Ripon Grammar School

Information about English Assessment for 13+ (Year 9) Entry September 2027

About the paper:

- Students will have 1 hour 15 minutes to complete the paper.
- The paper will test reading and writing.
- Section A of the paper will test students' reading ability and students will be advised to spend 45 minutes responding to this section.
- Section B of the paper will test students' writing ability and it is advised that students spend the remaining 30 minutes of the assessment on this section of the paper.
- There will be a total of 25 marks available in each section (making a total of 50 marks available on the whole paper).

What will be assessed:

Reading:

- Students will be presented with an unseen extract from a novel. Typically the extract will cover one side of A4. This extract will change each year.
- A range of questions will be set on this extract and students will be expected to answer all questions in as much detail as possible. It will be important that students manage their time well and pay attention to the number of marks available for each question.
- Questions will test students' understanding of the text (including different layers of meaning, where appropriate) and their ability to analyse the ways in which the writer has created meaning in the text (for example, through the use of language, imagery or narrative structure).
- Students will be expected to select and integrate apt supporting detail (quotation) to support their interpretations. The quality, clarity and depth of their explanation will also be rewarded and the accurate and effective use of subject specific critical terminology will also gain credit.

Writing:

- Students will be given a choice of two tasks to choose from; they must select and answer on one of these tasks.
- One task will have a narrative or descriptive focus, the other will have a persuasive or argumentative focus.
- Students should pay careful attention to the specific audience and purpose of the text that they are asked to write and should adapt their style accordingly.

- Responses will be assessed for: ○ how effectively the style adopted matches the given purpose and audience of the task; ○ how effectively the text is structured (including the use of paragraphs, overall textual cohesion, effective openings and endings etc.);
    - the variety and creativity demonstrated in the use of language, including the breadth and sophistication of the vocabulary employed;
    - the technical accuracy of the writing, including accurate spelling, punctuation, grammar and sentence structure.