



Magdalen College School

Entry at 9+ (Year 5)

Written Papers

The English test equates to Levels 3 and 4 of the National Curriculum and consists of spelling, comprehension and composition.

The Mathematics test is based on Levels 3 and 4 of the National Curriculum.

The Verbal Reasoning test is a standardised IQ Test, preceded by a practice paper.

Interview

The majority of candidates are called for interview. The interviews last for approximately 20 minutes, and will be with the Head of Junior School and other Junior specialists.

School Report

The Head of the candidate's current school is asked to provide a brief confidential report about the boy's progress and academic potential, his conduct and character and his wider interests and abilities.

Sample papers

Sample papers for English and Mathematics can be found on the website.

We do not publish Verbal Reasoning papers: we do not own the copyright. However, you can obtain sample papers at all good booksellers such as Blackwell's and W H Smith.



With all our examinations, we are keen to look for potential, not simply current attainment. For this reason we are always interested in the school reference, the wider interests of the boy, and any other applicable information; our own papers and interviews are designed with the intention of exploring the way in which each child thinks, helping us to assess his promise in this way, too. No special preparation is expected or required for the tests.

Magdalen College School Junior School



9+ English Entrance Examination

Full Name:

You will have ONE HOUR for this part of your English test. We will be looking to see both what you know and what you are able to make a good attempt at doing, even if it is a new type of question for you.

Try to do everything asked of you: read the instructions carefully; give it your best shot!

..... For the marker only.....

Spelling:	Total:
Use of Words:		
Comprehension:		
Composition 1		
Composition 2:		

Comments:

Read carefully this extract from a story and then answer the following questions on it.

The passage is divided into TWO sections: the earlier questions are on section one; the later questions are on section two (the question paper tells you which section to look at).

Troublesome Angels and the Red Island Pirates by Hazel Marshal

(Section 1)

By the time they reached the church Blanco thought that he might melt with the heat. The only good thing was that it had dried their clothes. Soon they were inside the church and settled into the nearest pew. Blanco was determined that not a drop of sunlight should touch him. Once there he sighed.

- 5 “Blanco,” said Eva hesitantly. Was this the time to mention the fact that they were on Malta?

“What?” he snapped.
No, not a good time.

“I think there’s someone coming,” she said instead.

- 10 Blanco could hear the crunch of stones on the path outside. Whoever it was was slow and heavy footed.

“We’d better hide,” Eva continued, looking round for the best place in which to do so.

(Section 2)

- 15 “Why would we want to hide? I thought the whole point of us being here was to find someone so that they could tell us where we are and maybe help us.”

“Well, yes,” said Eva, looking nervous. The footsteps were getting nearer. “But what you didn’t hear the captain saying was that this part of the island was mainly inhabited by pirates.”

- 20 “What!” cried Blanco, leaping to his feet. “Why didn’t you tell me?”
He grabbed her arm and dragged her behind a pillar. They were just in time. As the last flutter of Eva’s skirt disappeared, the church door screeched open. They could only see an outline in the door as the sun, streaming in behind the person standing there, turned him into a shadow. Slowly he shuffled his way forward, aiming determinedly for the front. His progress was slow and staggered.

Reading and Understanding

You have HALF AN HOUR for this part of your English test.

Read the following passage, then answer the following questions on each part of the passage.

Section 1

- 1 Put these words from the passage into the correct box to show what type of word they are:

determined hesitantly slow sunlight
Malta crunch hide melt

NOUNS	ADJECTIVES
VERBS	ADVERBS

(8 marks)

- 2 Why are the children Blanco and Eva making for the church at the start of the passage, do you think? (4 marks)

.....

.....

.....

- 3 Draw a circle around any **TWO** of the following words which might describe how Blanco felt.

short-tempered brave tense thoughtful relaxed cautious

(2 marks)

What does **Eva** think Blanco is feeling? What does she do which shows this?

.....

.....

.....

(3 marks)

- 4 How does Eva know that there is someone coming?

.....

.....

.....

(2 marks)

Section 2

- 5 Why does Blanco change his mind about wanting to hide? Answer fully and carefully.

.....
.....
.....

(4 marks)

- 6 Find and write down **words in this section of the story** which have the meanings given in italics.

lived in

seized hold of

supporting column, often of stone

advance, forward movement

(4 marks)

- 7 Imagine you were making a **film version** of this story and what to add music for the atmosphere. Write down the line numbers of any two or three lines where you would want particularly scary music. You are allowed to choose only one group of lines.

I would want scary music for lines

Explain why you have chosen those lines. How has the writer made **you** feel that they are frightening?

.....
.....
.....

(3 marks)

Longer Writing Exercises

You are to do **BOTH** the following.

30 minutes is allowed.

8 You are now going to produce **TWO** short pieces of writing. You should spend about 15 minutes on each and try to show:

- *what good vocabulary (words) you know;*
- *how accurately you can write;*
- *neat handwriting;*
- *how you can make your writing interesting.*

Read the following instructions for the two pieces of writing.

A. Write about **TEN to FIFTEEN lines (70 – 100 words)** continuing this story. You do not have to finish the story, just carry it on in a suitable way.

Suggestions to think about: What happens next? What does the man do / what do Blanco and Eva do?

(20 marks)

B. Imagine **you** were alive three hundred years ago in this story and you had seen the man in the story, and he *WAS* a pirate! Write about **ten lines (70 – 80 words) DESCRIBING** him. Start your description as follows:

As I walked into the old inn, I saw him standing under the shadow of the stairway. He.....

Suggestions: describe his dress / what he looks like / what effect he has on you / what he has with him / what you see him do and what this shows about him.

(20 marks)