



Modern Languages Department

13+ Academic Scholarship Exam

Format from 2018

There are two parts to the 13+ Academic Scholarship in Modern Languages, and the candidate can choose freely in which of the four languages taught at Epsom College (French, German, Mandarin, Spanish) she/he wishes to sit the exam.

Whilst we expect a working knowledge of Yr 8/CEFRL A2/HSK 2 level in the respective language, we do not test absolute knowledge, and actively wish to discourage candidates from rote-learning material or essay topics. We will seek out the ability to converse in a simple exchange of information, we will be looking for intellectual flexibility, curiosity in academic work, and the ability to think on their feet and thus be teachable.

Rationale and Form:

- ☐ 1 x 45 min written paper
- ☐ No Listening Comprehension (listening skills are tested in the oral which is much more flexible and not vocab-dependent)
- ☐ 1 x 20 min oral
- ☐ Tasks to test thinking and analytical skills, not absolute knowledge; for example,
 - Find and explain errors
 - Work out a grammar rule from an example
 - Deduce the meaning of a word by splitting it in prefix, head noun, suffix etc.

Part 1: Written Paper 45 min

Reading Comprehension 15min

- 5 min: One short text (~50 words) with multiple choice questions/statements/pictures and instructions in target language;
- 10 min: One longer text (~100 words) with instructions and questions in English, and questions to be answered in English; including past/present/future tenses

Grammar and linguistic problem solving 15 min

- Gap fill text with words given – distinguish word classes and identify place in syntax.
- Gap fill sentences - conjugate verbs from infinitives, regular and irregular.
- Analyse sentences, deduce grammatical mechanics from an example and apply the deduced rule to another word of the same kind.
- Mandarin: Deducing the construction of particular signs, based on

examples. Writing 15 min

- 80-100 words essay on a common topic – choice of 2, including general instructions such as “give advantages and disadvantages”.

Part 2: Oral Exam (20min)

- 5-7min: Conversation in the target language, based on content on the following page
- 5-7min: The candidate is presented with a sentence in the target language and asked, in English, to explain and analyse its structure (grammar and tenses)
- 10min: The candidate is asked in English about their interest in the target language - appropriate for the age and level

Content to be examined

Based on KS3/Yr 7-8/CEFRL A1-A2/HSK 1-2

Vocabulary/Topics for all four languages

- ☐ House
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Hobbies
- ☐ School
- ☐ Holidays
- ☐ Opinions
- ☐ Stories – books - films

Grammar and tenses (French, German, Spanish)

- ☐ Basic terminology (name word classes (nouns, adjectives, verbs, etc), name forms (masculine, feminine, singular, plural, tenses etc), name basic syntactical functions (subject, verb, object, etc)).
- ☐ Present, perfect, future, conditional, or equivalents in individual languages
- ☐ Adjectives and their agreements
- ☐ Verbs and tenses/personal endings
- ☐ Connectors and opinion phrases

Mandarin

- ☐ Adverbs (把, 被,)
- ☐ Word order
- ☐ Measure words
- ☐ Adjectives
- ☐ Verb suffix (了)
- ☐ Conjunctions (because ----so, although ----but)
- ☐ Verb describing how actions are performed