



HARROW
SCHOOL

German

The examination consists of two sections:

1. Essay - candidates write a 200-word essay in German. They should aim to use a wide range of tenses and grammatical structures and show that they have a broad vocabulary.
2. Grammar – candidates enter an appropriate word in a gap to complete a sentence, to test tenses, cases, modal verbs, separable verbs, reflexive verbs, prepositions, adjective endings, subordinate clauses, comparatives and superlatives.

History

Candidates are required to answer:

1. One question, from a choice of four, on historical topics that they have studied at school. They are asked on the Year 12 Application Form for the name of their examination board and to advise us of the four major topics on which they would like to be assessed.
2. One general historical question, from a choice of two. This question can be answered by using knowledge of any historical periods with which candidates are familiar.

History of Art

The paper requires students to answer four questions: one visual analysis, one response to a source and two general questions. No prior art historical knowledge is required by the questions will assess the student's ability to express themselves in writing as well as to think laterally.

Latin

Candidates are expected to be familiar with the language syllabus for the OCR specification and are asked to do a translation based on the syllabus for the language paper. In addition, they attempt a small amount of English to Latin translation and write a short piece on any ancient author they have read.

Mathematics

The paper is based on the following topics:

Arithmetic

- Standard index form
- Percentages, including reverse problems
- Calculations with compound measures, e.g. speed
- Approximation and estimation
- Rational and irrational numbers, simplifications of surds
- Sequences

Algebra

- Simplification, multiplying out and factorisation of linear quadratic expressions, rearranging formulae, solving linear and reciprocal equations
- Solving quadratic equations by factorisation, completing the square or formula
- Indices, solving index equations
- Solving simultaneous equations, including one linear and one quadratic
- Linear and quadratic inequalities
- Equations of straight lines
- Sketching quadratic, cubic and reciprocal functions
- Simplification of algebraic fractions

Trigonometry

- Basic sin, cos, tan
- Three-dimensional problems
- Sine and cosine rules, area of a triangle

Geometry

- Angles of a polygon
- Transformations
- Circle theorems

Mensuration

- Areas of triangle, rectangle, parallelogram, trapezium, circle
- Surface areas and volumes of prism, cylinder, pyramid, cone, sphere
- Similar shapes and solids

Probability

- Simple probability, conditional probability, tree diagrams

The paper is divided into two sections:

1. Questions on essential areas of the GCSE curriculum, roughly equating to 7/8/9 (A/A*) grade standard. The emphasis is on algebra.

Please refer to the School website for latest information.

2. Less straightforward problems that require some problem-solving skills. These are based on the GCSE syllabus, but the style of the question is considerably more difficult and unstructured than that of a GCSE paper.

Music

The paper is in three sections. The first section tests candidates' technical vocabulary and knowledge of music theory. The second section tests their ability to produce a piece of extended writing about music. Section three is a piece of stylistic composition that is completed without a piano. If shortlisted candidates are also required to demonstrate performance skills on their first study instrument.

Physics

This examination paper has a multiple choice section consisting of 30 questions and a written answer section consisting of 4 questions. Calculators are allowed.

Candidates may be required to plot graphs and are expected to be able to use graphs. The topics covered include:

1. Mechanics (moments, momentum, dynamics)
2. Light and waves
3. Electricity
4. Energy

Politics

Candidates answer two questions from a choice of six. The paper tests candidates ability to construct a coherent and thoughtful argument which is supported by a good understanding of the issues and knowledge of contemporary political affairs. The questions are broad-based and thus relevant for candidates who may be unfamiliar with the UK political system.

Russian

Candidates are expected to be able to read Russian text and answer questions on it in English, write a translation from Russian to English and demonstrate their written skills by answering questions in Russian.

Spanish

The test consists of three sections.

1. Multiple choice grammar test - 50 questions testing a number of basic grammar points. This may involve choosing the correct word to fill a gap in a sentence, choosing the correct translation of an English phrase, or selecting the correct form of a verb or adjective. Four possible answers will be provided for each question; candidates select the answer that they believe to be correct and enter the appropriate letter on the answer grid.
2. Translation into English – candidates are provided with a Spanish text of approximately 250 words, which they translate into English.
3. Essay – candidates produce a short piece of writing (100-150 words) in Spanish, having chosen from two titles (one narrative, the other discursive).

None of the tasks assume or require knowledge of any specialist vocabulary. The translation may require recognition of the subjunctive, although an active knowledge of this mood is not necessary.

