



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

**ADVICE TO PARENTS OF CANDIDATES PREPARING FOR THE
11+ ADMISSION EXAMINATION**

Your son will sit three one hour examinations in **English, Mathematics** and **Verbal Reasoning**. Although we try to put boys at their ease on the day, it should be understood that they will be sitting in a series of formal examinations which will mean that they have to sit at a desk for up to 60 minutes working in silence in a room with about 24 other boys.

It is assumed that the work of all candidates will have been based on the relevant material of the National Curriculum up to the end of Year 5 and the examinations will reflect this. The questions will be set on the assumption that the normal syllabus for those of their age in English and Mathematics has been covered.

In **Mathematics**, the paper is in three sections, starting at quite an elementary level and becoming progressively more complex.

- The only factual knowledge assumed will be that of the basic arithmetical operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and work up to level 5 of the National Curriculum (Key Stage 2).
- What we are looking for is an ability to see how these operations are applied to solve particular problems.
- Most questions involve straightforward mathematical calculations. A few are designed to test a candidate's ability to extract the necessary information to solve a mathematical problem from sentences written in English.
- The paper is designed not only to test candidates for admission but also to select scholarship winners, so it would be expected that only the very best candidates would be able to solve the more difficult problems. The majority will probably make a reasonable attempt at about half of them.
- Calculators are not allowed.

In **English**, the paper has a comprehension and the opportunity for continuous writing. We are looking for evidence of skills or potential in the following areas:

- To read and understand a passage of English and be able to cope not only with literal language but also with figurative language, as in the case of proverbs, colloquial expressions and metaphors. (We do not expect a boy to recognise these terms.)
- To answer questions by selecting information from a passage.
- To show some ability to 'read between the lines' recognising that a passage can imply something.
- To express an opinion on paper and offer some evidence to support it.
- To spell, punctuate and paragraph correctly.
- To employ a good vocabulary, avoiding slang and empty expressions.
- To be prepared to use language to do things other than assert facts, e.g. to create a mood or an atmosphere in a piece of descriptive writing.

A typical examination paper might be expected to include a passage or passages of prose writing and/or poetry on which questions will be asked to test understanding. Candidates will also be required to produce a piece of continuous writing. This might take the form of a factual essay, a story, or a piece of imaginative writing.

The **Verbal Reasoning** test will be similar to the nationally recognized and commercially available tests leading to an age-standardised score.

Past papers for English, Maths and Verbal Reasoning are not available. However, there are sample questions for the English and Maths exams on the website: www.kes.org.uk/admissions. For the Verbal Reasoning paper *11+ Practice Papers (Standard)* NFER-Nelson (now taken over by GL Learning / Letts) may be helpful.