

Detailed Information for 12+ Entrance Exams – To Join Year 8

Papers are taken in Reasoning (60 minutes), English (90 minutes) and Mathematics (60 minutes). Once these exams are marked, candidates may be called for interview.



Reasoning

This is a computer-based test. The test takes 60 minutes, which includes time to do some practice questions and understand the nature of questions.

Candidates may prepare for the test using this website - <https://plus.cem.org/cemselectfam/>

Mathematics

The paper will take one hour and will be completed without a calculator. Pupils may take these exams at different times during the year prior to entering the school, so material in the exam will be based on the material an able pupil should have covered in the previous year. Thus, the 12+ exam will consist of questions based on Year 6 work.

Different schools may approach the topics within mathematics in different orders and so, to give an idea of what is expected, a brief outline of the content of each paper is listed below together with a list of what pupils at Leicester Grammar School would cover. Any pupil who is successful in the exam and who will be joining the school at the start of a particular year would be well advised to have an understanding of most of the areas covered in the preceding years.

- Arithmetic: Four rules of arithmetic on whole numbers. Simple calculations involving fractions and decimals. Ratios (including scales). Simple calculations involving negative numbers. Reading and interpreting mathematical tables and diagrams.
- Algebra: Solution of simple linear equations. Substitution of positive integers into formulae
- Shape and Space: Co-ordinates in 4 quadrants. Symmetry. Volumes of cuboids. Areas of rectangles and right-angled triangles
- Handling Data: Finding the mean of a set of values. Simple probability. Interpretation of bar charts and piecharts

Candidates may benefit from exam practice, using any 11+ mathematics papers. A range are available from Amazon and other bookshops.

English

The examinations will consist of a 90-minute paper in two sections; one a comprehension, the other an extension of the comprehension topic into either a discursive or a creative piece of writing.

In the comprehension section exercise we are looking for the ability to employ deduction and inference, skills of information selection and application and the clear and concise use of English. In the second section we expect a carefully

structured, accurately punctuated, essay which demonstrates both persuasive and imaginative communication.

Please note that:

- Questions will have the marks written beside them. Candidates should plan their answers and time accordingly.
- Spelling, grammar and punctuation will be taken into account, as will the legibility of handwriting.
- Where a longer response to a question is required candidates would be advised to write a very brief plan and then put a line through it
- Imagination, insight and interesting ideas are just as important as accurate expression.

Candidates may benefit from exam practice using any 11+ English papers. A range are available from Amazon and other bookshops. [The Study Skills Survival Guide](#) produced by our English Department lays out the expectations that we have of our pupils and may be of interest to pupils considering joining us in Year 8.

Interview

Once the exams are marked, we will interview some candidates. This may be for one of two reasons:

- Candidates who have achieved close to our borderline for entry, so that we can gain further information to help make the best decision about their admission.
- Candidates whose parents have applied for bursary assistance.