



ROYAL
HOSPITAL
SCHOOL

ENTRANCE ASSESSMENT GUIDE

FOR PARENTS

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CONTACT US

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Welcome to our guide to the entrance assessments.

By the time you are thinking about entrance assessments we hope you are already quite familiar with the School having visited on an open day, a taster day (or three) or a private tour and met many of the people who will be working with your child. If you have yet to visit, or would like to visit again, please contact our Admissions Office on 01473 326136 / 178 and we will be delighted to help.

The admissions procedure to RHS is kept friendly and as straightforward as possible in order for the children to be comfortable and perform at their best in what could be a daunting situation.

All prospective Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils have an interview with myself. This takes the form of an informal conversation based around what they enjoy at school and any interests or hobbies they might have. Your son or daughter is not expected to plan a speech but they should bring along something like a book, photo, certificate or object which they can talk freely about. The interview should last around 15 minutes, depending on how chatty your son or daughter feels. Afterwards there is an opportunity for questions to myself and a tour of the School with a senior pupil if you would like one; this would include meeting the House Parents of Blake House - our junior house for those joining in Year 7 or a senior house for those joining in Years 8 and 9.

I look forward to welcoming you here.

Leigh Corbould
Assistant Head (Pastoral) & Head of Lower School



THE DAY OF THE ASSESSMENTS

Exact details of the day will be communicated nearer the time but the basic structure is detailed below.

After arrival on the parade ground you will be directed to Registration, where you will be greeted by myself and members of the admissions team. When everyone is ready we will escort the children to the classrooms and parents are free to go and return around four hours later when the assessments have finished and the candidates have eaten lunch. For parents travelling from further afield we can provide a 'what to do in Ipswich' booklet to help you enjoy the time.

You do not need to bring anything with you. All pencils, erasers and equipment will be provided for your son or daughter to use and keep after the day. We will also provide drinks and refreshments for the children between papers.

THE ASSESSMENTS

Candidates sit three papers as follows:

1. Verbal Reasoning (50 minutes)
2. Mathematics (45 minutes)
3. English (60 minutes)

VERBAL REASONING.

We use GL Assessment verbal reasoning papers and mark them internally. We recommend that you visit <https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/11plus-series-11-plus-practice-papers/> to download some of the free practice/familiarisation sets, in order for your son or daughter to be comfortable with their style and structure. 11+ Verbal Reasoning Practice Papers can also be purchased through the GL Assessment website. These are full of good advice on how to answer the questions and how to use the answer sheet required. You will also find some hints and tips and a few practice questions at the end of this guide.

MATHEMATICS

This is an internally set and marked paper appropriate to the year of entry. It will test the candidate's ability to manipulate numbers, solve algebraic problems, perform basic mathematical operations and will be based upon the syllabus and the breadth of the KS2 or KS3 mathematics curriculum, as appropriate. Answers will be written on the paper and it is important to remember that showing your working is just as important as the answer.

ENGLISH

These are also internally set and marked papers appropriate to the year of entry. The first is a comprehension exercise including a short passage followed by a selection of questions requiring either one-word answers or longer, more detailed, responses. This tests vocabulary, inference, empathy and the ability to select appropriate information. The second is an extended writing paper with tasks like, 'Write a story which starts with the line, "I took a deep breath and realised that it was my turn...." ', or a non-fiction task such as, 'Write an article for a magazine about a person who is important to you.' These encourage candidates to produce a more detailed answer, paying close attention to spelling, punctuation and grammar.

THE END OF THE DAY

Candidates are welcome to stay for lunch after the assessments or to leave straight away. It normally takes 2 - 3 weeks to notify parents whether your child has been offered a place; however, we do not generally release information regarding performance on individual papers.

