

ACADEMIC SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIPS

Sevenoaks is a progressive, imaginative and academic school with a global outlook. Our unique curriculum is designed to provide coherence, balance and breadth, generating an appetite for learning and discovery in our students, and encouraging them to develop strong cultural awareness, a determination to be an influence for good, and a capacity for work, leadership and collaboration.

The following information applies specifically to candidates applying to join Sevenoaks in Year 9.

Academic Scholarships

Academic scholarships are awarded at all entry points: 11+ (Year 7), 13+ (Year 9) and 16+ (Lower Sixth).

Selection Criteria

At 13+ we are looking for candidates who will be the academic leaders in the year group and whose qualities include academic curiosity, the ability to think critically and to assimilate new ideas quickly.

Candidates may be invited to take part in the Academic scholarship exams following their performance in the main entrance exams.

Candidates who attend a UK prep school may be nominated by their school, in which case the Headteacher should fill in the application form sent to them directly from Admissions.

Assessment

All 13+ scholarship candidates will sit four exam papers: a General paper, Humanities, Languages (Modern and Classical) and Science. Candidates will also be asked to give a short presentation on a topic of their choice to teaching staff and other scholarship candidates. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A about their chosen topic.

General

The General paper has two sections. The first contains an extract on a topical issue. Candidates will be asked to respond to wide-ranging questions on the extract in order to demonstrate their critical thinking skills.

The second gives candidates the opportunity to write an essay. Students will be able to choose from three or four essay questions. The essay will give students an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to contextualise, analyse and evaluate. Candidates will be expected to bring in examples from history, current affairs or their own experience to support their argument.



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Humanities

In the Humanities paper, candidates are expected to answer questions on Geography and History.

In the Geography section, candidates will be tested on geographical data interpretation skills. They will also write an extended response to one of two structured response-style questions which will be based on a contemporary geographical issue. Candidates should aim to write a well-structured, in-depth geographical answer which responds to the command terms of the question. Candidates will be required to bring in geographical examples to illustrate their points.

In the History paper, candidates will be tested on interpretation and inference skills. They will also write an extended response to one of four structured response-style questions. Candidates should aim to write a well-structured, in-depth essay-style response. They will need to use specific historical examples in order to support their answer. The qualities looked for are inference and analytical evaluation, an ability to deploy knowledge, and clarity of thought in written communication.

Languages (Modern and Classical)

The Languages Paper includes three sections. All students will complete Section A. Students must then complete Section B or Section C.

Section A: Linguistics

Candidates will be asked to solve a language puzzle, which will require no prior knowledge from students. The focus is on problem solving, using logical analysis to make deductions about language structures.

Section B: Modern Languages

Candidates will answer a writing task in a language that they have been studying at school (rather than one that they know from home). They can write in one of the following languages: French, German, Mandarin, Russian or Spanish.

There will be five prompts to indicate what to include in their paragraph.

Section C: Latin

The Latin section consists of a short passage in Latin for translation into English. The content (including vocabulary) is that demanded by the CE syllabus, but there will be one or two more testing sentences and questions to challenge the most able students. Any words not in the CE (and CE scholarship) vocabulary lists will be glossed on the exam paper, except for a very small number of words which we think can be guessed either through English derivations or other known Latin words.

We are always pleased to see candidates taking Latin. We understand too that candidates from different schools have studied Latin for varying lengths of time and we take this fact into consideration when making our scholarship decisions. It should also be noted that, if a candidate wishes to be considered for the combined Latin and Greek set once they join in Year 9, it is necessary for them to have sat an examination in Latin. This could either be in the Languages scholarship paper or, alternatively, candidates at UK prep schools can sit just the Latin (and, if appropriate, Greek) Common Entrance paper at the appropriate level and have the paper submitted to Sevenoaks for marking.

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Science

The Science paper contains a mixture of questions in three sections: Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

The paper tests both recall of facts and, more importantly, the candidate's ability to problem-solve by successfully completing calculations, interpreting data and drawing graphs.

Candidates should also expect to complete extended writing tasks in the Science Paper in order to show clarity of thought, articulation, and appropriate use of scientific terminology.

For further information on the scholarship syllabus please go to the Independent Schools Examination Board's website: www.iseb.co.uk.

Presentation

In the student presentations session, each student will present on a topic of personal interest. They will present sitting at a table to a small group of four to six students and a teacher. Each student presentation should be a maximum of three minutes. After their presentation students will answer questions from the others in their group. We are more interested in content than presentation style. Students can bring a list of bullet points to the presentation, no more than one side of A4, as an aide memoire. They will not be able to use any other resource whilst presenting.

The topic of the presentation can be anything which is of personal interest to the student. It does not have to be based on what a student has studied at school. To give a sense of the range of subjects which have been successful in the past, we have had presentations on titles including the following: film music since 2020, rhymes in rap music, the science of football, trains in the future, Ada Lovelace, the life of naked mole rats, vaccines and the teenage brain.

Further information and application details

Examinations will be held on one day at the end of the Lent term (late March or early April) in the year preceding entry.

Candidates may be invited to take part in the Academic scholarship exams following their performance in the main entrance exams. Candidates should complete the application form by 1 February. Please note that for offer-holders currently attending a UK prep school, the Head should complete this application.

The application form can be found here: <https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/admissions-repository/year-9-academic-scholarship-form/>.

Our Admissions department are pleased to meet candidates informally at any stage and to answer any queries. Please direct enquiries to our Admissions team via email to admissions@sevenoaksschool.org.