

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

ENGLISH ENTRANCE ASSESSMENT EXPLAINED

The Christ's Hospital entrance assessment will take place in two stages this year, as in previous years. Outlined below is a summary of the composition of the English Initial and Residential Assessments:

Initial Assessment November

Duration of assessment: **45 minutes**

SECTION A **SINGLE WORD READING COMPREHENSION**

This section is multiple choice and will involve pupils reading a number of passages in which words have been omitted. Candidates will be asked to provide the most likely word to fill each gap from a choice of five possible options. This section tests reading skill throughout an array of different fictional and non-fictional registers and has some focus also on candidates' ability to select correct spellings. This section lasts 20 minutes.

SECTION B **COMPOSITION**

Candidates will be asked to finish a piece of writing which the examiner has begun for them. Assessment will focus on both the originality and flair of their response and the technical accuracy of their writing. A portion of the marks will focus particularly on spelling, punctuation and grammar. No prior knowledge will be required for this section other than the work normally conducted within the national literacy framework. This section lasts 25 minutes.

Residential Assessment January

Duration of assessment: **65 minutes (final five minutes for checking work)**

SECTION A **READING COMPREHENSION**

This section will demand a series of progressively lengthier questions involving a range of reading skills from extraction of information, interpretative skills, comments on facets of the writer's choice of language and empathic responses to the source material. The passage will to be comprehended but will be prose, fiction or non-fiction but demanding no prior knowledge of the subject matter. This section lasts 30 minutes.

SECTION B **COMPOSITION**

This section will offer a choice of tasks, both fictional and descriptive non-fictional. Candidates will be marked for the originality and flair of their responses and the technical accuracy of their writing. A portion of the marks will focus specifically upon candidates' spelling, punctuation and grammar. As with the composition section of the Initial Assessment, no prior preparation will be required on this section other than that encountered within the national literacy framework. This section will last 30 minutes with an additional five minutes of checking/proof-reading time.

JRJ Herbert Head of English