

SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE 2020 – 21 NOTES ON ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT



Shrewsbury School

The notes below are designed to give candidates some guidance in advance of the Sixth Form Academic Assessment. Any questions can be directed to:

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ART: One hour drawing exam. The exam will test basic drawing skills and observational accuracy. Candidates must also select and submit a **digital portfolio of 10 images** across a range of disciplines in 2D and 3D **by Friday 30th October 2020**. Artworks must be photographed using appropriate lighting and sent as high-resolution JPEGs. We will be looking for evidence of technical/observational drawing ability and the capacity for sustained development of creative work. Sketchbooks should normally accompany the portfolio. Any media may be included.

BIOLOGY: One hour written paper. The paper will test basic knowledge and understanding of Biology, and not the content of any individual syllabus. There will be three sections: multiple choice, extended writing and data analysis. Candidates will score highly if they display accurate knowledge of basic biological principles and the ability to use this knowledge to make deductions and draw conclusions.

BUSINESS: One hour written paper. Section A (25% of the marks) will consist of multiple-choice questions on the current business environment. Section B (25% of the marks) will consist of numerical/calculation questions on areas such as calculating profits, prices and percentage changes. Section C (50% of the marks) will include 2 short essay questions on real-life topical business issues.

CHEMISTRY: One hour written paper. The paper will be in two sections (A and B). Section A will contain 30 compulsory multiple-choice questions worth 1 mark each. Section B will contain three questions, each worth 10 marks, and candidates should attempt two questions from this section, giving a total mark out of 50. The questions will draw on areas of the subject such as chemical equations, atomic structure and bonding, rates of reaction, acids and bases, the extraction of metals, some simple organic chemistry and the essential features of the periodic table and some simple mole calculations. This will test knowledge, understanding and problem-solving ability.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION: One hour written paper. The paper will assess the candidate's ability to read and understand a text from the ancient world and also his/her ability to discuss ideas contained in it. There will be two questions, each of which is worth 50% of the paper. In the first, a passage from the first half of Homer's Odyssey will be set, while in the second a passage of Roman literature or a historical document will be presented. The questions will range from basic understanding of what is in the passage to more wide-ranging questions about what sort of society and culture is being reflected in the passages.

DESIGN: One hour written paper. The examination will consist of structured questions which will test candidates' ability to (a) Write a design specification to a given brief; (b) Generate a range of initial product design ideas from given information; (c) Evaluate a range of initial design ideas against criteria; (d) Critically evaluate commercial products to assess their function, material composition, construction and manufacture. Candidates should also select and submit a **digital portfolio of up to 10 images** of their Design work **by Friday 30th October 2020**.

DRAMA: One hour written paper. Candidates will be asked to read an extract from a 20th century play. Section A will contain one question based on the central ideas or themes of the extract. Section B will contain one question based on one of the main characters in the extract.

ECONOMICS: One hour written paper. The paper will test the skills of data analysis and comprehension required to study Economics. Data will be presented in a number of different formats including tables and graphs. No prior knowledge of Economics is required; however there will be questions requiring the candidate to discuss issues presented by the data.

ENGLISH: One hour written paper. Candidates will be asked to write an essay comparing TWO texts (or extracts from texts), which may be set from any of the three genres (poetry, prose or drama) and which will be linked by a common theme. The comparison will focus upon the writers' use of structure, language and style and the texts might not necessarily be by the same writer.

ENGLISH LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (EAL): 45 minute written paper. Candidates will be asked to summarise a non-fiction or media text in 250 to 400 words. The summary will require candidates both to select and organise the information and opinions contained within the article.

FRENCH: One hour written paper. The topics tested in the examination will be taken from this list: Holidays and Tourism / Going Abroad; School; House and Home (*not* Home Town); Leisure.

GEOGRAPHY: One hour written paper. Candidates choose to answer any 2 essay questions from a wide selection of GCSE and IGCSE topics, including the Geographical Skills of fieldwork, map and data interpretation. There will be plenty of opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their Geographical expertise.

GERMAN: One hour written paper. The topics tested in each exam will be taken from this list: Holidays and Tourism / Going Abroad; School; House and Home (*not* Home Town); Leisure.

GREEK: One hour written paper. The paper will be based on the language paper of the new J292 OCR GCSE Classical Greek specification. All words not in the Defined Vocabulary List of this syllabus will be glossed. The paper will comprise an unseen translation from a passage of Greek prose.

HISTORY: One hour written paper. The History exam will consist of a paper with a variety of general, non-specific questions designed so that candidates can introduce knowledge of their own historical period or events. Candidates will be required to write two essays in one hour.

HISTORY OF ART: One hour written paper. Candidates will be asked to respond to two questions. The first question will require them to choose from a selection of images of architecture, painting or sculpture – and to write about what they see. The second question will be an essay on any aspect of the visual arts (architecture, painting or sculpture only) that the candidate selects to write about. Candidates will be required to demonstrate an interest in the visual world around them and to be able to articulate and communicate this interest through a coherent and sustained argument.

LATIN: One hour written paper. The paper will be based on the language paper of the new JS282 OCR GCSE Latin specification. All words not in the Defined Vocabulary List of this syllabus will be glossed. The paper will comprise an unseen translation from a passage of Latin prose.

MATHEMATICS: One hour written paper. The paper will be split into two parts. Section A, worth about 75% of the marks, will test the fundamental GCSE topics that pupils are likely to have covered by the end of Year 10. Section B will contain questions which are less standard in nature, but can nevertheless be answered using techniques from the GCSE syllabus. These questions are intended to be more difficult, and will require greater insight and good problem-solving skills. Candidates will be expected to use a calculator.

MUSIC: One hour written paper. Candidates should in most cases be either studying one of the GCSE syllabuses for examination, or should be at least of a standard commensurate with GCSE.

PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY: One hour written paper. Two essays from a choice of eight. The essays will be broad titles that will allow candidates to show their knowledge, understanding and analytical skills – especially using ‘traditional’ RS material. There will also be opportunities to state and support their personal views. Candidates will choose two titles from the following eight topics: Sacred texts; Founders; Belief and History; Belief and Ethics; Belief and Philosophy; Contemporary Belief; Global Belief and Practice.

PHOTOGRAPHY: One hour written paper. This will be a task to test the candidates’ visual awareness and creativity. Candidates must also submit a digital portfolio of **10 of their best photographs** in a range of genres including; portraiture, still life/object, landscape/architecture, nature, documentary. Links to personal Instagram, tumblr, flickr feeds or own websites/blogs can also be submitted to demonstrate ability. Photographs should be high resolution in a JPEG format. The portfolio should be submitted **by Friday 30th October 2020**.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: One hour written paper. Candidates will sit a GCSE-style paper. This will include questions on topics such as Health, Diet and Nutrition, Body Systems, Technology, Media, Deviance in Sport, Principles of Training and Social Influences on Sport. Candidates will be asked to answer 2 or 3 questions from a list of choices.

PHYSICS: One hour written paper. Section A will contain 30 compulsory multiple choice questions worth 1 mark each. Section B will contain compulsory questions worth a total of 20 marks. The questions will draw on the core GCSE topics of mechanics, electric circuits, waves, radioactivity, forces and energy and will test both knowledge and problem-solving ability.

SPANISH: One hour written paper. The topics tested in each exam will be taken from this list: Holidays and Tourism / Going Abroad; School; House and Home (*not* Home Town); Leisure.

M.J. Cropper, Director of Admissions, July 2020