



COMMON ENTRANCE 2025

Please note that whilst Common Entrance, particularly the core subjects, is very helpful for our setting purposes, it is no longer essential for all boys to sit CE. If a boy has not been prepared for CE, then his school should send us the paper, mark scheme, script and results from their alternative exams, whether Pre-Senior Baccalaureate or internal examinations.

Head's reports remain crucial in Year 8 and these should be sent to admissions@radley.org.uk by Monday 12th May 2025.

FOR SCHOOLS WHO PREPARE THEIR PUPILS FOR CE: CE is for setting purposes only. Maths, English, Science and ideally a Modern Foreign Language (French, Spanish or German) are the most important; papers should be sent to Radley for marking as normal. Naturally, if your school prepares boys for CE across the wider curriculum, we remain happy to also mark papers for Geography, History, TPR, Latin and Greek.

HOW RADLEY WILL SET THE NEW BOYS: We will review the CE marks alongside results of other exams sat by the cohort and set accordingly. Our dons will have several opportunities to review the Shells' sets during the Michaelmas Term, as well as after our Michaelmas Term Shell exams in December.

A guide to the CE Levels a candidate should sit in order to be setted appropriately is given below:

Mathematics: We expect the majority of candidates to opt for both Core Papers and strongest candidates to sit the Additional Paper. We attempt our norm referencing in such a way as to favour those candidates who have stretched themselves with the more demanding syllabus.

English: Candidates should sit Core Level Reading and the Writing paper. Candidates who have read and studied widely, and can show an enthusiastic engagement with language, are likely to do well. The command of secure sentence structures and punctuation is a requirement for any candidate hoping to be in a high set.

Science: We expect all boys to sit Core Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Latin: Candidates would ideally sit Level 3 to have the best chance of being in a top set. We do, however, welcome candidates who would like to sit Level 2 or, indeed, Level 1 if a candidate has only studied Latin for a year. In cases where able linguists have not had a chance to study Latin, the opportunity will be available to start the language from scratch on arrival at Radley. If there are any queries, please contact, Fergus Taylor, Head of Classics, fet.taylor@radley.org.uk.

Greek: Candidates who have studied Greek for only one year would do well to enter Level 1. For those with greater experience, Level 2 is likely to be appropriate. Please contact the Head of Classics with any queries (see above).

French: Any candidate who has studied French for at least two years should sit Level 2 in Speaking, Listening, Reading/Writing. To be in a top set, we are looking for an understanding of the target language and a degree of confidence in its usage rather than material learnt by heart and used indiscriminately. Candidates with no exposure to French before they come to Radley have the opportunity of starting French with us as beginners.

German and Spanish: The syllabus in German and Spanish is ab initio in the Shells with the aim of providing a good foundation for a 2-year IGSE course. Naturally, if a boy has studied one or both of these languages for two years, we would be happy to see the relevant CE papers and he will be setted and taught appropriately.

October 2024