

SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE 2019 – 20 NOTES ON ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT



Shrewsbury School

The notes below are designed to give candidates some guidance in advance of the Sixth Form Academic Assessment. Any questions can be directed to:

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ART: One hour drawing exam plus a ten minute meeting with a member of the Art Faculty to discuss the candidate's portfolio. The exam will test basic drawing skills and observational accuracy. Candidates must select and submit a **digital portfolio of 10 images** across a range of disciplines in 2D and 3D **by Friday 1st November 2019**. Artworks must be photographed using appropriate lighting and sent as high-resolution JPEGs. For the Assessment Weekend, candidates should bring one piece of artwork or a current sketchbook for discussion that they feel best demonstrates their way of working. We will be looking for evidence of technical/observational drawing ability and the capacity for sustained development of creative work. Sketchbooks must accompany the portfolio. Any media may be included.

BIOLOGY: One hour written paper. The paper will test basic knowledge and understanding of Biology, and not the content of any individual syllabus. There will be three sections: multiple choice, extended writing and data analysis. Candidates will score highly if they display accurate knowledge of basic biological principles and the ability to use this knowledge to make deductions and draw conclusions.

BUSINESS: One hour written paper. Section A (25% of the marks) will consist of multiple-choice questions on the current business environment. Section B (25% of the marks) will consist of numerical/calculation questions on areas such as calculating profits, prices and percentage changes. Section C (50% of the marks) will include 2 short essay questions on real-life topical business issues.

CHEMISTRY: One hour written paper. The paper will be in two sections (A and B). Section A will contain 30 compulsory multiple-choice questions worth 1 mark each. Section B will contain three questions, each worth 10 marks, and candidates should attempt two questions from this section, giving a total mark out of 50. The questions will draw on areas of the subject such as chemical equations, atomic structure and bonding, rates of reaction, acids and bases, the extraction of metals, some simple organic chemistry and the essential features of the periodic table and some simple mole calculations. This will test knowledge, understanding and problem-solving ability.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION: One hour written paper. The paper will assess the candidate's ability to read and understand a text from the ancient world and also his/her ability to discuss ideas contained in it. There will be two questions, each of which is worth 50% of the paper. In the first, a passage from the first half of Homer's Odyssey will be set, while in the second a passage of Roman literature or a historical document will be presented. The questions will range from basic understanding of what is in the passage to more wide-ranging questions about what sort of society and culture is being reflected in the passages.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: One hour written paper. No prior GCSE knowledge is required, although it is expected that candidates will have a reasonable level of technical awareness due to their interest in the subject. Specific programming knowledge will not be tested, but a methodical approach to problem solving will need to be demonstrated. The paper will have 2 sections: (a) Structured short answer questions, based around problem solving scenarios (around 60% of the marks); (b) Extended writing section – a choice of 2 out of 3 questions where a more open-ended response can express a wider appreciation of computing topics (40% of the marks).

DESIGN: One hour written paper plus a ten minute interview. The examination will consist of structured questions which will test candidates' ability to (a) Write a design specification to a given brief; (b) Generate a range of initial product design ideas from given information; (c) Evaluate a range of initial design ideas against criteria; (d) Critically evaluate commercial products to assess their function, material composition, construction and manufacture. The interview will give candidates the opportunity to discuss their broader design interests and previous project work. Candidates should ensure that a portfolio of previous design related work is brought to interview in order to facilitate this.

DRAMA: One hour written paper. Candidates will be asked to read an extract from a 20th century play. Section A will contain one question based on the central ideas or themes of the extract. Section B will contain one question based on one of the main characters in the extract. If candidates are NOT also applying for a Drama Scholarship, they should provide evidence of their practical ability. This may either be a recording of themselves in performance (which should be submitted **in advance of the assessment weekend by Friday 1st November 2019**) or they should prepare a monologue (of no more than two minutes) to perform to the Director of Drama.

ECONOMICS: One hour written paper. The paper will test the skills of data analysis and comprehension required to study Economics. Data will be presented in a number of different formats including tables and graphs. No prior knowledge of Economics is required; however there will be questions requiring the candidate to discuss issues presented by the data.

ENGLISH: One hour written paper. Candidates will be asked to write an essay comparing TWO texts (or extracts from texts), which may be set from any of the three genres (poetry, prose or drama) and which will be linked by a common theme. The comparison will focus upon the writers' use of structure, language and style and the texts might not necessarily be by the same writer.

ENGLISH LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (EAL): 45 minute written paper. Candidates will be asked to summarise a non-fiction or media text in 250 to 400 words. The summary will require candidates both to select and organise the information and opinions contained within the article.

FRENCH: There will be a Writing Exam lasting 45 minutes, and a Speaking Exam lasting 10 minutes. The topics tested in each exam will be taken from this list: Holidays and Tourism / Going Abroad; School; House and Home (*not* Home Town); Leisure.

GEOGRAPHY: One hour essay paper. Candidates choose to answer any 2 essay questions from a wide selection of GCSE and IGCSE topics, including the Geographical Skills of fieldwork, map and data interpretation. There will be plenty of opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their Geographical expertise.

