



WESTMINSTER  
SCHOOL

**The Challenge**  
Specialism Paper

**HUMANITIES**

**Syllabus and Guidance**

First Examination 2027

## **Introduction**

The humanities paper is designed to assess candidates' ability to understand, appraise and evaluate different aspects of human culture with reference to Theology, Philosophy, History and Geography. The paper will typically be organised around a theme (see exemplar paper on the Enlightenment). Candidates will be credited for creative engagement with the material covered in the paper, and the ability to create and support arguments on questions of value. No prior knowledge is required. You will be given two booklets. One for sections A and B and a second for your essay in Section C. The paper is one hour in length and candidates are encouraged to apportion their time carefully to the different sections.

## **Section A**

The first section tests the ability to read and understand written sources. This may be in the form of short-answer or multiple-choice questions. Each question will typically be worth between 1–3 marks. This section is worth 10 marks and there is no choice in questions.

## **Section B**

This section tests the capacity to understand, apply, compare and explain complex ideas from sources materials. Each question will typically be worth between 5–10 marks. This section is worth 15 marks in total and there is no choice in questions.

## **Section C**

This section tests skill and creativity when justifying arguments in favour of and against a given proposition, and forming an argument with clear reasons in support. Candidates will need to weigh the relative value of arguments and evidence that support their own and others' arguments. Specifically, candidates will be required to produce a single essay chosen from a selection covering the core subjects of Theology, Philosophy, History and Geography. No specific knowledge is required, though evidence drawn from prior learning in these and other fields will prove useful. There will be a choice of essay questions. This section is worth 25 marks.

## **Extra information for candidates:**

You are encouraged to avoid over-reliance on following a rigid formula when answering the essay question. You will be rewarded for creative and coherent arguments. The most important consideration is your ability to write clearly and fluently, explaining and evaluating arguments before advancing and supporting an argument of your own.