

Entrance procedures to Leicester Grammar School

The main entrance examination will take place at the start of the Lent Term, on Tuesday 7th January 2020, for entry at September 2020.

Papers for entry into Years 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are taken in Verbal Reasoning, English and Mathematics. There are some differences between entry procedures for Year 6 and the other years. Entry to the Sixth form follows a different pattern.

Provision is made for a later examination, but generally only for those who had already applied but were unable to sit in January due to illness. This is very much subject to places still being available after the January examination.

Applications from able under-age candidates are also considered and there is provision for entry at other times of the year, particularly for those moving into the area, provided there are places available in the relevant year group.

Candidates with special needs (such as vision impairment or dyslexia) should inform the school when first making contact. Extra time for candidates with special needs, supported by relevant professional assessment of needs, will be provided.

Entry into Year 6 (The Prep)

Papers are taken in Verbal Reasoning, English and Mathematics. Candidates who show potential at this stage will be invited to an interview usually held in the week following the examination. Interviews involve group work investigating mathematical puzzles, science problems and a creative task. There will also be conversations with a number of staff during the day.

Successful candidates will be invited to a 'Prep Welcome Day' normally held in late May when they will engage in a range of different activities. This day does not affect the offer of a place.

Entry into Years 7

A pre-assessment day is held for all candidates on one of two days in December. Applications for entry must be received before these dates. The dates for the pre-assessment for potential entry in September 2020 will be either Tuesday 3rd or Wednesday 4th December 2019.

The pre-assessment day will involve group work investigating mathematical puzzles, science problems and a creative task. There will also be conversations with a number of staff during the day. The Headmaster will speak to all candidates and parents prior to the start of the day.

This pre-assessment day is followed by the entrance examination on the 7th January.

Entry into Years 8, 9 and 10

There is no pre-assessment for candidates. Papers are taken in Verbal Reasoning, English and Mathematics at the entrance examination on the 7th January.

Scholarship Candidates

Potential academic scholars for entry into Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 may be called for interview following the entrance examination.

Details of the Examination Papers

10+(FOR ENTRY INTO YR 6) & 11+(FOR ENTRY INTO YR 7)

There are three examination papers, one each in English, Verbal Reasoning and Mathematics (calculators are not allowed).

12+(FOR ENTRY INTO YR 8), 13+(FOR ENTRY INTO YR 9) AND 14+(FOR ENTRY INTO YR 10)

There are three examination papers, one each in English, Verbal Reasoning and Mathematics (calculators only allowed for the 14+paper).

Verbal Reasoning

10+(FOR ENTRY INTO YR 6) & 11+(FOR ENTRY INTO YR 7)

This test consists of a series of questions which test the ability to solve problems and identify patterns. The paper is preceded by a short practice paper (which is not part of the examination). This allows children to familiarise themselves with this style of question. The test itself takes 45 minutes. As with the mathematics papers, we use a national, norm-related, standardised and age-related test, although in this case the answers are written into a booklet rather than multiple choice.

12+(FOR ENTRY INTO YR 8), 13+(FOR ENTRY INTO YR 9) & 14+(FOR ENTRY INTO YR 10)

We use a national, norm-related, standardised and age-related test similar to the ones used at 10+ and 11+. The paper is preceded by a short practice paper (which is not part of the examination).

The test itself takes 45 minutes.

Samples of similar papers for all age groups can be found in some major booksellers or online.

English

10+(FOR ENTRY INTO YR 6) & 11+(FOR ENTRY INTO YR 7)

The 10+ and 11+ papers consist of a series of questions based on a selected passage. 10+ candidates have 10 minutes reading time followed by one hour to complete the written examination. 11+ candidates have a total of one hour and fifteen minutes to complete the paper with a recommendation that they spend 45 minutes on the comprehension section. One of the questions will require an extended creative response. The paper is differentiated in accordance with National Curriculum Attainment Targets.

We expect:

- Imagination
- Clear, concise sentence structure Accurate punctuation
- Appreciation of paragraphing
- An obvious narrative structure with a clear ending

12+ (FOR ENTRY INTO YR 8), 13+ (FOR ENTRY INTO YR 9), 14+ (FOR ENTRY INTO YR 10)

At the time of the entrance exam we would expect pupils to be, on average, at Level 5 [12+] or Level 5/6 [13+]

The examinations will consist of a 1½ hour paper in two sections; one a comprehension, the other an extension of the comprehension topic into either a discursive or a creative piece of writing.

In the comprehension section exercise we are looking for the ability to employ deduction and inference, skills of information selection and application and the clear and concise use of English.

In the second section we expect a carefully structured, accurately punctuated, essay which demonstrates both persuasive and imaginative communication.

The 13+ examination differentiates from the 12+ in accordance with the National Curriculum Attainment Targets.

14+

At the time of the entrance exam we would expect pupils to be, on average, at Level 6/7. The examination will consist of a 1½ hour paper. Section A of this paper requires a mature and critical approach to literature and an appreciation of style, tone, narrative technique and a basic understanding of figurative language in poetry and prose. Section B requires the demonstration of the above skills in personal writing, e.g. a creative essay or a discursive account.

