

# ADMISSIONS TESTING - A LOOK INSIDE UAT-UK AND WHAT'S CHANGING FOR 2027

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# Welcome

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# About UAT-UK and our Tests





# About UAT-UK

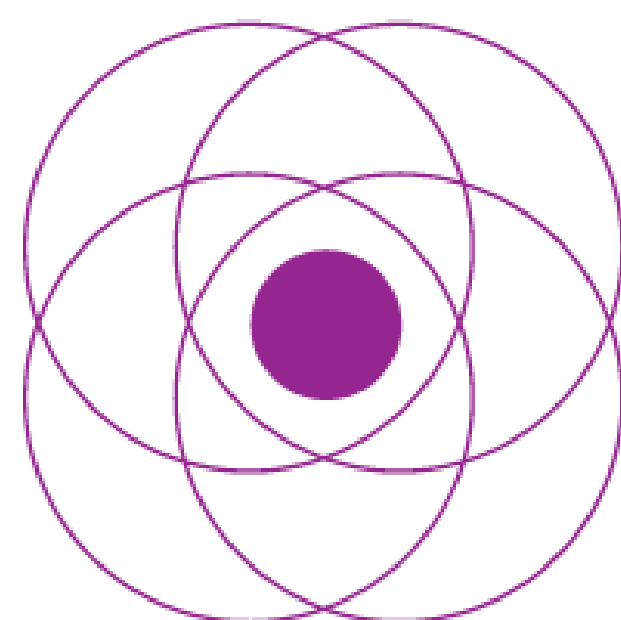
- UAT-UK is a Joint Venture established by Imperial College London and the University of Cambridge.
- Our admissions tests will be used by seven UK universities in their undergraduate admissions processes for 2027 entry.
- The courses that will use these tests typically receive applications from very large numbers of students who have, or are predicted to achieve, the highest grades. As such, our tests are designed to be difficult and differentiate the top students globally.
- Tests are administered by Pearson VUE, via their global network of test centres.

# Our Tests

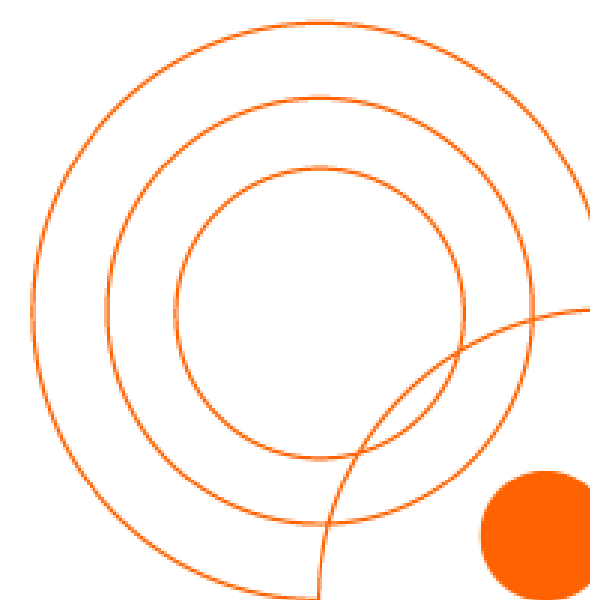
- UAT-UK has offers three admissions tests:



**The Test of  
Mathematics for  
University Admission  
(TMUA)**



**The Engineering and  
Science Admissions  
Test (ESAT)**



**The Test of Academic  
Reasoning for  
Admissions (TARA)**

# TMUA

- It tests mathematical thinking and reasoning skills.
- It lasts 2 hours 30 minutes in total.
- It is divided into two separately timed, subtests (75 minutes each):
  - Applications of Mathematical Knowledge, which assesses an applicant's ability to apply their knowledge of mathematics in new situations.
  - Mathematical Reasoning, which assesses their ability to deal with mathematical reasoning, and simple ideas from elementary logic.

