

NORTH LONDON SCHOOLS CONSORTIUM
11+ (Year 7) EXAMINATIONS

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

GUIDANCE FOR ENGLISH

What is in the examination?

- The English examination is one hour and fifteen minutes long.
- It is in two sections, Reading and Writing. The two sections carry equal marks.
- In the Reading section, girls are required to read a short passage, normally about a page long, and answer short questions about the passage in order to demonstrate how well they have understood the passage.
- In the Writing section, girls are set a writing task which may be based in some way on the passage in the Reading section. This task will normally be of a creative nature.
- Sample questions are available as an example of the format used.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for evidence that a girl:

- Can read with discernment and understanding, with a firm grasp of both implicit and explicit meaning.
- Can express her understanding clearly and accurately in writing.
- Both understands and can use a wide and varied vocabulary.
- Can express herself in writing with facility, fluency, range and imagination.
- Has a good understanding of the effects created by language, both in others' writing and in her own.

How can girls prepare for the examination?

While it is sensible for girls to be familiar with the format of the examination, we would emphasise strongly that in our experience a repetitive drilling of examination tasks and / or the teaching of a formulaic approach to writing are neither desirable nor effective forms of preparation, either for the examination or for our schools.

The best possible form of preparation is:

- to encourage girls to read as widely and ambitiously as possible.
- to encourage girls to respond to what they read in an independent, fresh and personal way.
- to nurture in them a genuine love of books.
- to give them the opportunity and encouragement to write in as wide a variety of genres, styles and contexts as possible.
- to encourage them to develop their own individual and distinctive voice in their writing.

Above all, we must point out that the Writing section of the examination is designed to assess how well girls can write in an **unprepared** context. The insertion of pre-prepared

pieces of writing which are not relevant to the task set will be severely penalised in the marking.

GUIDANCE FOR MATHEMATICS

What is in the examination?

- The mathematics examination is one hour and fifteen minutes long.
- The content of the papers in all areas will be based on the assumption that candidates are working towards Level 5 of the Mathematics' National Curriculum.
- There will be a variety of questions, testing basic numerical skills, problem solving and logical thinking.
- Girls may also be required to demonstrate more developed powers of reasoning and the ability to solve simple problems with a newly introduced concept.
- The questions will not necessarily become harder towards the end of the paper.
- Girls should be encouraged not to spend too long on any question but should move on to later questions and return to earlier ones if they have time.
- Candidates only need a pencil and a rubber for the examination.
- Calculators are not allowed in the examination, nor are rulers.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for evidence that a girl

- Has a sound grasp of basic mathematical skills
- Has the ability to complete mathematical tasks logically
- Has the understanding to solve mathematical problems

How can girls prepare for the examination?

- Girls need to be able to show their ability with basic skills but it is also important that they know how to use these skills to solve problems. Practice with word or diagram based questions should be encouraged.
- It is recommended that girls are aware of the type of questions they will be facing as shown in the sample questions available on *each school's* website.
- Girls should be encouraged to check their work for accuracy and to show their working when completing mathematical tasks.