

## University of Cambridge Admissions Assessments

### Why must you take an admissions test?

Most applicants are now required to take a subject-specific written admissions assessment, either pre-interview or at interview. This is to provide Admissions Tutors with valuable additional evidence of your academic abilities, knowledge base and potential to succeed on the Cambridge course for which you apply. The subject-specific written assessments are designed to supplement the information in your application. The assessments aren't pass/fail tests – your performance in any required written assessment won't be considered in isolation, but taken into account alongside the other elements of your application.

For some of our courses you may also be asked to submit one or two examples of your written work. This should be a piece you have completed for a relevant A Level/IB (or equivalent) course and should be submitted to, and marked by, your teachers. If you're asked to send in some work, we recommend that you submit work that you'd be happy discussing during an interview, as this may form a part of it. It's a good idea to make a photocopy before submitting it so you can re-read it before your interview.

### What are the admissions tests?

You will sit the written assessment pre-interview or at-interview (if interviewed). Pre-interview assessments usually take place in November each year. You will normally sit the assessment at your school or college but if this is not possible you can search for an open centre.

For those courses that require a pre-interview assessment, you must be registered no later than **15 October** of the year you are making your application. Details of arrangements for at-interview assessments will be provided with the invitation to interview.

If you are attending an overseas interview, please note that some assessments may take place after the overseas interviews. In this situation, written assessments will still be considered by the Cambridge College along with the overseas interview report.

The format of the test will vary depending on the course you have applied to and will be relevant to assess the skills you need for that particular course. These tests are used to gauge your abilities - to assess skills (such as comprehension and thinking skills) and, where appropriate, levels of current knowledge and understanding relevant to the course applied for.

They could be in the form of an essay/text response, a maths-based problem, translation exercise or a number of other formats. The table on the following page should provide more guidance as to what you can expect, but as these tests may be subject to change, we recommend that you refer to the course webpage for up to date information.

**No advance preparation is needed, other than revision of relevant recent subject knowledge where appropriate. Further details including assessment specifications, sample papers and whether any Colleges typically require submitted work, can be found in the Entry Requirements tab on each individual course webpage.**

| Pre-Interview Assessment  |   | At-interview Assessment  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| Subject   | Format  | Subject  | Format  |
| <b>Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic</b>   | Comprehension (60 minutes)<br>Essay/text response (60 minutes)  | <b>Archaeology</b>   | Essay/text response (60 minutes)  |
| <b>Asian and Middle Eastern Studies</b>                                       | Comprehension (60 minutes)<br>Essay/text response (60 minutes)  | <b>Architecture</b>  | Writing skills (30 minutes)<br>Graphic and spatial ability (30 minutes)   |
| <b>Economics</b>  | Problem-solving/maths MCQs (80 minutes)<br>Essay/text response (40 minutes)                             | <b>Classics (3-year)</b>                                       | Translation exercise (60 minutes)   |
| <b>Engineering (including Chemical Engineering via Engineering)</b>           | Maths/physics MCQs (80 minutes)<br>Engineering specific questions (40 minutes)                          | <b>Classics (4-year)</b>                                       | Language aptitude interview (20 minutes)  |
| <b>English</b>  | ELAT (90 minutes)   | <b>Computer Science</b>  | Maths-based problems (100 minutes)  |
| <b>Geography</b>  | TSA (40 minutes)<br>Comprehension (40 minutes)<br>Data response (40 minutes)                            | <b>Education</b>   | Critical response to text or other stimulus (60 minutes)  |
| <b>History (including joint courses)</b>                                      | Comprehension (60 minutes)<br>Essay/text response (60 minutes)  | <b>History of Art</b>  | Structured comparison of images (60 minutes)  |
| <b>Human, Social, and Political Sciences</b>                                  | Comprehension (60 minutes)<br>Essay/text response (60 minutes)  | <b>Law</b>   | Cambridge Law Test (comprehensive version; 60 minutes)  |
| <b>Land Economy</b>   | TSA (Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; 90 minutes)   | <b>Linguistics</b>   | Structured analysis of language data (20 minutes)<br>Analysis of quantitative data (20 minutes)<br>Short essay (20 minutes) |
| <b>Medicine and Veterinary Medicine</b>                                       | BMAT  | <b>Modern and Medieval Languages (including joint courses)</b> | Discursive response in Foreign Language (40 minutes)<br>Discursive response in English (20 minutes)                         |
| <b>Natural Sciences (including Chemical Engineering via Natural Sciences)</b> | Maths/science MCQs (80 minutes)<br>In-depth science questions (40 minutes)                              | <b>Philosophy</b>  | Multiple choice logic problems (20 minutes)<br>Essay (40 minutes)   |
| <b>Psychological and Behavioural Sciences</b>                                 | TSA (40 minutes)<br>Comprehension or maths/biology MCQ (40 minutes)<br>Essay/text response (40 minutes) | <b>Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion</b>          | Comprehension (60 minutes)<br>Essay/text response element (60 minutes)  |

**TSA** = Thinking Skills Assessment. **MCQ** = Multiple Choice Questions

Please note there is no common format written assessment for Mathematics (applicants will continue to sit STEP alongside A Levels) or Music, but Colleges will assess aptitude, knowledge base and potential through short tasks at the time of interview. Applicants to History and Modern Languages, and applicants wishing to combine Asian and Middle Eastern Studies with a European language, will sit assessments pre- and at-interview. Alternative arrangements are in place for some mature (21+) applicants.

## Contact

More information about the admissions assessments can be found on the website

[www.cam.ac.uk/assessment](http://www.cam.ac.uk/assessment)

If you have any specific questions regarding the assessments please email

[assessment@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:assessment@admin.cam.ac.uk)