# Use of TMUA in the sector

- The TMUA is currently used by the universities shown for selection to some courses in Mathematics, Economics and Computer Science.
- For 2027 entry, the University of Oxford will use the TMUA.
- The TMUA will also be used for applications to Mathematics at the University of Cambridge



# ESAT

- The ESAT tests mathematical and science thinking, along with reasoning skills.
- Most candidates will take 3 assessments, lasting 40 minutes each or 120 minutes in total.
- Mathematics 1 is a compulsory module for all candidates.
- In most cases, candidates will be required to complete two additional assessments from the following:
  - Biology
  - Chemistry
  - Physics
  - Mathematics 2

# Use of ESAT in the sector

- The ESAT is currently used by Imperial College London and the University of Cambridge for entry onto selected courses in Engineering, Physics, Natural Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine
- For 2027 entry, the University of Oxford will use the ESAT.
- The ESAT will also be used for applications to the Department of Life Sciences at Imperial



# TARA

- The TARA tests critical thinking, problem solving and writing skills.
- The critical thinking and problem solving parts are individual multiple-choice assessments lasting 40 minutes each.
- The writing task asks a candidate to complete one task from a choice of three short prompts, with answers limited to 750 words in 40 minutes.
- The test parts are sat back-to-back, with the total test lasting 120 minutes (2 hours).
- The critical thinking and problem solving parts are marked and reported on a 1 to 9 scale, with the writing task forwarded to institutions for their use and not marked by UAT-UK.

# Use of TARA in the sector

- For 2027 entry, the TARA will be used by UCL and the University of Cambridge



# All Tests

- The UAT–UK tests are all computer–based tests taken in Pearson Test Centres.
- With the exception of the Writing Task in TARA, our tests are multiple choice.
- Scores are released to candidates via their account approximately four weeks after testing.
- Scores are awarded on a scale of 1.0–9.0. A Rasch Scaling method is applied. This allows direct comparison of applicants by institutions.
- Each test can only be taken **once per admissions cycle**.



# Test Administration

Common arrangements across all UAT-UK tests



# Testing Windows

- The TMUA, ESAT and TARA have two testing windows for 2027 entry.
  - October Sitting

Applicants with a University of Cambridge or University of Oxford choice **MUST** take the relevant test in this sitting.
  - January Sitting
- These windows reflect the current UCAS equal consideration dates.
- Each test will run over a number of days. The exact dates will be published on the UAT-UK website in early April.

# Test Centres

- Tests will be taken at a local Pearson VUE test centre, rather than in schools and colleges.
- Applicants can choose from centres in more than 5,500 locations in over 180 countries.
- Full list of test centre availability will be released when registration goes live.
- There is a generic test centre locator on our Pearson landing page, <https://home.pearsonvue.com/uatuk>.

# Test Registration

- Candidates will need to create a UAT-UK account to register for the test. New candidates can do so from our [‘How to Register and Book’ webpage](#)
- **Candidates should do this before test booking opens**
- Once candidate’s have an account, their dashboard will be where they go for all of the following:
  - Booking, cancelling or rescheduling a test
  - Asking a question
  - Applying for a bursary or access arrangements
  - Reporting illness or making a request for special consideration
  - Accessing results
- Test booking will open approximately 10 weeks before the test date, and close approximately 2 weeks before the test date.

# Test Cost

- There is an entry fee for the TMUA, ESAT and TARA. For 2026 entry the fees were as follows:
  - Tests taken in the UK and the Republic of Ireland – £75
  - Tests taken outside the UK – £130
- The test fee will be reviewed annually by UAT-UK.
- There is no additional test centre fee.
- The test fee is payable at the time of booking by major debit/credit cards, or by bursary voucher.
- A bursary scheme is available to eligible UK candidates.

# UAT-UK Bursary Scheme

- Our bursaries, awarded to UK candidates in financial need, cover the full test fee.
- The applicant, or their parent/guardian, will need to meet the criteria set out (next slide) and provide the relevant documentary evidence.
- Bursary applications open ahead of test bookings (normally early June).
- Candidates must wait until they are approved for a bursary **before** booking a test. We cannot reimburse a candidate for a booking.

# Bursary eligibility criteria

- The candidate is in receipt of:
  - Free School Meals
  - 16-19 Bursary / EMA
- The candidate, or parent/guardian, living at the same address is in receipt of:
  - Universal credit
  - Working Tax Credit
  - Child Tax Credit
  - Income support, Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
  - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
  - The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

# Access Arrangements

- Access arrangements are available if applicants have a learning difficulty, a physical or mental disability, sensory impairment or other medical condition that might otherwise impact their ability to sit the test.
- There is also a list of 'Permitted Comfort Aids' for items that can be taken into the test centre without approval. If candidates need access to anything that is not included on this list, they should also notify us.
- Requests for access arrangements open ahead of test bookings (normally early June). Separate deadlines apply for access arrangement requests.

# Access Arrangements

- Candidates must wait until they are approved for access arrangements **before** booking a test. If a candidate has an application awaiting review, they will not be able to book a test. We cannot add access arrangements to existing bookings.
- Candidates with extra time or rest breaks (only) will be able to book online as usual. Candidates needing other adjustments, such as separate rooms, or a reader/recorder, will be contacted by Pearson to make a booking over the phone.