Sport Science

The Sport Science paper is a single paper which tests all three main areas of exercise physiology, psychology and social cultural issues in sport and society. A base line knowledge of GCSE PE would be helpful but is not essential. A strong foundation of human biology is expected.

Theology and Philosophy

This tests aptitude and does not require any specific background knowledge. However, candidates with some knowledge of ethical and philosophical dilemmas are at an advantage.

Other Subjects

Candidates who wish to be tested in subjects which are offered at Harrow but not detailed above should discuss this with the Admissions Office.

YEAR 12 ENTRY

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS



3. OFFERS

We make offers in the December of Year 11.

HARROW SCHOOL

5 High Street, Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex HA1 3HP

+44 (0)20 8872 8007



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Each year, the School admits up to 20 boys into Year 12, who are normally aged 16.

We welcome applications from boys who:

- are likely to be predicted at least seven or eight passes at GCSE (or equivalent) at grade 7/8/9 (A/A*);
- will thrive in a full-boarding environment and make the most of the opportunities offered at the School;
- will make a positive contribution to the life of the School, both inside and outside the classroom;
- are talented in their academic studies, or in sport, the arts or another activity; and
- have a good behavioural record and the potential to show leadership.

Please see the **Key Dates** section on our website for specific dates.

1. APPLICATION

APPLICANTS AT SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: APPLY BY MID SEPTEMBER OF YEAR 11

APPLICANTS AT SCHOOLS OVERSEAS (EXCLUDING HONG KONG AND CHINA): APPLY BY MID SEPTEMBER OF YEAR 11

STANDARD APPLICANTS (NOT APPLYING FOR A SCHOLARSHIP)

Our Year 12 Application Form asks for information about an applicant's academic achievements and his proposed A level subjects, which should include the four subjects in which he would like to be assessed as part of his application.

An applicant should complete this form and return it to the Admissions Office by the deadline given on (harrowschool.org.uk/key-dates), along with:

- his curriculum vitae, detailing any special academic achievements and extra-curricular interests;
- a one-page handwritten letter to the Head Master, in which he explains why he would like to come to the School;
- a copy of his most recent school report, including a brief explanation of his school's grading and reporting system, if this is not printed on the report itself;
- a copy of the ID page of his passport; and
- the £350 Registration Fee.

Applications that arrive incomplete or filled in incorrectly cannot be processed, so it is important that the documentation submitted is correct and complete.

Strong applicants are invited for testing. If we decide not to progress an application to the testing stage, we will refund 50% of the Registration Fee.

APPLICANTS APPLYING FOR A SCHOLARSHIP AND/OR BURSARY

Harrow has around 150 scholars and the award serves primarily as an acknowledgement of their achievement. Boys are invited to compete for one or more of the following awards: Academic, Sport, Drama, DT, Art and Music for entry into Year 12. They are highly competitive and carry a value of 5% of the School fees. For more information please visit harrowschool.org.uk/admissions and apply by completing the Year 12 Registration Form.

Sixth Form candidates in need of a bursary should also apply by completing the Year 12 Registration Form and ticking the appropriate box. If you apply for a bursary you will automatically be considered for a Churchill Place which is awarded to exceptional boys who demonstrate the characteristics of personal courage, wide-ranging thinking and a global outlook and who may one day change the world for the better.

APPLICANTS AT SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG AND CHINA

An applicant at school in Hong Kong should register with Ms Battie Fung (battie@academic-asia.com) at Academic Asia.

An applicant at school in mainland China should register with Mr Tommy Meng (tommy@ukboardingschools.org.uk) at UK Boarding Schools Admissions Service or visit ukboardingschools.org.uk for further information.

Please contact these representatives for details of our admissions process in these locations.

LATE APPLICANTS

An applicant who applies between mid October and early January of Year 11 is referred to as a 'Late Applicant'. Boys who apply at this time should be particularly strong as there are likely to be fewer places available.

If we decide not to progress an application to the testing stage, we will refund 50% of the Registration Fee.

2. TESTING

Strong applicants who are invited for testing choose four subjects in which they would like to be assessed. These must be subjects that they intend to study in the Sixth Form at Harrow.

APPLICANTS AT SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

An applicant sits tests in two of his four chosen subjects, either at his school or at a dedicated test session at Harrow, apply by early October of Year 11. We request a reference from his current head teacher, which should arrive by early November at the latest. We then invite a shortlist of boys to an assessment day at Harrow later that month. At this point, an applicant sits further tests, has interviews with the Head Master and the Registrars, and attends a seminar with one of our Heads of Subject.

