variety of text types	✅ The test contains a range of fiction and nonfiction texts including narrative, plays, poetry, classic literature and more	❌ Test uses a narrow range of text types to assess reading	❌ A blend of cloze reading and traditional passages	❌ Predominantly narrative fiction
Fully adaptive	✅ Fully adaptive at each question level	❌ Semi-adaptive at test section level	✅ Adaptive at each question level	❌ Not adaptive. 2 fixed form static tests to choose from.
Immediate results	✅ Test results are available immediately after the first learner completes a test	❌ Delay between test being taken and results being available	❌ Results only available once all learners have completed the test	❌ Results only available once all learners have completed the test
National Curriculum aligned (England)	✅ Texts are aligned with age-related National Curriculum expectations (for English schools)	❌ Not curriculum-aligned	❌ Not curriculum-aligned	❌ Assessed items and text passages are not curriculum aligned
Budget saving	✅ Each token can be voided and reused once avoiding additional costs. 50% discount for new and exisiting Bedrock customers	❌ Test tokens cannot be voided or reused once assigned to a test. Replacement tokens must be used or purchased	➖ Not available	➖ Not available
Flexible purchase options	✅ Choice of purchasing tokens or an annual uncapped subscription	❌ Token only purchase option	❌ Only subscription option	❌ Only available as part of Sparx Reader
Familiarity	✅ Familiar test environment in the same platform as Bedrock Learning	❌ Unfamiliar interface for learners	✅ Familiar if using other tools	✅ Familiar if using Sparx Reader
Key stages	✅ Suitable for Key Stages 1-4	✅ Suitable for Key Stages 1-4	✅ Suitable for Key Stages 1-4	➖ Not available
Multiple formats	❌ Digital only	✅ Digital and paper	❌ Digital Only	❌ Digital Only
Duration	**35 min** Untimed, variable between learners, approximately 30 minutes to complete	**40 min** Untimed, variable between students. 40 minutes recommended, including introduction and administration	**20 min** Around 20 minutes. Learners only have 1 minute to answer each question	**20 min** Around 20-30 minutes
Desktop and mobile compatible	✅	✅	✅	✅
Norm referenced scores	✅	✅	✅	❌
Age bands used for norming	✅	✅	✅	❌

If you'd like to find out more about Bedrock's Reading Test you can contact us here. For further information visit our website **www. bedrocklearning.org/reading-test**