

Admissions Tests

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Why use admissions tests?

- Differentiate between well qualified applicants who may have achieved or can be expected to achieve the highest possible grades in their examinations
- A common set of data with which to compare applicants
- Reduces the need to rely solely on predicted grades
- Can help concentrate interview resources on those most likely to achieve an offer
- Assess the aptitude and potential of applicants



Types of test

Skills tested

- Application of current/ past study
- Response to new material
- Interpretation of data or argument
- Critical thinking
- Logical problem solving
- Comprehension
- Essay writing
- Attention to detail

Method

- Multiple choice
- Short answer questions
- Essays



Example: BMAT

Some blood is found at a crime scene. The police know that it belongs to one criminal involved. A person's red blood cells can have type A antigens, type B antigens, both types or neither type. In a population:

45% of people have type A antigens but not type B

9% of people have type B antigens but not type A

43% of people have neither type of antigen

3% of people have both types of antigen

An antibody test shows that there are type B antigens present in the red blood cells at the crime scene.

What is the probability that the criminal's red blood cells have both type A and type B antigens?

A $\frac{3}{100}$

B $\frac{1}{6}$

C $\frac{3}{25}$

D $\frac{1}{4}$

E $\frac{3}{4}$



Which UK Universities and courses require tests?



www.ucas.com/admissions-tests

Course related admissions tests

Law

- Cambridge Law Test
- LNAT – National Admissions Test for Law

Mathematics

- MAT – Mathematics Admissions Test
- Sixth Term Examination Paper
- Test of Mathematics for University Admissions

Medical Courses

- BMAT – Biomedical Admissions Test
- HPAT Ulster – Health Professions Admission Test
- UCAT – Universities Clinical Aptitude Test

Thinking Skills Assessment

- TSA Cambridge
- TSA Oxford
- TSA UCL

University admissions tests

59 universities and colleges require some form of test

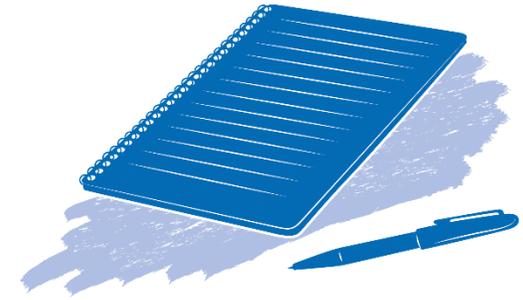
University of Oxford and Cambridge perhaps the most comprehensive use



University of Cambridge pre interview assessments



- Chemical Engineering
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Engineering
- English (ELAT)
- Land Economy
- Medicine (BMAT)
- Natural Sciences
- Veterinary Medicine

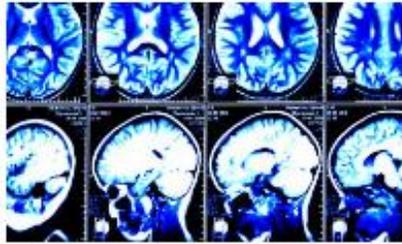


For 2021 all colleges require applicants for the following courses to take an at interview written assessment: Archaeology, Architecture, Classics, History and Modern Languages, History of Art, Law, Linguistics, Languages, Philosophy, Theology

Some Colleges may require applicants to take an at-interview assessment: Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, AMES, Education, Geography, History, History and Politics, HSPS, Mathematics, Music, PBS



University of Oxford tests



BMAT (Biomedical Admissions Test)



CAT (Classics Admissions Test)



ELAT (English Literature Admissions Test)



GAT (Geography Admissions Test)



HAT (History Aptitude Test)



LNAT (National Admissions Test for Law)



MAT (Mathematics Admissions Test)



MLAT (Modern Languages Admissions Test)



OLAT (Oriental Languages Aptitude Test)



PAT (Physics Aptitude Test)



Philosophy Test (for Philosophy and Theology only)



TSA (Thinking Skills Assessment)



Example: TSA

Ever since Uranus was discovered in 1781, astronomers have thought there might be more planets to be discovered in the Solar System. Because of small deviations in the orbits of Uranus and Neptune - deviations which would occur if another planet existed - some astronomers think there must be an undiscovered planet - Planet X. But the search for Planet X is futile, because these deviations would occur if the orbits had been wrongly predicted. Since Uranus and Neptune take many decades to circle the sun, astronomers must rely on old data in order to calculate their orbits. If this data is inaccurate, the calculated orbits are wrong. If the calculated orbits are wrong, Uranus and Neptune will deviate from them even if there is no Planet X.

Which of the following is the best statement of the flaw in the argument above?

- A. From the fact that the old data is inaccurate, it cannot be inferred that the calculated orbits are wrong.
 - B. From the fact that the data about the orbits is old it cannot be inferred that it is inaccurate.
 - C. From the fact that deviations occur which would occur if Planet X existed, it cannot be inferred that Planet X exists.
 - D. From the fact that the calculated orbits are wrong, it cannot be inferred that Uranus and Neptune will deviate from them.
 - E. From the fact that Planet X has not been discovered, it cannot be inferred that the search for it is futile.
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Logistics and Registration

- Both UCAS and the University websites inform students which tests they will need to sit
- It is a student's responsibility to ensure they are registered for tests and deadlines for this may vary
- Students may be required to take more than one test
- 2 step process
 - Step 1: Find a test centre
 - Step 2: Student must be registered at that test centre



WARNING



If applicants don't take the admissions test for their course, either because they didn't register for it or didn't attend on the test day, then their application will be significantly affected.



Step 1: Register as a test centre – by Sept



www.admissionstesting.org/administering-our-tests/become-a-test-centre



[Home](#) [For test-takers](#) [For institutions](#) [Administering our tests](#)

Home > Administering our t... > Become a test centre

Become a test centre

Administering our tests

- Become a test centre**
- Test information
- Dates and costs
- Register test-takers
- Help test-takers to prepare
- Running our tests
- How to access results
- Useful documents



Become a test centre

Test-takers sit our admissions tests at approved Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing centres. If you are an Exams Officer and wish to become an approved centre, please read the information below.

What does it mean to be an Admissions Testing centre?

If you are approved as a centre, you will:

- register test-takers for our tests* within the booking window;
- collect registration fees from test-takers (please see the [Fees](#) section below);
- run our tests at your venue on the scheduled dates and at the scheduled times under secure

Find out more

Do you need more information about our tests?

[Contact us](#)

Admissions tests 2019

This [information for](#)



Step 2: Students MUST be registered at that test centre



- Deadlines for registration vary by course and university, check websites carefully. For example:
 - UCAT – deadline tba for 2021 entry
 - BMAT – Multiple sittings throughout the year so check each institution
 - LNAT – deadline varies from 15 September for Oxford to 15th January for many other universities
 - Oxford and Cambridge tests – deadline 15 October
 - Tests take place in autumn before entry

****Be aware test centres may fill up before the deadline****



Preparation

Check university and course websites

Science and some language tests – require a level of knowledge and therefore revision is helpful

Humanities (English, History, language) – Practice of similar exercises is helpful

PRACTICE!

Specimen and past papers available for most tests. Gives students a chance to:

- Familiarise with the test content, level and format

- Understand the different kinds of questions they may be asked

- Test themselves under timed conditions

- Review answers and strategies



Results and use in admissions

Delivery of **marks** varies by subject

Don't expect top marks – pass mark depends on the cohort

Used alongside **all other information** to decide who should be interviewed

