

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

If you have any specific questions regarding the assessments please email

assessment@admin.cam.ac.uk