



2020 Entry
12+ Entrance Examination
Guidelines and Sample Questions

English
Maths
Verbal Reasoning

Information for Parents

Entrance Exams can be stressful for families and we want to make the admissions process as straightforward as possible. This booklet should give you and your child an idea of what the exam will involve as well as highlight any topics which may require additional preparation.

We're often asked by parents how they can support their child in the run up to the Entrance Exam. Whilst each child is different, here are some things you can do at home. You can do as much or as little as you feel appropriate:

- Encourage your child to read! Reading all sorts of books and articles will give them lots of ideas about structuring writing and improve their vocabulary. Reading helps enormously with the Verbal Reasoning paper too.

If your child is reading a book, ask them about it. What do they like about it? Would they read another book by this author? Which friends would they lend it to and why? Libraries and bookshops are always happy to recommend books that might spark a reluctant reader's imagination.

Our English paper includes a creative writing element. Talk to your child about structure - planning a piece of writing with a beginning, middle and end. They will have 30 minutes for this task so it's useful if they know how long that is and how much they can get done in that time. We're looking for descriptive writing which is well-structured and flows but which is also correctly spelled and clearly written.

- Little and often is a good way to keep up your child's maths skills. Encourage them to use maths in the real world - working out percentages, adding up shopping and calculating distances can all be done out and about. There are lots of great online maths resources too that might be of use.
- Puzzles and word games are a great way of helping your child prepare for the Verbal Reasoning paper. Anything from Scrabble to word searches will help your child's problem-solving skills as well as their vocabulary.
- Remind your child to work quickly and neatly. If they do not know the answer, they should move onto the next question and return to it at the end. It can be stressful to get 'stuck' on one question and lose valuable time trying to find the answer. They should also get into the habit of checking their work to make sure that they haven't lost marks on simple errors.
- We want to make Examination Day as relaxed as possible. The children are in small groups and work in classrooms, rather than one large hall. They are looked after by the same teacher all day and accompanied by a prefect. We do ask the children to wear school uniform as we find that this creates a working atmosphere but we give the children plenty of time to let off steam between exams and meet some children who may eventually become their classmates.

Information for Children

- Don't panic! It's natural to feel nervous but we want you to do your best on the day.
- There will be three exams during the day with a break in between. At the start of each exam, the teacher will explain clearly what you need to do and how long you have. They will also give you an idea of what time you have left, so that you can plan your work accordingly.
- If you're the only person from your school, please don't worry. Every year we get lots of children sitting our Entrance Exams who don't know anyone else. We look after everyone during the day to make sure that everybody has someone to talk to.
- There are lots of things you can do to prepare for the exam - we've given some tips on the previous page for things that your parents can help you with. It's helpful to read lots, try to use your maths in everyday situations (shops, trips, etc), play games and solve puzzles. Visits to museums, art galleries and other events should give you inspiration too.
- Look after yourself in the run up to the exam - exercise, eat healthily and get lots of sleep. We want you to do your best and we will do everything we can to make the day as stress-free as possible for you.

12+ Exam Guidelines

The 12+ Entrance Examination consists of papers in English, Mathematics and Verbal Reasoning. Pupils are expected to be of above average academic ability at this age but the aim is to test potential as well as specific knowledge. Copies of past papers are not supplied but we have outlined the content of each exam below to give you an idea of what will be involved.

Candidates should bring normal writing implements with them e.g. pen, pencil, ruler and rubber. No calculators or special drawing implements are required.

12+ English Examination (1 hour)

The examination will last 1 hour and there are two sections:

Section A: Reading (40 minutes)

Candidates will be given a short reading passage (fiction) and asked a series of questions based on this. At first they will test explicit understanding of the passage, asking for fact retrieval, before providing a series of quotations and asking candidates to engage in detail with the language and literary techniques used. The final section asks entrants to consider the structure of the extract, using quotations in support.

Section B: Writing (20 minutes)

In Section B, pupils will demonstrate the accuracy and imagination of their writing by completing a short descriptive task. We are looking for engaging and lively ideas, varied and controlled grammatical features, and a broad, ambitious vocabulary that is spelled correctly. Paragraphing and appropriate punctuation will be used to make the sequence of events or ideas coherent and clear to the reader. We acknowledge that the response will be relatively short with just 20 minutes.

12+ Maths Examination (1 hour)

There will be a written paper lasting 1 hour. This will consist mainly of short questions, with working and answers to be shown on the question paper. There is no choice of questions. Electronic calculators may not be used.

