

Year 12 (16+) Entrance Examination Information

This information is designed to give candidates an idea of what to expect in the entrance examinations. Candidates will sit an entrance examination in each of the four subjects they wish to be considered for. Each examination will last 45 minutes.

Art and Design

There is no examination for Art and candidates are instead requested to bring along working sketchbooks and a portfolio of work which will be viewed by the Director of Art and Design.

Biology

This examination is based on GCSE level knowledge and we understand that candidates will not have necessarily studied all topics as they are only part way through year 11. The examination tests the ability of candidates to analyse and evaluate practical work (in a biological context) and then answer key biological questions in detail by writing an essay. Candidates are able to choose questions based on their interests or expertise.

Chemistry

This examination is based on GCSE level knowledge and we understand that candidates will not have necessarily studied all topics as they are only part way through year 11. Approximately one third of the entrance paper will involve a choice of question and candidates may choose to answer the question that tests material with which they are most familiar.

Drama and Theatre

This examination is based on GCSE level knowledge and is split into two parts. Section one will assess your skills in analysing performance, technical elements and stage conventions. Section two asks you to consider the theatre director's role and analyses your ability to interpret text for performance.

Economics

The entrance examination for Economics will not require any specialist knowledge though a general awareness of current economic affairs may be helpful in terms of argument construction. We will be testing basic verbal and non-verbal reasoning skills via a short multiple choice test as well as the ability to write logically and clearly, to explain ideas and arguments fully, and to be able to interpret data.

English Literature

This examination is based on GCSE level skills. We will be testing the ability to analyse poetry or a piece of prose, to explain ideas and arguments fully, and to support reasoning. Candidates will be expected to have read beyond their set texts.

Geography

This examination is based on GCSE level knowledge. We understand that candidates will not have necessarily studied all topics as they are only part way through year 11 and therefore there will be a choice of questions within the paper. We will be testing the ability of candidates to apply their geographical knowledge and skills with confidence to different resources. In addition we are looking for clear and logical explanations of geographical processes with case study material incorporated to support arguments.

Greek (Classical)

The entrance paper will consist of unseen translation and comprehension of one or two passages of Greek. We understand that candidates may well not have studied all GCSE topics by this stage of the academic year and will assess papers on that basis. We will expect a working knowledge of the more common words in the vocabulary list published for the OCR Unit B402 language paper; less common words will be glossed.

History of Art

The entrance examination for History of Art will not require any specialist knowledge. We will be testing the ability to write logically and clearly, to explain ideas and arguments fully, and to carefully record visual analysis.

History

There is no set syllabus for this examination. It will consist of a passage to test comprehension and deduction, followed by an open-ended question that enables candidates to draw on any historical knowledge they have.

Latin

The entrance paper will test GCSE level knowledge of language and will consist of unseen translation and comprehension of one or two pieces of Latin prose. We understand that candidates will not necessarily have studied all GCSE topics by this stage of the academic year. We will, however, expect a working knowledge of the vocabulary required for the OCR Unit A402 language paper.

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

This examination is based on GCSE level knowledge and we understand that candidates will not have necessarily studied all topics as they are only part way through year 11. A formulae sheet is provided and calculators may be used in this examination. However, you should bear in mind that a significant amount of credit is given for your workings. You will be expected to demonstrate excellent skills in algebraic manipulation and to apply sound logical deductions in constructing equations and solving problems.

Modern Languages : French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Russian and Spanish

These papers are based on GCSE level knowledge and we understand that candidates will not have necessarily studied all topics as they are only part way through year 11. The examination will test reading comprehension, grammar and writing skills. Dictionaries are not permitted. If called for interview, candidates should expect to have part of their interview conducted in the language.

Music

This examination is based on GCSE level knowledge although some questions will allow candidates to go beyond this. The paper consists of listening questions testing recognition of musical periods, genre, metre, texture, cadences, tonality, harmony, melody and rhythm using multiple choice, short and longer written answers. Candidates will not be asked to perform or compose.

Philosophy and Theology

The entrance examination for Philosophy and Theology will not require any specialist knowledge. We will be testing the ability to write logically and clearly as well as the ability to explain ideas and arguments fully. Candidates will be given a couple of short passages and will be asked to answer a few open-ended questions.

Physics

This examination is based on Level 2 (GCSE or IGCSE) knowledge and skills, although we are aware that most candidates will not yet have covered all the topics in their specification. Approximately one third of the entrance paper will involve a choice of question and candidates may choose to answer the question that tests material with which they are most familiar.

Politics

There is no set syllabus for this examination. It will consist of a passage to test comprehension and deduction, followed by an open-ended question that enables candidates to draw on any political knowledge they have.