General advice to English candidates at all levels.

- The English Department would advise against candidates being specifically coached towards the exam
- However, it would be useful if candidates were familiar with the traditional Comprehension format of reading a passage of prose and then being asked questions about it. The prose passage may be a piece of fiction or a piece of factual writing
- The questions asked will have the marks allocated clearly written beside the question and candidates should plan their answers and time accordingly
- Spelling, grammar and punctuation will be taken into account as will handwriting but in the Comprehension section the majority of the marks will be rewarded for the candidate's understanding of the text and the tasks set
- Where a longer response to a question is required candidates would be advised to write a very brief plan and then put a line through it
- The Writing section of the paper will involve an essay-style response. It may take the form of a short story, a letter or a piece of factual writing
- In this section of the exam, writing skills will be assessed and so punctuation, spelling, grammar and the ability to organise writing into clearly structured paragraphs is required for a good mark to be achieved
- The benchmark for entrance to the school is Level 6 of the National Curriculum
- Imagination, insight and interesting ideas are just as important as accurate expression
- Ultimately we are looking for potential
- Finally, pupils can prepare for this exam by reading widely and well. The English department's webpage includes a broad range of texts ranging across a wide selection of subjects, styles and genres.

Mathematics THE EXAMINATIONS

10+(FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 6) & 11+(FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 7)

We use a national, norm-related, standardised test, of multiple choice format, which is also age-related (marks are standardised according to the age of the child when the test is taken). There is also a short test on basic number work.

The overall length of the examination will be 45 minutes. Before the multiple choice test itself there is a short practice test which allows pupils who are unfamiliar with the format of the test to learn how to approach such questions.

The content of the tests is intended to reflect the diversity of the curriculum used in most teaching schemes. However, a few questions covering areas which may not feature in all curricula, such as elementary logic and simple probability, are also included in order to test intuitive understanding. The tests include the following:

- **Number:** Simple calculations involving whole numbers. Simple numerical calculations involving fractions, decimals and percentages. Number patterns
- **Shape and Space:** Identification of common 2 and 3 dimensional shapes and recognition of their properties. Use of different units of measurement. Co-ordinates in 1 quadrant
- **Handling Data:** Reading from graphs and charts

12+(FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 8), 13+(FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 9) & 14+(FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 10)

At the time of the entrance exam we would expect pupils to be on average, at Level 5 [12+], Level 5/6 [13+], Level 6/7 [14+] The papers for all years take approximately one hour. The 12+ and 13+ papers will be completed without the use of a calculator, whereas the 14+ paper has both calculator and non-calculator sections. As pupils may take these exams at different times during the year prior to entering the school, all material in the exams will be based on the material an able pupil should have covered in the previous year so the 12+ exam will consist of questions based on Year 6 work, the 13+ exam will consist of questions based on Year 7 work and the 14+ exam will consist of questions based on Year 8 work.

Different schools may approach the topics within mathematics in different orders and so, to give an idea of what is expected, a brief outline of the content of each paper is listed below together with a list of what pupils at Leicester Grammar School would cover in each of the first three years. Any pupil who is successful in the exam and who will be joining the school at the start of a particular year would be well advised to have an understanding of most of the areas covered in the preceding years.

12+ ENTRANCE EXAM REQUIREMENTS

- **Arithmetic:** Four rules of arithmetic on whole numbers. Simple calculations involving fractions and decimals. Ratios (including scales). Simple calculations involving negative numbers. Reading and interpreting mathematical tables and diagrams.
- **Algebra:** Solution of simple linear equations. Substitution of positive integers into formulae
- **Shape and Space:** Co-ordinates in 4 quadrants. Symmetry. Volumes of cuboids. Areas of rectangles and right-angled triangles
- **Handling Data:** Finding the mean of a set of values. Simple probability. Interpretation of bar charts and pie charts

13+ ENTRANCE EXAM REQUIREMENTS

- **Arithmetic:** Four rules of arithmetic on whole numbers and decimals. Simple calculations involving negative numbers. Simple percentage and ratio calculations. Number sequences
- **Algebra:** Solution of simple linear equations. Substitution into formulae. Straight line graphs
- **Shape and Space:** Angle properties of intersecting lines. Symmetry. Volumes of cuboids. Areas of rectangles and triangles. Identification of 3D solids and their nets
- **Handling Data:** Finding the mean and range of a set of values. Simple probability. Interpretation of bar charts and pie charts.

14+ ENTRANCE EXAM REQUIREMENTS

- **Arithmetic:** Four rules of arithmetic with whole numbers, fractions and decimals. Percentages (including increase and decrease). Ratios. Approximations to calculations. Expressing numbers in standard form
- **Algebra:** Substitution into formulae, creation of formulae. Solving linear equations
- **Shape and Space:** Areas of circles, triangles, rectangles, parallelograms and compound shapes. Volumes of prisms. Pythagoras Theorem. Co-ordinates and straight lines
- **Handling Data:** Drawing and interpreting pie charts and bar charts. Cumulative frequency graphs. Simple probability
- **Problem solving:** Using familiar mathematics to solve logical problems.