



## GUIDANCE NOTES

### SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE TEST – SATURDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2021

In writing our test papers we have taken into account that candidates may have followed different examination boards for their GCSE subjects and that they will have covered different parts of the syllabus. Individual subject guidance is listed below and overleaf:

#### **Art:**

Prospective Art students will need to provide a digital portfolio of work which should be sent to [ARTPortfolio@saintolaves.net](mailto:ARTPortfolio@saintolaves.net) before the 6<sup>th</sup> February and then undertake a written and recording based test at the school. Students will need to bring with them some **tonal** drawing materials for the test as there will be a drawn element. It is suggested that they bring their usual Art & Design Pencil case; pencils, a sharpener and a rubber should be the minimum; pens and other materials are also welcome. Paper will be provided. **Further important guidance should be looked at via the website.**

#### **Biology:**

The paper will consist of two sections: the first section focuses on an investigation, while the second section comprises 6 GCSE style questions covering a range of topics from which candidates should choose 3 to answer.

#### **Chemistry:**

The paper will consist of two sections, A and B. Section A includes 20 multiple choice questions, all of which must be answered and section B comprises 5 GCSE style questions covering a range of topics from which candidates should choose 3 to answer. All of the questions are accessible to students of GCSE Chemistry or GCSE Combined Science (Higher Tier).

#### **Classical Civilisation:**

Students will require no foreknowledge of any Classical theme but will be expected to write clearly and fully in answer to the questions (in the manner of an English comprehension passage).

#### **Computer Science:**

The Computer Science paper will consist of questions on 'Computing Principles, Algorithms and Programming' to test concepts and principles of Computer Science. Candidates can revise the course content found on the GCSE Computer Science syllabus but should expect that they will be tested on their Computational thinking and logical methods.

#### **Design and Technology:**

Prospective students will need to submit a digital Design & Technology portfolio that is representational of the work they have undertaken at GCSE level, they may opt to include evidence of other extra-curricular work if they so choose but this must be in addition to their GCSE NEA, not instead of. The portfolio should be emailed to [DTPortfolio@saintolaves.net](mailto:DTPortfolio@saintolaves.net) before the 6<sup>th</sup> February. Students will also sit a written assessment where they will be assessed on their design and communication skills, and their knowledge and understanding of manufacturing. **Further important guidance should be looked at via the website.**

**Economics:**

The Economics entrance exam assumes no prior knowledge of Economics. It will be a test of skills in terms of your ability to make calculations, and to interpret data and graphs. Furthermore, you will be asked to write a response which considers two sides of an argument. You may also be asked to make simple mathematical calculations such as percentage change and ranking data. On some sections of the exam help and guidance is offered to support candidates' responses. **Candidates are allowed to use a calculator.** To prepare we advise that candidates read a good quality newspaper and become familiar with the language used in the Business and Economics Sections.

**English Literature:**

Applicants should focus their preparation on the close reading of prose or poetry to hone their analytical skills. The paper will test your ability to construct an argument and demonstrate close reading skills.

**French:**

Those applying for French are strongly advised to concentrate their preparation on tenses, grammar/structures, translating into the target language and writing in full paragraphs.

**Geography:**

Applicants will need a strong understanding of physical landforms. They will need to draw on their wider geographical understanding and case study knowledge to answer an open ended essay question as well.

**German:**

Those applying for German are strongly advised to concentrate their preparation on tenses, grammar/structures, translating into the target language and writing in full paragraphs.

**History:**

Candidates should be aware that their existing historical knowledge will not be examined. The paper will test their ability to read, analyse and evaluate sources and to construct an argument on an unseen topic.

**Latin:**

Students should be prepared to write a translation of a piece that is broadly in keeping with a higher tier GCSE Latin paper.

**Mathematics:**

The questions are based on general GCSE topics but are designed to challenge all applicants. **Candidates will require a scientific calculator.**

**Music:**

Students are required to **email** a copy of the certificate(s) from their most recent practical graded exam(s) to [maprice@saintolaves.net](mailto:maprice@saintolaves.net). If this is not available, students should supply a letter from their vocal / instrumental tutor, stating the student's current equivalent level of attainment. The exam itself will involve a 45 minute written test of aural perception and musical theory, following which candidates will be required to complete a questionnaire detailing their performing experience to date. Candidates taking this subject will finish at approximately 12.30pm.

**Physics:**

The Physics examination paper consists of 2 sections. Section A is multiple choice; Section B requires written answers. Students must complete all of the questions in Section A, and **3 in Section B**. There are 5 questions in Section B and the student must choose the 3 questions that will allow them to achieve the highest marks. All of the questions are accessible to students of GCSE Physics or GCSE Combined Science (Higher Tier).

**Religious Studies:**

Short essay style questions will be set about a range of issues that you will be able to answer regardless of which GCSE board's syllabus you are currently studying.