



MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 9 IN SEPTEMBER 2021

The Academic Scholarship Examination will be held on **Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd February 2021**. Up to sixteen full scholarships of £300 per annum and exhibitions of £200 per annum (which can be increased in cases of financial need) will be awarded.

Candidates must be under fourteen years of age on 1st September 2021. A scholar will hold his award as long as he remains at the school, provided that his progress and behaviour continue to impress.

THE SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

ENGLISH (1½ hours)

The examination will consist of one reading exercise (testing comprehension, inference and analysis) and one piece of original writing (composition). The text for the reading exercise may be literary (prose or poetry) or non-fiction (from a newspaper, for example). There will be a choice of subjects for the composition, including imaginative and discursive writing. Spelling, punctuation and presentation will be taken into account.

FRENCH (1 hour)

The examination will test knowledge of French grammar and reading comprehension skills.

Candidates should expect to answer questions on the following:

- Possessive adjectives (*mon, ma, mes*, etc.)
- The present tense of regular and irregular verbs
- Adjectival agreement (regular and irregular forms)
- Negative sentences involving *ne* and *pas* (and impact on indefinite articles)
- Rewriting singular sentences as plural sentences (and vice versa)
- Rewriting sentences where the word order has been scrambled
- Adding accents and punctuation to 'blank' prose
- Responding in English to a text in French (candidates should be able to recognise the perfect and imperfect tenses in this section)

Dictionaries are not allowed in the examination.

The time allowed to complete the examination is one hour.

NB: *The French sample paper has recently been updated on the website.*

GENERAL PAPER (1½ hours)

One question to be answered from each section:

GEOGRAPHY

Questions will be drawn from a range of contemporary geographical issues and will require the ability to hold a point of view and weigh up an argument. Candidates should have a grounding in the key concepts of place, scale, space, interdependence and human and physical processes supported by relevant exemplar material.

Questions may be drawn from subject areas such as:

- environmental pressures, climate change and sustainability
- hazards and processes, including atmospheric and geomorphological
- global development and inequality
- the future of food and contemporary farming
- urban challenges
- global connections, trade and migration

HISTORY

There is no formal History syllabus.

Questions will for the most part lend themselves to illustration from any period or periods. Both the ability to generate a range of argument (and counter-argument) and precision in the use of examples will be rewarded.

THEOLOGY

There is no formal Theology syllabus.

Questions will require candidates to construct a balanced and reasoned argument, showing awareness of key religious, philosophical and moral themes. Independent thought and the judicious use of well-chosen illustrations and examples will be rewarded.

MATHEMATICS (1 hour + 1 hour)

Paper 1 will consist of questions on basic techniques but also includes some more challenging questions; this paper will not examine topics beyond the Common Entrance Examination syllabus. Candidates are expected to attempt all the questions.

Paper 2 will contain harder questions. The syllabus for this paper will be the extended Common Entrance Examination syllabus, and questions on the following extra topics may also be set:

- Recurring decimals
- The product of two binomial expressions, factorising the difference of two squares, factorising very straightforward trinomial expressions
- Graphs of equations like $y = ax^n + bx + c$ where $n = -1, 2$ or 3

Questions may also be set which do not reflect any particular topic from the syllabus but are self-explanatory and complete in themselves. It is hoped that such questions will enable candidates with genuine flair for the subject to demonstrate it.

Candidates may attempt as many questions as they can in the time.

Calculators may be used in both papers, but questions will generally require evidence of a non-calculator method.

SCIENCE (1 hour)

This paper will be based on the recommended CE course for preparatory schools, and will contain Biology, Chemistry and Physics sections. Candidates will be required to answer one question out of the two offered in each science section.

The questions will be composed to test the understanding of scientific principles and their applications.

LATIN (1 hour)

Grammar, syntax and vocabulary will be as prescribed for Scholarship level in the ISEB Classics Syllabus. Two prose passages will be set, each of 12–15 lines, one for unseen translation and one for comprehension. All the comprehension questions are designed to test understanding and interpretation of the piece. Six English sentences for translation *into* Latin are set as an alternative to the comprehension.

GREEK (1 hour, Optional Paper)

- A. A series of grammar questions
- B. Some Greek into English sentences
- C. A prose passage for unseen translation or comprehension

The paper gains in difficulty as it goes: all candidates should work through from the beginning and attempt as much of the paper as they can manage. Vocabulary is taken from the ISEB Classics Syllabus, Levels 1 and 2. Grammar and syntax follows Wilding, *Greek for Beginners*, up to and including Chapter 20. Knowledge of the Aorist Passive is not expected, and all participles in the translation passage will be glossed.

GERMAN (1 hour, Optional Paper)

The examination consists of two sections, A and B:

Section A consists of:

- a series of short passages in German followed by questions in English or German.
- a grammar section where candidates are asked to demonstrate their knowledge of the present and perfect tenses.

Section B consists of:

- a composition exercise, typically a guided letter of 80-100 words, mainly in the present tense, relating to topics within candidates' personal experience (e.g. home, family, school, leisure activities, holidays).

SPANISH (1 hour, Optional Paper)

The examination will test ability in two skills: reading and writing.

Section A: Reading. Candidates will be presented with two short passages in Spanish. They will be asked to translate the first passage into English and answer questions in Spanish. They will also be asked to read a second passage and answer questions in English.

Section B: Writing. Candidates will be required to write a guided letter or article of up to 300 words relating to topics within their personal experience (eg home, family, school, leisure activities, holidays). It should be written principally in the present tense, but candidates should include future and past tenses if they can.

Dictionaries will not be allowed during any part of the examinations.