



FOREST SCHOOL

13+ Maths and English Papers

Mathematics

- A one-hour paper with questions based on material you will have covered in Year 7 and Year 8.
- There are a variety of questions throughout the paper, with harder questions becoming more frequent towards the end.
- Questions require a certain amount of arithmetical knowledge such as addition, multiplication and fractions. There are problems to solve in a variety of contexts. The more challenging problems will usually involve more logical steps.
- Students who achieve the higher marks will be those with a sound knowledge of the basic techniques, and are able to reason accurately through problems. The questions will be on topics you have covered but some will be harder than the standard problems in a topic.
- Calculators are **NOT** allowed.

How to prepare for the exam

- Practise some past papers.
- Check if there are any topics on the sample material that you have not covered. This is very unlikely.
- Make sure you understand and can answer questions on the topics that are in the sample material. Don't just limit yourself to the sample material for questions.
- Practise the work you have been covering in lessons at school. Try to practise answering the harder questions in these topics.
- Practise solving puzzles and problems. Puzzle books, newspaper puzzle pages, Maths Challenges, sudoku etc. all enable you to practise thinking logically, creatively and in different contexts. Do not limit yourself to one type of problem.

In the exam

- Read each question carefully and make sure you understand what is being asked.
- Don't get bogged down on any one problem – leave it out and complete all the questions you can and then if you have time at the end return to those that need more thought.
- Some questions will not be immediately obvious what to do. Try to be patient and think about different approaches you might use. If one doesn't work, try another!
- Do show all your working; there will be credit if you have shown a correct method, but have made a mistake *en route* to your final answer. If you don't show us your steps and we just see a wrong answer then you will not receive any credit.
- Make sure your final answer is clear and in the right place.



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English

- A one-hour paper
- The candidates will be asked to answer questions on a short passage.
- The questions will assess both reading comprehension and the candidates' ability to use a good quality of written English.

How to prepare for the exam

- We find that candidates who read widely do well. We hope that you will enjoy reading different authors' books and examining the ways in which they use language.
- As you read, try and think beyond the surface meaning: why have the authors chosen specific words, phrases and images?
- Practise spelling words that you sometimes find difficult.
- Practise answering questions: underline key words and ensure you understand what different question words (how, why, what, etc.) require of you.

In the exam

- We are looking for evidence that you have understood the passage. Candidates who do well demonstrate that they can understand layers of meaning and show sensitivity to the ways in which the writer has used language.
- We are looking for clear and accurate writing which demonstrates a varied vocabulary.
- Candidates who do particularly well enjoy expressing themselves and consider a range of points, supporting their answers with quotations and detailed analysis of language.