How can you support students in preparing for the test?



# Preparing for the tests

- The tests use content that students will have already learned in their school studies.
- The tests are based on material from GCSE mathematics and science qualifications.
- Only ESAT Mathematics 2 and TMUA include material from AS mathematics qualifications.
- There is **no need** to take a preparation course or prepare beyond revising what they have already learned.
- UAT-UK **do not** recommend or endorse any commercial preparation materials.

# Preparing for the tests

- We do recommend candidates familiarise themselves with the test format and style of questions.
- Full test specifications and extensive question guides are available on the UAT-UK website.
- There are two practice tests available for each of our tests, one with explained answers and one without: <https://home.pearsonvue.com/uatuk>.
- The practice tests are published using the same Pearson test software. Candidates will use this software on their test day. We would encourage all candidates to test the functionality – moving back and forth to the review screen for instance.

# Test Day

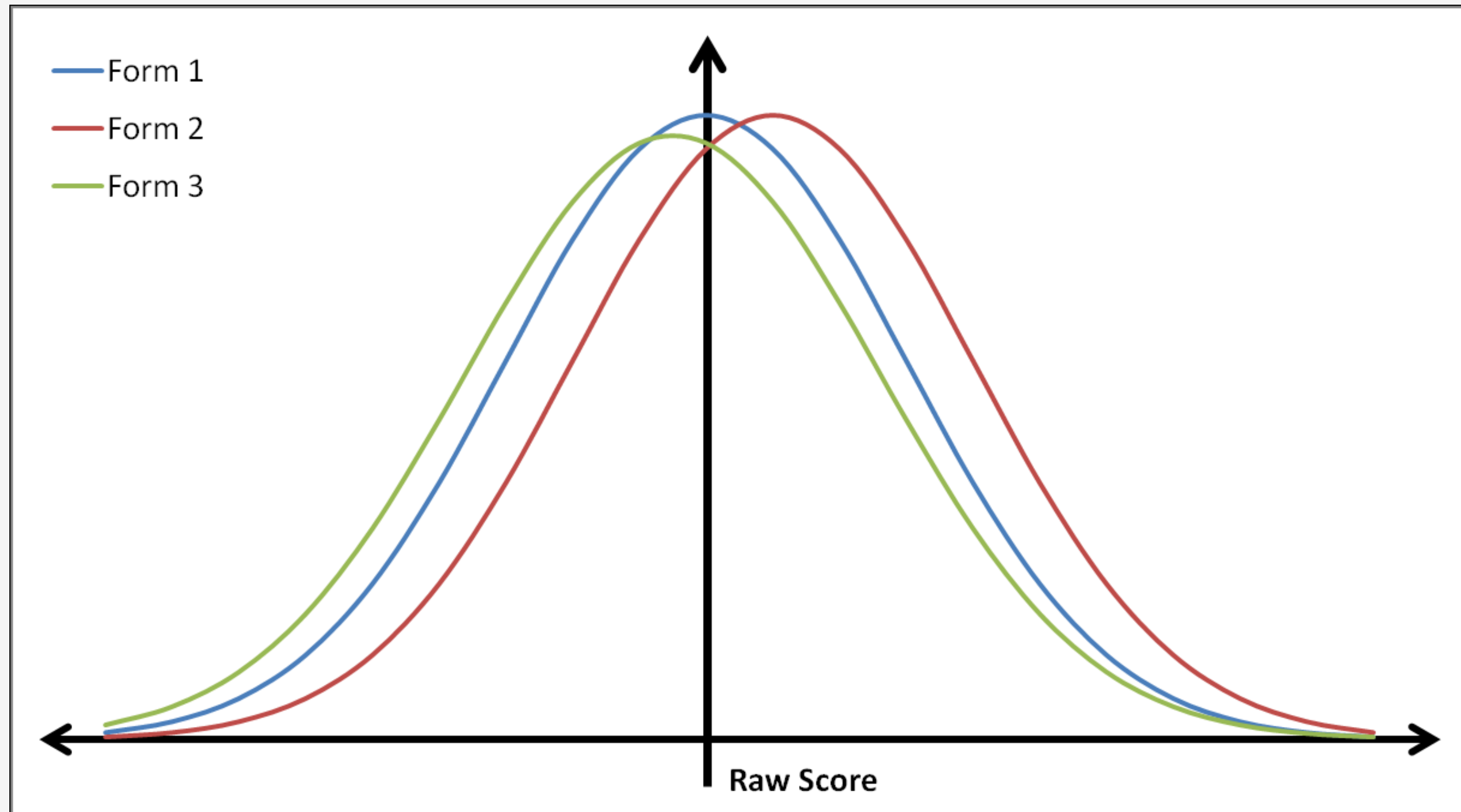
- Candidates must present photographic ID which is unexpired. It must include a signature and cannot be a copy or photograph.
- ID exemptions can be applied but we must know at least five days in advance of the test. Please encourage students to check they can meet the ID requirements.
- Candidates should report any issues or problems at the Test Centre. This allows for a report to be filed and access by UAT-UK.
- Plan travel accordingly – candidates arriving more than 15 minutes late will be turned away.
- Candidates unable to attend because of illness should apply for special consideration via their account.

