

## Advice to parents of candidates for preparing for the Year 7 entrance examination

Your son will sit three examinations:

- **English** (25 minutes comprehension, including 10 minutes reading time and 25 minutes creative writing in response to the passage.)
- **Mathematics** (30 minutes)
- **Verbal reasoning** (45 minutes including 10 minutes practice questions).

We try and put the boys at their ease on the day, but it should be understood that they will be sitting in a series of formal examination which will mean that they have to sit at a desk for up to 30 minutes working in silence in a room with about 12 other boys

The questions will be set on the assumption that the normal syllabus for those of the age in English and Mathematics have been covered.

### **Mathematics**

- The paper starts at quite an elementary level and becomes more complex.
- We are looking for the ability to see how addition, subtraction, multiplication and division are applied to solve particular problems.
- Most questions will involve straightforward mathematical calculations. Some will test the candidates' ability to extract information to solve a mathematical problem from sentences written in English.
- The paper is designed to not only test a candidate for admission but also scholarship. It would be expected that only the very able candidates would be able to solve the more difficult problems.
- All working out methods must be shown on the paper, no rough paper is allowed.
- Calculators are not allowed.

## English

The papers are comprehension and creative writing. We are looking for skills or the potential in following areas

- To read and understand both explicit and implicit meaning
- To answer questions by selecting information from a page
- To show some ability 'to read between the lines' recognising that a passage can imply something
- To express ideas and opinions clearly on paper
- To spell, punctuate and paragraph correctly
- To demonstrate a wide vocabulary
- To use language to do things other than assert facts e.g. to create a mood or an atmosphere in a piece of descriptive writing.

### Comprehension

The paper will include a passage or passages of prose writing on which questions will be asked to test understanding.

### Creative writing

Candidates will also be required to produce a piece of continuous writing. This may be in the form of a letter, a speech, an article, a journal or a story.

### Verbal reasoning

Are available commercially to practice on and are an age adjusted score.

**Past papers are not available. The verbal reasoning questions are available from GL Assessment: <https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk>**