



TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

Guidance for candidates preparing for the Year 9 November Entrance Papers

Boys taking this examination, for entry into Year 9, are required to sit papers in Mathematics and English only. Exams take place in November of the year preceding entry and can be written either at Tonbridge or at British Councils around the world, or at other approved international locations. It is the responsibility of the applicant to let the Admissions Officer 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 13+ entrance exam

The Mathematics exam will be a 60 minute paper which is set using the ISEB (Independent Schools Examination Board) 13+ Common Entrance syllabuses for Maths Level 3. This syllabus can be found on the ISEB webpage at <http://www.iseb.co.uk/> (with all topics on the Maths syllabus page included). In addition to the past papers available on this website, past ISEB papers, which will give some indication as to the level of the Tonbridge exam, can be obtained from the ISEB.

English 13+ 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