



TONBRIDGE
SCHOOL

Guidance for candidates preparing for the Year 10 Entrance Papers

Boys taking the 14+ Tonbridge Entrance Examination, for entry into Year 10, are required to sit papers in Mathematics and English only. Exams take place in November of the year preceding entry and can be written at Tonbridge, at British Council offices around the world, or at another location approved by the school. It is the responsibility of the applicant to let the Admissions Secretary know in plenty of time where he is intending to sit the exam and to confirm arrangements with the chosen centre.

More information about the exam syllabuses is outlined below.

Mathematics 14+ entrance exam

The Mathematics exam will be a 60 minute paper which is set using the ISEB (Independent Schools Examination Board) Common Entrance syllabuses for Maths Level 3 (formerly called papers 2 and 4), plus some additional topics.

The basic syllabus for this course can be found on the ISEB webpage at <http://www.iseb.co.uk/> (with all topics on the Maths syllabus page included) but the syllabus will also include:

- Pythagoras (in 2D). Include distance and midpoint of AB with A, B in coordinates, and some calculations leaving roots in answers.
- Sin, Cos, Tan and their inverses for calculating lengths and angles in right-angled and isosceles triangles, including examples with two connected triangles
- Expanding brackets: $a(bx+c)$, $(ax+by)(cx+dy)$, $(ax+by)^2$.
- Solving linear equations, including brackets, x on both sides, fractional coefficients (as hard as $(2x-3)/6+(x+2)/3=5/2$). Related equations, e.g. $400/x = 8$, $4x^2 = 49$.
- Drawing graphs: tables of values, making use of TAB mode on the calculator, $f(x)$ notation. Good drawing techniques. Include $y = ax+b$, $y = ax^2+bx+c$, easy cubics, $y = k/x$
- Gradient of a straight line: theory and use of $y = mx+c$ (from equation to line and from line to equation); recognising parallel lines from their gradients.

English 14+ entrance exam

The English exam will consist of two papers.

The first paper will be a 90 minute 'Reading' paper, consisting of two sections.

Section A: Prose Comprehension (45 minutes)

Candidates will be provided with a short extract of prose fiction or non-fiction writing (usually travel writing or quality journalism) and be asked a series of questions. Candidates will be expected to use evidence from the text (including quotation) to support their answer. As well as basic comprehension skills candidates might find it helpful to have studied in advance:

- the use of key words and emotive language
- persuasive techniques, especially in speeches
- rhetorical devices (repetition for emphasis, etc.)

Section B: Poetry Comprehension (45 minutes)

Candidates will be provided with a short poem followed by four or five questions which test their language and comprehension skills. Rather than looking for hidden meanings, candidates will be rewarded for writing clearly about what they see in the poem. As well as basic literary criticism skills candidates might find it helpful to have studied in advance:

- the use of key words and emotive language
- why poets and other writers employ metaphors, similes and personification

The second paper will be a 45 minute 'Writing' paper, consisting of a single section.

Candidates will be given a number of titles and asked to write on them in the form of a short-story, description or argumentative piece. Marks are awarded in this section for clarity and lucidity of written expression, originality (pre-prepared work will be penalised) and imaginative range.