GERMAN: There will be a Writing Exam lasting 45 minutes, and a Speaking Exam lasting 10 minutes. The topics tested in each exam will be taken from this list: Holidays and Tourism / Going Abroad; School; House and Home (*not* Home Town); Leisure.

GREEK: One hour written paper. The paper will be based on the old (i.e. up to 2016) OCR GCSE Classical Greek specification. All words not in the vocabulary required for Language 2 paper of this syllabus will be glossed. There will be two sections. In Section A there will be a passage of Greek prose to be translated into English. Section B will be a comprehension, comprising a passage of slightly harder Greek prose, with accompanying questions.

HISTORY: One hour written paper. The History exam will consist of a paper with a variety of general, non-specific questions designed so that candidates can introduce knowledge of their own historical period or events. Candidates will be required to write two essays in one hour.

HISTORY OF ART: One hour written paper. Candidates will be asked to respond to two questions. The first question will require them to choose from a selection of images of architecture, painting or sculpture – and to write about what they see. The second question will be an essay on any aspect of the visual arts (architecture, painting or sculpture only) that the candidate selects to write about. Candidates will be required to demonstrate an interest in the visual world around them and to be able to articulate and communicate this interest through a coherent and sustained argument.

LATIN: One hour written paper. The paper will be based on the old (i.e. up to 2016) OCR GCSE Latin specification. All words not in the vocabulary required for Language 2 paper of this syllabus will be glossed. There will be two sections. In Section A there will be a passage of Latin prose to be translated into English. Section B will be a comprehension, comprising a passage of slightly harder Latin prose, with accompanying questions.

MATHEMATICS: Written paper lasting one and a quarter hours. The paper will be split into two parts. Section A, worth about 75% of the marks, will test the fundamental GCSE topics that pupils are likely to have covered by the end of Year 10. Section B will contain questions which are less standard in nature, but can nevertheless be answered using techniques from the GCSE syllabus. These questions are intended to be more difficult, and will require greater insight and good problem-solving skills. Candidates will be expected to use a calculator.

MUSIC: Candidates should in most cases be either studying one of the GCSE syllabuses for examination, or should be at least of a standard commensurate with GCSE. Candidates will be asked (if possible) to submit evidence of composition work in advance of the assessment weekend to the Music Faculty at Shrewsbury. For the assessment, candidates will sit a half hour written paper of GCSE standard, which may also involve some listening tests. They will then be required to perform one piece on their principal instrument/voice and will have a short interview. They will also be asked to demonstrate their ability to sight-read.

PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY: One hour written paper. Two essays from a choice of eight. The essays will be broad titles that will allow candidates to show their knowledge, understanding and analytical skills – especially using ‘traditional’ RS material. There will also be opportunities to state and support their personal views. Candidates will choose two titles from the following eight topics: Sacred texts; Founders; Belief and History; Belief and Ethics; Belief and Philosophy; Contemporary Belief; Global Belief and Practice.

PHOTOGRAPHY: One hour exam. Candidates will be required to complete a 1 hour written visual analysis of a photograph. This will test the candidates’ visual awareness and creativity. Previous knowledge or experience of the subject is not a pre-requisite for studying Photography in the Sixth Form. However, candidates who wish to offer Photography as an entrance paper must submit a digital portfolio of **10 of their best photographs** in a range of genres including; portraiture, still life/object, landscape/architecture, nature, documentary. Links to personal Instagram, tumbler, flickr feeds or own websites or blogs can also be submitted to demonstrate ability. Photographs should be high resolution in a JPEG format. The portfolio should be submitted **by Friday 1st November 2019**. On the day of the assessment, candidates must bring **one photograph** that they feel summarises their ability and interests as a photographer or a current sketchbook showing their process.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Two alternative papers will be set, one for candidates taking GCSE PE and one for those not studying the subject at GCSE. Please note that the study of GCSE PE is not a pre-requisite for studying A Level PE at Shrewsbury School.

Candidates who are studying GCSE PE will sit a GCSE-style paper. This will include questions on topics that candidates are likely to have already covered such as: Health, Diet and Nutrition, Body Systems, Principles of Training, Social Influences on Sport. Candidates will be asked to answer 2 or 3 questions from a list of choices.

Candidates who are not studying GCSE PE will answer two essay questions from a choice of five or six titles, which will cover areas such as Sport and Technology; Sport and the Media; Deviance in Sport; Individual strengths and weaknesses of sportsmen. They will be assessed on their background knowledge of sport and PE.

All candidates will be interviewed by either the Director of Sport or by the Head of Girls’ Games to establish their levels of sporting ability and interest.

PHYSICS: The paper will last 1 hour. Section A will contain 30 compulsory multiple choice questions worth 1 mark each. Section B will contain compulsory questions worth a total of 20 marks. The questions will draw on the core GCSE topics of mechanics, electric circuits, waves, radioactivity, forces and energy and will test both knowledge and problem-solving ability.

SPANISH: There will be a Writing Exam lasting 45 minutes, and a Speaking Exam lasting 10 minutes. The topics tested in each exam will be taken from this list: Holidays and Tourism / Going Abroad; School; House and Home (not Home Town); Leisure.

M.J. Cropper, Director of Admissions, June 2019