**IMPERIAL**

Understanding results of  
**TMUA & ESAT**

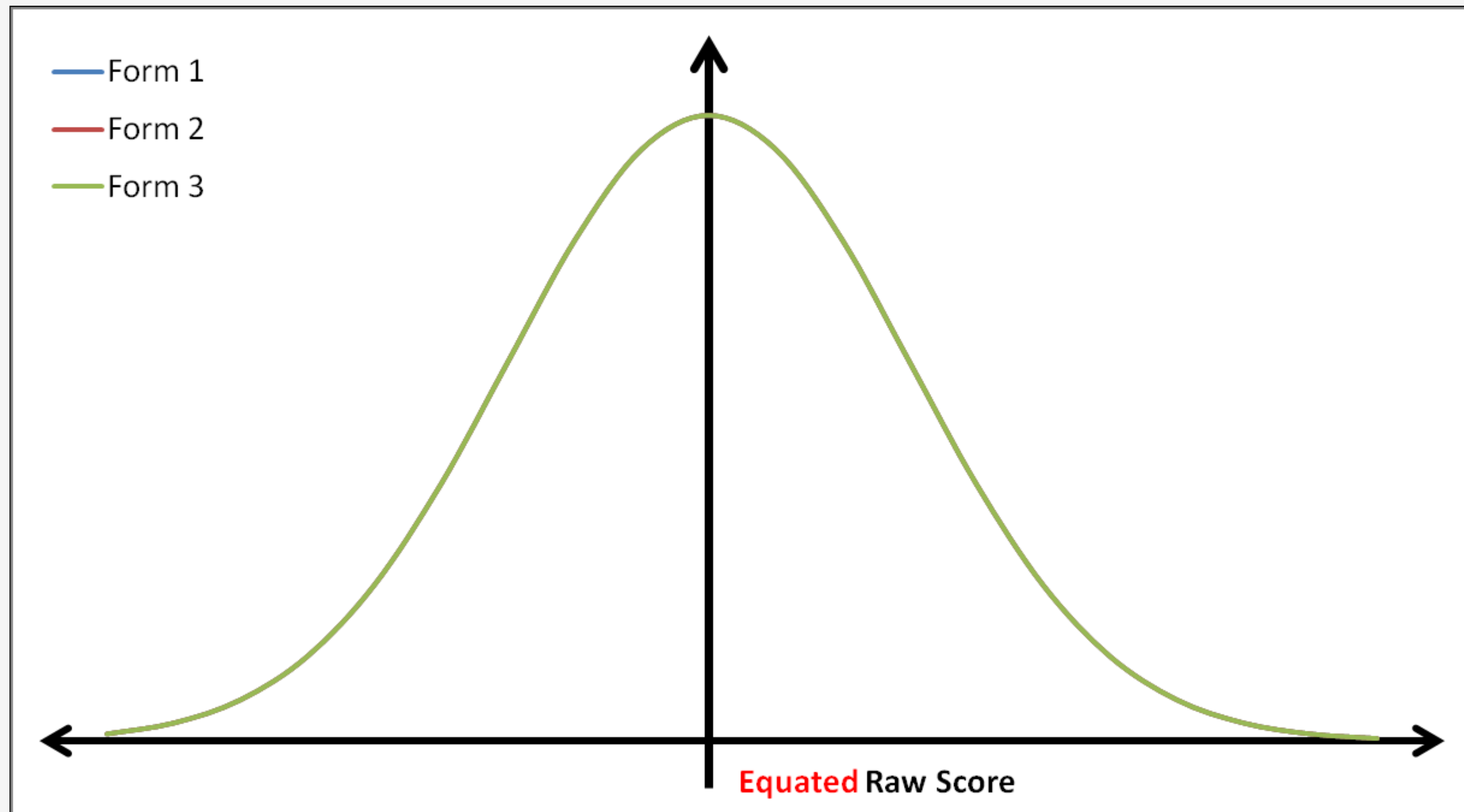
# Understanding the results

## Raw score distributions on the different forms



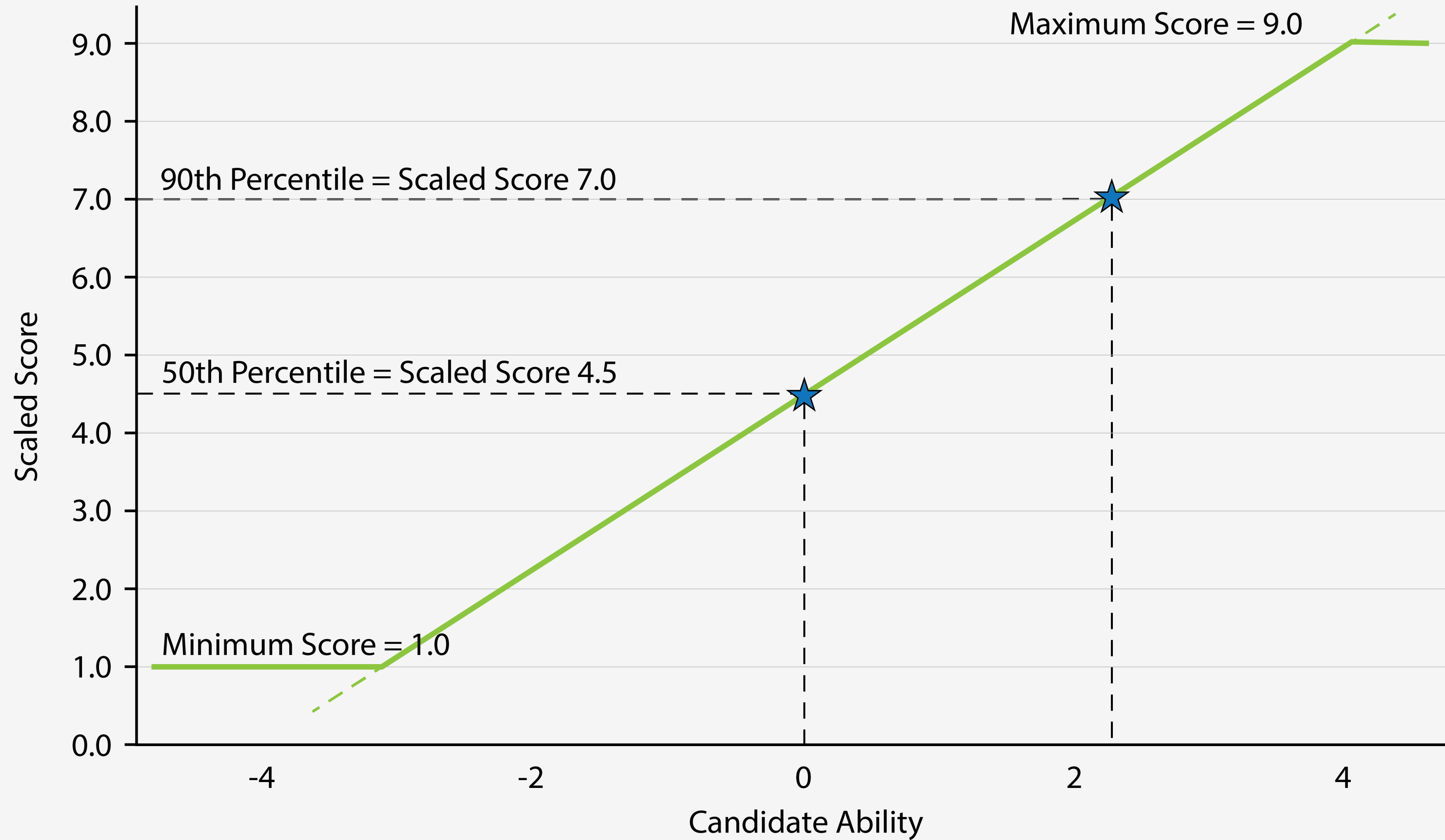