EXHIBITIONS & AWARDS

The Royal Hospital School's scholarship programme recognises high-achieving and talented individuals who excel in specific fields. The most academically able candidates entering the School in Year 7 may be awarded an Academic Exhibition and those entering at Year 9 may be awarded an Academic Scholarship. These are awarded by competition in recognition of outstanding performance in the entrance assessment, an interview and a reference from the candidate's current school.

For more information please read the Scholarships and Awards section of the Additional Information brochure or contact the Admissions Office.

HOW TO DO VERBAL REASONING

The remainder of this booklet contains a guide to the Verbal Reasoning paper.

Although verbal reasoning questions come in many forms, they are generally like puzzles or games.

The papers include questions that test observation and thinking in letters, words and sentences.

Some questions ask the candidate to construct new words from patterns given to them, or to select words that fit into a pattern. A relatively good vocabulary for the age of the candidate is required, as some questions rely on being able to find words of similar or opposite meaning.

Perhaps surprisingly, verbal reasoning papers also include questions that involve mathematical calculations.

Verbal reasoning is widely regarded as an excellent indicator of a candidate's potential.

However, the papers can be practised and scores improve over time as the candidate gets used to the style of question.

SOME HINTS TO START WITH:

1. Read the questions carefully.
2. Try to eliminate answers that are obviously wrong.
3. If you can't answer a question, move on to the next and come back to it.
4. If you do miss a question out, be sure to leave a space on the answer grid – some candidates have been known to get 'out of sequence' and end up answering questions in the wrong spaces on the grid.
5. Use scrap paper to make notes, cross out letters in the alphabet, draw lines connecting numbers or letters in a sequence etc. Some people find it easier to think on paper.
6. If you have any time left at the end of the examination, use the time to go back over the questions you could not do first time. Check all your answers carefully.

THE PAPER :

Verbal reasoning papers are constructed by professional experts and are widely tested and evaluated before being made available to schools. The papers are then subject to copyright. For this reason, it is not possible for us to provide a full verbal reasoning practice paper.

The following section contains a series of questions of a similar style to those used in the verbal reasoning paper, with hints to their answers.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS:

In the following questions, the first pair of letters are related in some way. Find the letters that complete the second pair so that they are related in the same way as the first:

1) BD is to CE as FH is to...: **A:** GI **B:** EG **C:** AC **D:** IJ

2) BP is to DR as FT is to...: **A:** FT **B:** GU **C:** HV **D:** PT

HINT

In answering questions of this form, it is helpful to write out the alphabet and underline the letters in the pair – this sometimes makes the pattern more obvious.

In the following questions, pick the number that continues each series in the most sensible way:

3) 6, 12, 18, 24 **A:** 28 **B:** 32 **C:** 26 **D:** 30

4) 13, 11, 15, 13, 17, 15, 19 **A:** 21 **B:** 15 **C:** 17 **D:** 19

HINT

Once again it is helpful with questions of this sort to work on paper. Write down the sequence and draw arrows to match up numbers, alternatively write down the differences underneath pairs of numbers until you find the pattern.

Find the next letters in the series:

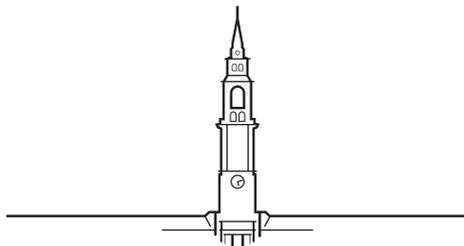
5) CF, VF, BF, UF, AF, **A:** TF **B:** ZF **C:** WF **D:** DF

6) JKL, MNO, PQR **A:** HIJ **B:** ABC **C:** STU **D:** RST

7) BE, EH, HK, KN **A:** NQ **B:** LM **C:** NO **D:** FG

In each of the following questions, letters stand for numbers. Work out the answer to the sum and indicate which letter corresponds to the correct answer.

8) If A=2, B=4, C=6, D=8 and E=16, what does $E \times A \div D = ?$ **A:** A **B:** B **C:** C **D:** D



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