Shrewsbury School

SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE 2026 – 27

GUIDANCE NOTES

This booklet is designed to give guidance in advance of the Sixth Form Assessments in November 2026.

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SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE 2026 – 27
NOTES ON ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

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ART: Candidates should choose whether to put themselves forward for the **ART** endorsement or the **PHOTOGRAPHY** endorsement.

All candidates for **ART** must submit a digital portfolio by **5pm Friday 16th October 2026** and will sit a one hour exam in addition to a ten-minute interview with a member of the Art Faculty. Their digital portfolio must contain 10 images across a range of disciplines in 2D and 3D. Artworks must be photographed using appropriate lighting and sent as high-resolution JPEGs. We will be looking for evidence of technical/observational drawing ability and the capacity for sustained development of creative work. The exam for Art candidates is a one hour drawing paper testing basic tonal drawing skills and observational accuracy. In the interview, candidates will discuss their submitted digital portfolio and may bring **ONE** physical piece of work or a sketchbook that they feel best represents their own practice.

Candidates for **PHOTOGRAPHY** should submit a digital portfolio by **5pm Friday 16th October 2026** that shows photographic evidence in a range of genres e.g. architecture, portraiture, still life and landscape. The exam for candidates for **PHOTOGRAPHY** is one hour. Candidates will be provided with a photograph and will be asked to produce an in-depth visual analysis of the work (approximately 500 words). The response should demonstrate an understanding of the key formal elements of photography, including (but not limited to) composition, framing, lighting (natural and artificial), use of shadow, exposure, colour or tonal range, focus and depth of field, and viewpoint. Candidates should also consider how these elements contribute to mood, meaning, and narrative. Where appropriate, candidates may make reference to relevant photographers, genres, or contextual influences to support their analysis. The written response should show thoughtful interpretation and the ability to critically engage with the image. In the interview, candidates will discuss their submitted digital portfolio.

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 reactions, 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 candidates' ability to read and understand a text from the ancient world and their 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 books 1-5 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.

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 also select and submit **a digital portfolio of up to 10 images** of their Design work by **5pm Friday 16th October 2026.**

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.

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.

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; Home life; 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; Home life; Home town; Leisure.

GREEK: One hour written paper. The paper will be based on the language of the J292 OCR GCSE Classical Greek specification. All words not in the Defined Vocabulary List of this syllabus will be glossed. The paper will comprise an unseen translation from a passage of Greek prose.

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 language of the J282 OCR GCSE Latin specification. All words not in the Defined Vocabulary List of this syllabus will be glossed. The paper will comprise an unseen translation from a passage of Latin prose.

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 one hour written paper of GCSE standard, which includes some theory and history. They will then be required to perform one piece on their principal instrument/voice and will have a short interview. Candidates can, if they wish, also perform on their second study. 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 six. 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 six topics: Sacred texts; Christian Beliefs and Practices; Religious Belief and Ethics; Religious Belief and Philosophy; World Religions and Religious belief in contemporary Society.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Photography is an endorsement of Art A Level and so, although it is studied separately, the entrance exam is part of the Art entrance examination process (see above).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: One hour written paper. Candidates will sit a GCSE-style paper. This will include questions on topics such as Health, Diet and Nutrition, Body Systems, Technology, Media, Deviance in Sport, Principles of Training and Social Influences on Sport. Candidates will answer 2 or 3 questions from a list of choices.

PHYSICS: One hour written paper. 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 motion, 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; Home life; Home town; Leisure.

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NOTES ON SCHOLARSHIPS

Shrewsbury School

All Scholarships are assessed as part of the November assessments. Approximately 8 Academic Scholarships and 12 other Specialist Scholarships (Art, Drama, Music, Sport) are offered. These scholarships normally carry 10% fee remission, although this may be increased in value subject to means-testing.

There are two additional sport scholarships which provide up to 100% fee remission, subject to means-testing:

- The Margaret Cassidy Sport Scholarship – open to boy boarding candidates offering cricket, football or rowing.
- The Alex Wilson Sport Scholarship – open to boy/girl day candidates currently at a maintained school and offering any of the sports listed for assessment.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic Scholarships are awarded as a result of exceptional performance in the entrance examinations and interview.

ART SCHOLARSHIPS

Assessment will consist of three parts:

1. Candidates should submit **a digital portfolio of ten images** by **5pm Friday 16th October 2026** to admissions@shrewsbury.org.uk. The images should demonstrate the artistic ability, creativity and breadth of processes offered by the candidate in both 2D and 3D. Please ensure that the work has been photographed well under suitable lighting, and that they are good quality high resolution images.

   At the Assessment Weekend, candidates must bring **one final outcome or a current sketchbook** that they feel summarises or exemplifies their own way of working.

2. A practical examination in drawing from an object or group of objects, lasting about 2 hours.

3. An interview where the candidate will be encouraged to discuss his or her particular interests, and to show some knowledge of artists past and present, and exhibitions or galleries visited.

DRAMA SCHOLARSHIPS

Candidates should prepare (memorise and interpret dramatically) one speech of their choice from any published play. It should be around **2 minutes long** and may come from any genre and any time period; dramatic poems and film scripts are not appropriate. Candidates should also present another contrasting piece of their choosing – this may be a second monologue, a song from the musical theatre repertoire or a dance piece.

The candidate will also be asked to join in an improvised workshop with a small group of other actors ability to work with others, imagine effectively, and take direction will be important.

There will be an interview of no longer than ten minutes; the candidate will be encouraged to talk about what they have performed, what theatrical works they have seen, and what they would like to do in the future.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Candidates are required to perform on two instruments, or one instrument and voice. Candidates should normally prepare two contrasting pieces, each not exceeding 5 minutes in length, for each instrument or voice.

The general standard on the first instrument is normally at least Grade 8, but promise and potential may be as important as actual achievement. There will be sight-reading tests appropriate to the performing standards in each instrument, and aural tests will also be given.

All candidates will be asked questions of a general musical nature, and candidates must also satisfy the Music Faculty of their enthusiasm and commitment to music. Additional skills such as ability in the field of composition will also be taken into account.

Keyboard accompaniment to pieces should be brought when candidates attend for examination, and examples of the candidate's compositions or theory work may also be offered.

We seek Music Scholars who love music and bring enthusiasm, drive and commitment to their music-making.

SPORT SCHOLARSHIPS

Candidates should normally offer two sports for assessment. However, in some cases (especially rowing) it may be appropriate to offer only one sport.

Sport Assessment will be overseen by the Director of Sport and relevant coaches. The evaluation of candidates will take the form of trials in their chosen sport(s), and a variety of other fitness and agility tests. There will be one-to-one or group interviews for all candidates with the Director of Sport.

The Director of Sport will also take into account references supplied by the candidate's present school and by other individuals involved in coaching him/her (e.g. county coaches).

We assess the following sports:
Athletics, Cricket, Cross Country, Fives, Football, Hockey, Netball (Girls only), Rowing, Rugby (Boys only).

Georgina Collicutt
Director of Admissions
June 2026