

LORD WANDSWORTH COLLEGE



**Guide to the**  
**ENTRANCE TESTS**  
**and**  
**PRE-TESTS**

If you have any queries regarding the testing day please do not hesitate to contact us – we are here to help.

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*We believe that, in order for children to thrive and succeed, it is vital that they attend the school appropriate to his or her abilities. Our entry level reflects the standard that will be required for the children to be able to cope with the demands of our curriculum.*

## Prior to the Tests

*We do not expect children to receive special coaching for our entrance examinations.*

However if you want to help your child prepare you can:

- encourage your child to practise writing stories or descriptive passages for the English paper.
- purchase multiple choice verbal and non-verbal reasoning papers from leading bookshops. These papers will not be the same as our IQ test but they will give your child an idea of the type of questions they may encounter.

- ◆ We do not issue any sample papers as we use the same question papers year on year so that we can benchmark one year against another.
- ◆ As part of the entry procedure we ask each candidate's current school to provide a confidential report and reference
- ◆ As a matter of courtesy we would ask that you let your child's current school know that you are applying for a place at LWC and that they will be receiving a report request from us.
- ◆ There is no formal interview; however we like to meet each candidate and their parents for an individual meeting at some time in the year prior to joining.

If you have not already had a one-to-one meeting with the Headmaster or one of senior team, please call us to arrange an appointment.

Please note that we do not offer places unless we have met each candidate in person or, for overseas candidates, via Skype or similar.

# The Testing Day

- ◆ The entrance tests consist of three disciplines:
  - Mathematics – 45 minutes
  - English – 1 hour
  - IQ (verbal and non-verbal reasoning) – 40 minutes
- ◆ The tests take place in one large hall – it can be quite daunting as most of the children taking the tests will never have been in this type of environment. However, we endeavour to make the children feel as comfortable as possible.
- ◆ There will be a short break between the first two papers and a longer break prior to the last paper when the children will be able to stretch their legs and get some fresh air.
- ◆ We will provide the children with drinks and a small snack during the morning.
- ◆ Please let us know if your child has any allergies or other medical conditions that we should be aware of whilst they are in our care.
- ◆ Invigilators and other staff will be on hand all morning to give the children full instructions and to supervise breaks.
- ◆ Unfortunately we are unable to allow 'extra time' in the tests. However, when marking the papers, consideration is given to children who have been assessed by an educational psychologist. If your child has an educational psychologist report, please provide us with a copy prior to the testing day.
- ◆ Candidates should bring their own pencils, pen, rubber and ruler. A calculator is not required, as these are not allowed in the Maths test.
- ◆ Candidates should wear their normal school uniform or clothes that they would wear to school if they do not normally wear uniform.
- ◆ During the testing period parents are invited to join us for refreshments and to listen to the Headmaster's brief talk on 'what happens next'.

## What happens following the tests?

### 11+ entry into our 1st Form (Year 7)

We will write to you within 10 days of the tests.

You will receive one of three letters:

1. **Firm Offer**

A firm offer of a place which must be accepted or declined at the latest by the first Monday in March

2. **Reserve List**

Your child has reached the required standard in the tests but, because of demand for places, has had to be placed on our reserve list.

We usually have more applicants than we have places available (particularly for day boy places) which creates the need for a reserve list.

Most children who have to be placed on the reserve list are eventually offered a firm place but it may take a few weeks for a vacancy to arise.

3. **Regret**

Unfortunately your child has not reached the required standard and we do not feel we are the right school for them.

It is our policy not to allow students to re-sit 11+ tests if they do not reach the required standard.

If your child achieves one of the highest 15 marks in all three disciplines they will be invited to come and sit our Academic scholarship tests.

# What happens following the pre-tests?

## 13+ entry into our 3rd Form (Year 9)

Once the papers have been marked you will hear from us by the February Half Term when you will receive one of five letters:

### **Firm offer**

A firm offer of a deferred place which must be accepted or declined by the first Monday in March.

### **Conditional offer**

A conditional offer of a deferred place which must be accepted or declined by the first Monday in March.

