OUNDLE
School

13+ Academic Scholarship Information
September 2026 Entry

Our Academic Scholarship assessments will take place from Thursday 26 to Saturday 28 February 2026. Our aim is to inspire and challenge the intellect of hopeful Academic Scholars across a broad range of subjects: we are also mindful of getting the balance right. Our assessment takes place Thursday to Saturday rather than Tuesday to Friday in order to minimise the time away from current schools. The longest assessment paper will last 90 minutes rather than 2 hours: pupils will sit the same range of subjects and take part in complementary activities. The activities planned include a discussion colloquium session, debating, computing without a screen, learning about the classical world and as some light relief a fun swim. They will stay in boarding Houses for two nights, giving them a valuable taste of life at Oundle.

While we are looking for sound performance in the papers below, we also very much welcome candidates with lively general knowledge, which we regard as a useful indicator of scholarship potential.

Candidates will sit the following papers:

- Mathematics I (1 hour)
- Mathematics II (1 hour)
- English (90 minutes)
- French or Spanish* (90 minutes)
- Science (90 minutes)
- General Paper (90 minutes). This could be either History, Geography or Theology, Philosophy and Religion.
- Latin (90 minutes) *Candidates from schools where Latin is not taught will be exempted from this paper.*

There are further optional papers in Greek, German or Spanish/French of 1 hour.

**With regard to Modern Foreign Languages, the main paper can either be French or Spanish, with the second language offered in the optional papers.*

Mathematics Papers: Questions will assume only topics from the Common Entrance and the Common Scholarship syllabuses. However, candidates are expected to adapt and extend algebraic and other methods already covered, and to be familiar with numbers in standard form. Calculators are not allowed.

English Paper: Questions will include a comprehension and an imaginative composition.

General Paper: Candidates will be given all three papers and will have five minutes before the examination begins to choose one subject from History; Geography and Theology, Philosophy and Religion (TPR). The questions are designed to test intellectual curiosity and the ability to think independently.

French Paper (either as main or optional): There will be four sections, each worth 25%. These are:

- A reading comprehension with questions and answers required in English and/or French
- A guided composition
- A grammar gap-fill activity
- A 10 minute conversation, most of which will be in French

Spanish Paper (either as main or optional): There will be four sections, each worth 25%. These are:

- A reading comprehension with questions and answers required in English and/or Spanish
- A gap-fill exercise testing knowledge of verbs and grammar
- A GCSE-style writing task
- A 10-minute conversation, most of which will be in Spanish

Science Paper: This will have sections on Biology, Chemistry and Physics, with equal weighting for each science discipline. The paper will cover KS3/CE content and will include questions that test a pupil's ability to not only recall information but also to interpret and apply their knowledge. Graphing skills may be included and calculators are allowed. Pupils will also have the opportunity to complete practical work as part of an activity session, where their knowledge of the collation, presentation and interpretation of data will be assessed.

Latin Paper: This paper is 90 minutes long. Section A will comprise of an Unseen Comprehension passage [40 marks] including questions on content, derivations and grammar. Section B will comprise of an Unseen translation [30 marks], English into Latin Sentences [10 marks] and a short passage of Latin Verse with comprehension question on content, grammar and literary style. Considerable vocabulary help is provided for all sections of the paper.

Optional Greek Paper: This paper is 60 minutes long. Section A consists of 10 Greek to English sentences [50 marks], Section B of 6 English into Greek Sentences [30 marks], Section C is an Unseen Translation passage and Section D asks about 10 Greek-derived words in English and asks candidates to explain the link between the Greek and meaning of the English word. Vocabulary assistance is provided for all sections of this paper.

Other Optional Papers - German or Spanish/French *(60 minutes):* We would like to encourage more candidates for these subjects. Please note that a sound performance counts positively and a weak performance is not a handicap.

Where candidates are entitled to extra time, this is given in the first Maths paper and the English paper: please do ensure this is flagged with us in advance. Candidates should rest assured that educational support needs are always taken fully into account across all subjects and when decisions are made.

Scott Jessop
Head of Life of Learning

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