



MAGDALEN  
COLLEGE SCHOOL

## ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

### FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 9 IN SEPTEMBER 2024

Our Academic Scholarship Examinations are for boys who are currently studying at prep school and were awarded a place when in Year 6 following our pre-tests in 2022 (or late pre-tests in 2023). They will be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Scholarships are worth £200 per annum and Exhibitions are worth £150 per annum.

Candidates must be under fourteen years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024. 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 a poem or an extract of fiction or non-fiction prose.

Examples of aspects of the writing that candidates may be asked to trace or comment upon include:

- atmosphere or setting
- characterisation
- the way a character's attitude, feelings or emotions are presented
- our first impressions of a character or setting
- analysis of the effects of literary devices such as simile, metaphor, repetition or listing
- use of dialogue
- particular choices of language or sentencing
- where appropriate, aspects of tone such as humour.

Questions testing basic comprehension and requiring candidates to summarise elements of the passage may also be set, and some questions may require an independent, personal response. 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 (45 minutes)

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
- Responding in English to a text in French (candidates should be able to recognise a variety of tenses in this section). The texts will be related to the following topics: holidays and tourism, transport and travel.

Dictionaries are not allowed in the examination.

## 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. Candidates are encouraged to include examples from the periods of history that they have already studied.

### 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)

The paper will consist of questions on basic techniques as well as more challenging questions. The syllabus for this paper will be all the content from the 13+ Core papers, and the following topics from the 13+ Additional paper: Pythagoras' theorem, further algebra, reverse percentages, HCF and LCM, significant figures.

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, 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 from each of the biology, chemistry and physics sections (there will be two options for each science).

The questions will test the understanding of scientific principles and their applications, ranging from the theoretical (understanding formulae, and balancing and writing equations) to the practical (including the use of standard laboratory apparatus and techniques) as well as knowledge and understanding of concepts studied.

For Biology, questions could consider cell structure and hierarchy of organisation, biological molecules, aspects of physiology (including gas exchange, circulation, movement and reproduction), photosynthesis and respiration, ecology and variation.

For Chemistry, material could be taken from areas such as physical and chemical properties of elements and compounds, acids, alkalis and chemical reactions, testing for common gases, metals and energy changes.

For Physics, questions could explore energy changes and transfers, forces and their effects, density and pressure, vibrations and waves (including light), electricity and electrical circuits, or the nature of the solar system.

### **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.*