Conditional offers are made if a candidate has reached the level required on our pre-tests but we have some small concerns. Conditional offers are turned into firm offers once we have absolute assurance from the pupil's current school that they will definitely reach our expected standard in Common Entrance.

### **Reserve list**

Your child has reached the required standard in the pre-tests but, because of demand for places, has had to be placed on our reserve list.

We usually have more applicants than we have places available (particularly for day boy places) which creates the need for a reserve list.

Most children who have to be placed on the reserve list are eventually offered a firm place but it may take a few weeks or months for a vacancy to arise.

### **Remain on our entry lists**

Your child has not quite reached the level required on one or two of the papers but we are still interested in them and would like them to remain on our entry lists.

In this scenario, your child may be asked to re-sit the tests or we will opt to monitor their progress via the prep school and offer a place as and when we are happy that they are firmly on course to reach our required grades at Common Entrance (currently 50+% across the board in Level 2 papers).

### **Regret**

Unfortunately your child has not reached the required standard and we do not feel we are the right school for them.

**All children at prep schools who have been offered a firm place at some point in the pre-test stage are still required to take Common Entrance which they will sit at their school in the June of the actual year of entry. However, their place is not dependent upon Common Entrance results except in extreme circumstances where a child falls well below our benchmark of 50+%. We use the Common Entrance exam results for setting purposes in the core subjects.**

# ENGLISH

1 hour

The English paper consists of two sections: A and B

## **Section A: 30 minutes – comprehension**

Pupils will be tested on their ability to analyse an unseen passage. They will be required to comment on narrative style, portrayal of character and descriptive language.

## **Section B: 30 minutes – a short piece of creative writing**

Essays will be judged on their narrative style, structure, employment of descriptive language and originality.

Spelling, punctuation and use of paragraphs will also play a part in the overall assessment.

## **Scholarship Paper (for 11+ entrants only)**

1 hour

**Section A:** a piece of creative writing (3 choices of topic)

Essays will be judged on their narrative style, structure, employment of descriptive language and particular credit will be awarded for originality.

**Section B:** a piece of analytical writing (3 choices of topic)

Pupils will be tested on their ability to write a balanced analysis of a topical issue.

# MATHEMATICS

45 minutes

NO CALCULATORS ARE ALLOWED IN THE EXAM

The entrance examination is set based on the work in the:

11+ exam:

**National Curriculum for Year 6, Autumn Term**

12+ exam:

**National Curriculum for Year 6, entire year**

Some questions are “true/false” statements and some questions are asking for calculations to be made.

*IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CANDIDATES SHOW ALL THEIR WORKING CLEARLY*

## **Scholarship Paper (for 11+ entrants only)**

1 hour

The paper is based on the same material as the entrance examination. All the questions are asking for calculations to be made, with workings and explanations shown clearly.

The questions are set at a higher level and some questions involve some logic and good insight into the topics studied.



# IQ

(verbal and non-verbal reasoning)

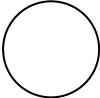


40 minutes – multiple choice




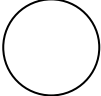

The IQ paper is a mixture of verbal and non-verbal reasoning problems.

Examples of questions:

1. *Legs* are to *running* as *teeth* are to.....

- a. chattering b. walking c. eating d. biting e. arms

2.  is to  as  is to

- A  B  C  D  E 

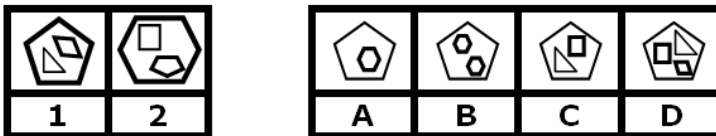
3. Which number comes next in this series? 2, 3, 5, 8, 12

- a. 14 b. 15 c. 16 d. 17 e. 18

3. *Backwards* means the same as.....

- a. upside-down b. reversed c. stop d. forwards e. gear

4. Which one of the figures in the boxes on the right is most similar to the ones on the left?



- A B C D

5. Mr Jones is facing south. He drives 1 mile then turns left, drives 2 miles and turns left again. Which direction is he now facing?

- a. north b. south c. east d. west e. impossible to find out from these instructions