

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

Year 9 (13+) academic scholarships



Academic Scholarships

Dates for 2024 entry

All examinations will be held on **Tuesday 30 April and Wednesday 1 May 2024**. The closing date for entries is **1 February 2024**.

Examination Arrangements

The examinations will be held at Sevenoaks School. Further details will be sent nearer to the time of the examinations.

Examination Details

Candidates all sat English and Maths papers on entry. The results of these papers will be included in the scholarship assessment process.

All scholarship candidates will take the following papers in the May of Year 8:

Science 1; General Paper; Humanities (Geography and History); a Modern Language Paper (French, German, Mandarin or Spanish) – native or non-native - or Russian (native only)

Candidates will also take *two* of the following optional papers:

Mathematics; English; Science 2; Latin; Greek; a second Modern Language (French, German, Mandarin, Russian or Spanish); Art; Music; Technology.

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

In addition, all candidates will have an individual interview.

Science 1

Paper 1 contains a mixture of compulsory questions in three sections: Physics, Chemistry and Biology (NB – this is a change from the previous format which included a Section B in which candidates selected one question to answer from one of the three disciplines).

Both Science papers 1 and 2 (see below) aim to test recall of facts but, more importantly, they also test the candidate's ability to problem-solve by successfully completing calculations, interpreting data and drawing graphs. These are key skills that are essential for the scholarship students. Candidates should also expect to complete extended writing tasks in order to show clarity of thought, articulation, and appropriate use of scientific terminology.

General Paper

This paper has two sections. The first contains an extract on a topical issue and candidates will be asked to respond to wide-ranging questions on the extract. The second section will give candidates the opportunity to write an essay on one of three or four further topical issues.

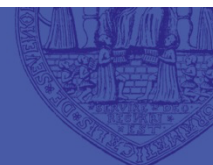
Humanities

Candidates are expected to answer questions on each of the following subjects: Geography and History.

Candidates will be tested on geographical data interpretation skills (a 4-mark and a 6-mark question) and then they will choose to write an extended response (10-marks) to one of a choice of three structured response-style questions based on a contemporary geographical issue. Candidates should aim to write a well-structured, in-depth (with appropriate examples) geographical answer responding to the command term of the question.

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Humanities (continued)

The History paper has been changed since 2020 entry. Candidates will be tested on basic interpretation and inference skills and then they will choose to write an extended response to one of four structured response style questions. Candidates should aim to write a well-structured, in-depth (with appropriate examples from the history they have been taught in class) essay-style response. The qualities looked for are inference and analytical evaluation, an ability to deploy knowledge, and clarity of thought in written communication.

Modern Language: French, German, Mandarin or Spanish – non-native or native

Non-native language papers consist of three sections: Section A is a reading comprehension exercise with questions and answers in French, German, etc; Section B is a series of grammar exercises; Section C is a writing exercise of 140 words maximum, with questions in French, German, etc. Candidates will not sit a listening test or a speaking test. For bilingual candidates there is a native language paper in French, German, Mandarin, Russian or Spanish which consists of one essay question.

Mathematics

This paper will examine creative and logical thought. We do not expect a level of knowledge above the CE syllabus; the emphasis will be on problem solving ability. Calculators are not allowed; candidates only require a pen, pencil, ruler and rubber.

English

This paper will comprise a poem with questions designed to invite an appreciation of the poem as a whole, and the ways in which its effects have been created through language, structure, and other stylistic features. The paper will also require a piece of personal writing, fiction, non-fiction or poetry, linked thematically with the text.

Science 2

Paper 2 has the same structure as the revised Paper 1, but the questions are more problem-solving in nature and will include, for example, skills and graph drawing, unit conversions and extrapolation.

Latin and Greek

The Latin scholarship paper consists of short comprehension and translation passages, and there are a small number of grammatical questions within the comprehension section. The Greek paper includes transliteration, derivations and sentences to translate as well as a short unseen passage. The more challenging final section need only be attempted by candidates who have studied Greek for more than one year (as indicated on the exam paper). 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 and Greek as optional subjects. We understand too that candidates from different schools have studied Latin and/or Greek 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 as one of a candidate's two optional Academic Scholarship subjects 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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Art

Candidates will be interviewed and required to submit a portfolio of work at the time of the examination. The portfolio should contain evidence, in any medium, of the candidate's imagination and creativity including the use of references to the work of other artists. Candidates participating in the Art Scholarship may **not** offer Art as an optional subject in the Academic Scholarship.

Music

This is a 50 minute written examination consisting of three questions. These will be based on two pieces of music. One will be provided by Sevenoaks School in score form. Candidates should bring with them a photocopy of one piece of music of their choice, and they will need to leave this music behind at the end of the exam. The photocopy will be destroyed at the end of the scholarship process. All three questions should be answered in a prose style. The questions will focus on the generic elements of music, which include (but are not limited to) melody; rhythm; harmony; texture; structure; articulation; dynamics; tempo; context. The third question will require the candidates to compare and contrast the two pieces, emphasising appropriate musical links. Candidates participating in the Music Scholarship are welcome to offer Music as an optional subject in the Academic Scholarship.

Technology

Assessment will be by interview. Headteachers of candidates are asked to inform the Director of Admissions at least two weeks before the assessment of the particular areas of technology covered by the candidate. It is helpful if details of involvement in technological activities can also be submitted at this time. The subject of the project work presented is not as important as evidence of an inquiring and inventive mind.

Further information may be obtained from:

The Director of Admissions, Sevenoaks School, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HU

Telephone (01732) 467703 Email: regist@sevenoaksschool.org

September 2023