APPLICANTS AT SCHOOLS OVERSEAS (EXCLUDING HONG KONG AND CHINA)

When we are in receipt of an application, we request a confidential reference from an applicant's current school. Providing that the overall application is sufficiently strong, we ask an applicant to arrange to sit a test in two of the subjects that he proposes to take at A level; these tests can be taken at his current school or at an alternative test centre. We then invite a shortlist of boys to come to the School for a further assessment over a Friday night and Saturday in November. During this visit, an applicant sits further tests, has interviews with the Head Master and the Registrars, and attends a seminar with the one of our Heads of Subject.

LATE APPLICANTS

A late applicant sits tests in two of his four chosen subjects, either at his school or at a dedicated test session at Harrow, by the end January of Year 11. We ask to receive a reference from his current head teacher by the end of January too. We then invite a shortlist of boys to an assessment day at Harrow in early March. At this point, an applicant sits further tests, has interviews with the Head Master and the Registrars, and attends a seminar with one of our Heads of Subject.

ENTRANCE TEST SYLLABUS

Ancient History

Candidates are firstly asked to write briefly about five of these names or events from Greek or Roman history:

- Minoan culture
- Mycenaean culture
- Athenian democracy
- The Spartans
- Plato
- Alexander the Great
- The kings of Rome
- The Punic Wars
- Caesar and Pompey
- Cicero
- The Emperor Augustus
- The Emperor Nero
- Hadrian's Wall
- The Emperor Constantine
- The decline and fall of the Roman Empire

Candidates must then write an essay on an event or person of their choice, taken from classical antiquity, commenting on what interests them about this event/person and why they feel it/he/she is important.

A final question asks them to choose and comment on an event in Greek or Roman history that they would most like to have witnessed.

Art, Drama and Theatre, Design Technology and Photography

Candidates applying for any of these four subjects would be expected to submit a portfolio and, if shortlisted, undertake a practical test and interview.

Biology

The paper is based on the following topics:

- Cell structure
- Diffusion, osmosis and active transport
- Respiration
- Photosynthesis
- Enzymes and digestion
- Gas exchange
- Circulation
- Homeostasis
- Microbes

It consists of three sections: Short-answer questions; 'How science works' (experimental design, data processing, interpretation and evaluation); and an essay.

Business

Candidates are asked to answer two questions from a choice of five. The best candidates give examples of real businesses and try to use straightforward business terminology.

Chemistry

The paper is based on the following topics:

- Atomic structure
- Understanding the differences between ionic, covalent and metallic bonding
- Basic group 1 and group 7 chemistry
- Rates of reaction
- Giant ionic, giant covalent, simple covalent, giant metallic structures
- Empirical formulae calculations

- Moles calculations, mass, gas and solution
- Bonding and structure
- Crude oil: alkanes and alkenes
- Electronic configurations

Some very basic tests for ions and gases may be covered but are not an extensive part of the test.

Classical Greek

Candidates are expected to be familiar with the language syllabus for the OCR specification and are asked to do a translation based on the syllabus for the language paper.

In addition, candidates are asked to write a short essay on any ancient author whose work they have read and a shorter piece on an event in Greek history that they would most like to have witnessed.

There is no English to Greek translation required.

Computer Science

Candidates selecting Computer Science are expected to have a high degree of competency in Mathematics and should take the Mathematics test as one of their initial two tests. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by the Head of Digital Learning and Computer Science.

Economics

The paper requires candidates to answer two essay questions from a choice of four. No prior knowledge of economics is expected, but a good general knowledge of current affairs is. The paper tests the candidate's ability to construct a coherent argument and weigh up contrasting points of view.

English

This comprises three sections: Literacy; Analysis of poem or prose/drama extract; and Composition.

French

The test consists of three sections:

1. Translation into English - candidates are provided with a French text of approximately 250 words, which they translate into English.
2. Multiple choice grammar test - candidates select one of four translations that they believe to be correct and enter the appropriate letter on the answer grid.
3. Essay - candidates produce a short piece of writing (100-150 words) in French, having chosen from two titles (one narrative, the other discursive).

None of the tasks assume or require knowledge of any specialist vocabulary. The translation may require recognition of the past historic but an active knowledge of this tense is not required.

Geography

This consists of two sections of equal duration:

Section A: Candidates will answer a range of short answer questions that test knowledge and understanding of human and physical Geography. Candidates will interpret figures that could include maps, graphs, photographs and/or diagrams

Section B: Candidates will answer one essay from a range of Geographical topics.