



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL  
BIRMINGHAM

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

Your son will sit three examinations: **English** (40 minutes comprehension, including 10 minutes reading time, 30 minutes composition/essay), **Mathematics** (one hour) and **Verbal Reasoning** (one hour, including 15 minutes of practice questions). 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 **two 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, based on the National Curriculum.
- 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.
- Some of the questions are multiple choice (Section A) and some have to be worked out, with marks for showing the working out process (Section B).
- In Section A, answers are to be completed on a separate answer sheet. In Section B, answers are completed on the examination paper.
- 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.
- 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 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-adjusted score.

**Past papers are not available. However, there are sample questions for the English and Maths exams on the website: [www.kes.org.uk/admissions](http://www.kes.org.uk/admissions). The Verbal Reasoning questions are in the GL-Assessment style.**