

STEC Guidance On	
Test of Orthographic Competence, Second Edition (TOC 2)	
Author:	Nancy Mather, Rhia Roberts, Donald D. Hammill and Elizabeth A. Allen
Publisher:	Pro-Ed
Date of Standardisation:	Data was collected between summer 2017 and spring 2020 (Pub 2023)
Age Range:	8:00 – 24:11
Access:	User is expected to have adequate training and experience in psychological or educational assessment.
Sample Size:	1,512
Cost:	Around £298

Test Content: what tests does it include and what do they measure/evaluate?

Overview:

TOC 2 is a norm referenced test that measures a range of orthographic abilities.

There are 6 subtests:

- **Punctuation:** the student is given a list of printed sentences that contain no punctuation except for spacing between the words. The student has to supply the missing punctuation by editing the sentence. **39 items untimed.**
- **Abbreviations:** the student is given a list of printed abbreviations and is asked to write what each means. **70 items untimed.**
- **Sight Spelling:** the examiner says a word, and the student is shown part of the word (some include irregular or unusual elements) where one or more of the letters is missing. They just have to fill in the missing letter/s. **50 items untimed.**
- **Homophone Spelling:** the examiner says a word, the student is shown a picture of it and they have to write the correct spelling. **47 items untimed**
- **Word Scramble:** the student is shown a set of scrambled letters that can be rearranged to spell real words. The test is timed: **3 minutes. 50 items**
- **Letter Choice:** the student is shown rows of words where one of 4 letters (p, d, b or q) is missing. The student is given **2 minutes** to write in the correct letter to make a real word. **160 items.**

The test yields 5 composites:

- **Conventions:** Punctuation and Abbreviations
- **Spelling Accuracy:** Sight Spelling and Homophone Spelling
- **Spelling Fluency:** Word Scramble and Letter Choice
- **Spelling Efficiency:** Sight Spelling, Homophone Spelling, Word Scramble and Letter Choice. The authors state that this composite was created for those interested in orthographic processing which they describe as *“the ability to acquire, store, and use both mental graphemic representations and knowledge of orthographic patterns [Abel, 2011]”*
- **Orthographic Knowledge:** all 6 subtests

Administration time:

30 – 40 minutes for all 6 tests

Kit consists of:

One Examiner’s Manual

25 Student Response booklets

ISSUES TO CONSIDER:

- The test **has** to be scored using an on-line scoring platform (details in the manual). Purchase of the full kit gives you 25 entries. After that each entry needs to be paid for.
- No basals or ceilings for Punctuation, Abbreviations, Word Scramble or Letter Choice.
- Different start points for students 14/15+ for Sight Spelling and Homophone Spelling with a basal of 3 correct responses and a ceiling of 3 incorrect responses. If student is unable to understand the nature of the task, discontinue testing on the subtest.
- **Americanisations:** some abbreviations may be more familiar in the USA. Therefore, it is important to carefully consider the information any score from the Abbreviation subtest provides; and to be cautious about the use of a composite score, possibly reporting an individual’s performance on the Abbreviations subtest qualitatively.
- **Whilst it is possible to conduct the testing virtually, it would not be recommended.** The test was not normed in a virtual/remote format, so any results would need to be viewed with some caution. The student response booklet would need to be sent in advance of the testing, which could lead to the student practising test items before the test – you would need to arrange a virtual meeting where they open the sealed envelope with the response booklet in front of you.

STRENGTHS:

- The Manual is clearly laid out.
- Very easy to administer to individuals or groups.
- Very clear instructions with examples for the student at the beginning of each test.
- A guide to the correct scoring of each test is provided in the manual.
- Easy to score.
- Easy to administer.
- Could be used to screen pupils in schools demonstrating difficulties with spelling.
- Could be used to provide additional information on orthographical processing in a Full Diagnostic Assessment.
- Some tests could also be used to support Examination Access Arrangements in the cognitive processing/fluency section of the Form 8 for 2023-4.
- Rigorously standardised.