Areas to be covered include:

NUMBER

- Whole number calculations including multiplication and division of 3 digit numbers by 2 digit numbers
- Prime numbers, multiples and factors, squares and cubes
- The concept of negative numbers and their applications
- Decimals:- Addition, subtraction, simple multiplication and division. Simple recurring decimals
- The decimal system used with money; length (mm, cm, m, km); mass (g, kg); capacity (ml, l)

- Degree of accuracy:- significant figures and decimal places. Estimating answers to multiplication and division problems
- Manipulation of fractions (simplification, addition/subtraction, multiplication/division)
- Calculating percentages of quantities
- Elementary problems involving time, distance and speed
- The 24-hour clock, timetables, travel graphs
- Conversion graphs

ALGEBRA

- Introduction to algebraic notation:- the four operations $+$, $-$, \times , \div used algebraically
- Sequences and rules for generating them
- Using simple formulae or equations expressed in symbolic form
- Using coordinates in all four quadrants

SHAPE

- Properties of angles associated with intersecting and parallel lines and triangles
- Recognising the following shapes:- cuboid, cube, sphere, cylinder, cone, pyramid
- Classifying types of quadrilateral
- Calculating areas and perimeter of plane shapes:- square, rectangle, triangle
- Calculating volume of cubes and cuboids
- Symmetry of plane figures

HANDLING DATA

- Extracting data from diagrams such as bar charts, pictograms, line graphs and frequency diagrams
- Interpreting pie charts
- Collecting, grouping and ordering discrete data to create a frequency table
- Listing all possible outcomes of an event

Notes:

The examination may contain questions on any parts of the above syllabus. However, at the time of the examination it is not necessarily expected that candidates will have covered every item. The variety of questions should enable the competent candidate to demonstrate his/her ability.

Verbal Reasoning Practice Paper

Candidates will be given the opportunity to undertake a short practice session before they attempt the actual paper. This practice takes 15 minutes and the supervising member of staff will go through the answers with the candidates. Candidates mark their own practice paper and can ask for guidance if they are unclear on what the paper involves.

They are then given 45 minutes to complete the Verbal Reasoning paper. This paper requires children to work quickly and accurately. We recommend that candidates skip any questions they cannot answer and return to them at the end. Any remaining time should be used to double check their answers.

You have 15 minutes in total to complete the Verbal Reasoning Practice Paper below.

1. Underline the word in brackets which *cannot* be made by rearranging some of the letters of the word RAMBLE.

(lamb/marble/apple/bear/blame)

Here is an example:

puppy, dog; kitten (.....)
 x x x

One word has to be completed. The crosses show that there are three letters in the missing word.

puppy, dog; kitten (cat)
 x x x

Just as a puppy is a young dog, so a kitten is a young cat, so we have written 'cat' in the brackets.

2. Now do this in the same way. Write one letter for each cross, and spell correctly.

up, down; high (.....)
 x x x

Read this carefully:

Alan, Brian, Carl and David are four boys.
Only Brian and David are ten years old;
Only Alan and David have sisters

3. Which boy is ten years old but does not have a sister? (.....)

	<p>Here are three words:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HOT TON NOT</p> <p>Below you will find the same three words written in a secret code, and in a different order. All the words are written in the same code.</p>
	<p>Work out which word each code stands for, and write the word in the brackets beside its code word. Spell correctly.</p>
4.	X □ * (.....)
5.	△ □ * (.....)
6.	* □ X (.....)

7.	<p>This question makes use of a code. Underline the correct word in the bracket.</p> <p>If LGRT stands for date, TGR stands for (tea / east / eat / ate / art)</p>
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	<p>Look at this example:</p> <p>can, ran; cat, rat; cave, (<u>r a v e</u>)</p> <p>We have to find the rule by which the second word of each pair is made from the first. By changing 'c' into 'r', 'can' becomes 'ran' and 'cat' becomes 'rat'. In the same way, from 'cave' we get 'rave', so we have written 'rave' in the brackets.</p>
8.	<p>Now do this:</p> <p>Sent, nest; node, done; dame, (.....)</p>

	<p>The alphabet is printed below to help you with the next question.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z</p>
9.	<p>The row of letters below follows a rule. Add the next two letter in the row.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A, C, E,,</p>

10.	<p>Which letter appears once in INFER and once in INDIFFERENCE?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(.....)</p>
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11.	<p>The row of numbers below follows a rule. Add the next number to the row.</p> <p>99, 92, 85, 78, </p>
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12+ Verbal Reasoning Answers

1. apple
2. low
3. Brian
4. NOT
5. HOT
6. TON
7. eat
8. made
9. G / I
10. R
11. 71