

Common Entrance - General Information

What is Common Entrance?

Common Entrance is the name for a set of examinations taken by boys and girls for entrance to senior independent schools at 11+ or 13+. The papers are set by the Independent Schools Examinations Board, but the **answers are marked by the senior school** for which a candidate is entered.

Pupils who are entered for Common Entrance at 11+ will sit the examination when they are Year 6, usually in January although it is also possible to take the examination as early as November. At 11+ pupils will sit papers in:

- English
- Maths
- Science

Pupils who are entered for Common Entrance at 13+ will sit the examination in either the Spring or, more commonly, the Summer term when they are in Year 8. Examination papers are also produced in the Autumn term, although these are generally used for practice or mock exams. At 13+ pupils will sit exams in:

- English
- Maths
- Science

Most pupils will also take papers in:

- French
- Geography
- History
- Religious Studies

Optional papers are also set for:

- Latin
- Classical Greek
- German (Summer term only)
- Spanish

In certain subjects, papers are set at different levels according to the ability of the candidate or the time spent studying the subject. To find out which level your child will be sitting for each exam, please contact your child's current school. The decision as to which level a pupil is entered for is generally negotiated between the junior and the senior school.