



11+ Entrance Examinations

Guidance for Candidates

Queenswood

GUIDANCE FOR 11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION ENGLISH (TWO PAPERS)

Paper 1: Comprehension

(25 marks; 30 minutes, plus 5 minutes' reading time)

The paper will usually contain one extract, followed by one set of questions. Marks for each question will be shown in brackets to assist candidates with time allocation. Some marks will be allotted for simple comprehension and some for deeper understanding and open-ended interpretation of aspects of the text. The rubric will ask candidates to use their own words, write in full sentences and take care with handwriting, spelling and punctuation.

Factual or fictional passages for the examination are taken from material appropriate in language, style and content to the age/interest range. These are selected at the discretion of the English Department at Queenswood without any standard pattern, to encourage a variety of approaches to the development of comprehension skills. An introductory line of explanation precedes the extract. Certain words may be glossed.

The questions are worded as simply and unambiguously as possible. Candidates are expected to be able to:

- give information which can be obtained from a careful reading of the passage
- say how or why a writer is using language in a particular way
- demonstrate an understanding of this by continuing a piece of writing in the same or a different mode
- summarise part of the given information
- supply answers involving reasoning, personal opinion/experience or prediction
- use the text as evidence for answers
- explain vocabulary in context
- display a working knowledge of syntax, punctuation and the main parts of speech

Paper 2: Composition

(25 marks; 30 minutes, plus 5 minutes' reading and planning time)

The paper will contain a choice of subjects from which candidates select one on which to base a piece of original written work. They will be expected to demonstrate the full range of their writing ability. Marks will cover content, purpose, style, organisation (so a story would have a beginning, middle and end; a debate would look at both sides of the question and draw a conclusion; the content of a letter would suit the purpose and cover the areas requested by the paper, and so on), as well as quality and breadth of language.

Candidates are invited to show that they can organise their ideas effectively and convey their feelings or opinions in accurate, continuous writing. The choice of essays may cover the following range:

- imaginative/story writing
- factual/personal description
- writing involving discussion/opinion/memory
- a book review

Syntax

Candidates should be able to:

- demonstrate a basic competence with syntax, such as make a phrase or a clause into a sentence
- work with questions, commands, statements or exclamations
- write in the first person or the third person

Punctuation

Candidates should be able to:

- use a range of punctuation marks correctly
- use speech marks/new paragraphs for a few lines of conversation

Grammar

Candidates should be able to:

- demonstrate the difference between easily-confused words (such as their/there/they're; it's/its)
- select or comment on the use, in context, of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions or conjunctions

Technical language is avoided as far as clarity permits. The emphasis throughout is on grammar in use, of the sort which represents good practice in language work for pupils aged 9–11.

GUIDANCE FOR 11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION MATHEMATICS (ONE PAPER)

(One hour)

There will be one paper (one hour, no calculators allowed). Candidates should be familiar with the skills and knowledge required at the end of Key Stage 2, based on National Curriculum levels 4 and 5.

Number and Algebra

- Pupils use their understanding of place value to multiply and divide whole numbers and decimals by 10, 100 or 1000
- In solving number problems, they use a range of mental methods of computation with the four operations, including mental recall of multiplication facts up to 10×10 and quick derivation of corresponding division facts.
- They use efficient written methods of addition and subtraction and of short multiplication and division. They add and subtract decimals to two decimal places.
- They recognise proportions of a whole and use fractions and percentages to describe these.
- They calculate fractional or percentage parts of quantities and measurements.
- They recognise and describe number patterns and relationships, including multiple, factor and square.
- They understand the concept of a prime number.
- They begin to use simple formulae expressed in words.
- They use and interpret co-ordinates in the first quadrant.
- They are able to round numbers to the nearest whole number, 10 or 100.
- They have an understanding of negative numbers.

Shape, Space and Measures

- Pupils reflect simple shapes in a mirror line.
- They show an understanding of the relationships between units of measurement.
- They find perimeters of simple shapes and find areas.
- They find volumes by counting cubes.
- They specify location by means of the eight main points of a compass.
- When drawing shapes, pupils measure and draw angles and lengths accurately.
- They are familiar with different types of angle.

Handling Data

- Pupils interpret frequency diagrams.
- They understand and use simple vocabulary associated with probability.
- Pupils understand the mean of discrete data.

GUIDANCE FOR 11+ VERBAL REASONING (ONE PAPER)

The following guidance is taken from www.theschoolrun.com/what-verbal-reasoning.

What is Verbal Reasoning?

Verbal reasoning tests are a key part of most secondary school selection and 11+ exams – but your child won't necessarily be taught the skill at school. It involves thinking about text, solving word problems, following written instructions to come up with a solution, spotting letter sequences and cracking letter- and number-based codes. Verbal reasoning exams are intended to test a child's ability to understand and reason using words, and are a test of skill, rather than of learned knowledge. The theory is that they allow the examining body to build a picture of a child's potential for critical thinking, problem-solving and ultimately, intelligence.

What sort of questions are involved?

It is generally agreed that there are 21 standard types of verbal reasoning question. These include:

Finding one letter that will complete two words, e.g. hoo (D) oor

Finding a word hidden inside another word, e.g. dePENd

Spotting the odd ones out in a list of words, e.g. apple, pear, banana, CREAM, PUDDING

Finding the words that mean the same from two lists, e.g. PLAIN/expensive/rich and SIMPLE/money/earnings

Finding antonyms (opposites) from two lists of words, e.g. IN/on/over and through/between/OUT

Breaking a code where each letter of the alphabet is represented by a different letter or number (e.g. A becomes B, B becomes C, C becomes D, so that 'cat' would be written 'dbu')

Although the majority of verbal reasoning tests are word-based, some are based on numbers. For instance, a verbal reasoning exam could include questions where you have to give the next number in a sequence (1, 5, 9, 13...), or where you have to solve a sum where the numbers are represented by letters (so if A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4 and so on, C+A=4). Although these questions require a basic grounding in maths, the main principle is the same as for word-based verbal reasoning problems: to test your child's ability to solve problems based on written instructions.

What skills and knowledge do children need for verbal reasoning tests?

Children perform best in verbal reasoning tests if they're widely read and have an extensive vocabulary. They need a solid grasp of synonyms (words that have the same meaning), antonyms (words that mean the opposite of each other) and plurals, good spelling skills, and strong maths skills. A good general knowledge is also needed for verbal reasoning tests. Even if your child understands the question and can follow the written directions, if one of the possible words in the answer is unfamiliar, they may trip up.

Helping your child practise verbal reasoning at home

Practice packs of sample Verbal Reasoning question papers are available to purchase via amazon.co.uk or from WH Smith. There is more advice available at www.theschoolrun.com/what-verbal-reasoning.