# Understanding the results

## Ideal scaled score distribution



# Understanding the results

## Score scaling



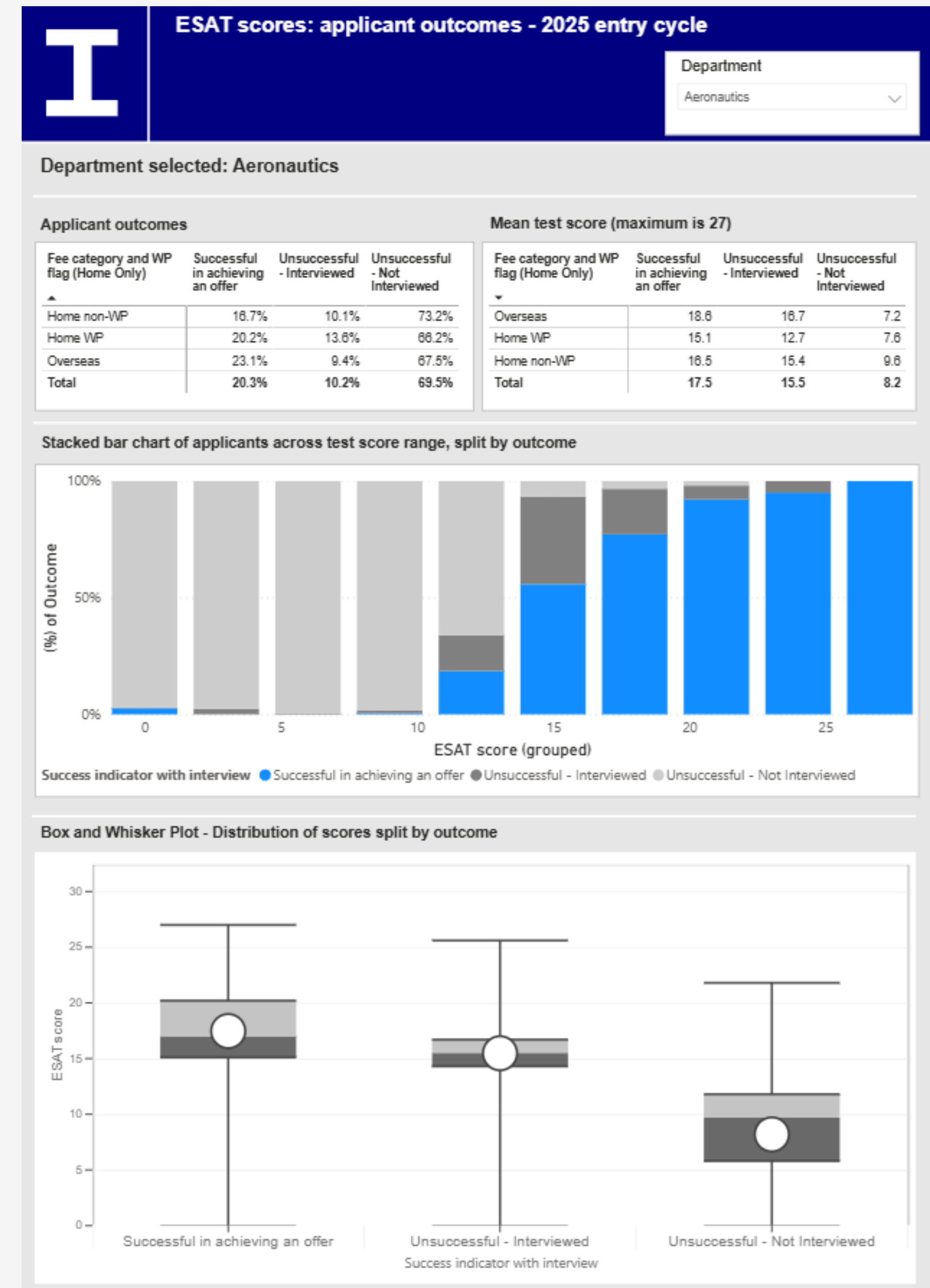
# Understanding the results

## Historic Data

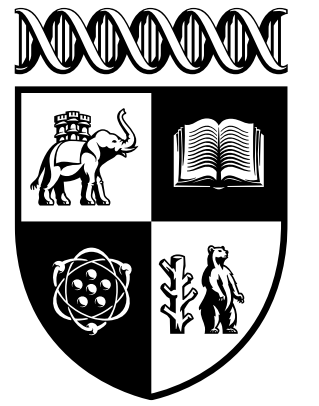
Anonymous test score data from our 2025 entry cycle for each of our departments is available on an [interactive dashboard](#).

The dashboard can be used to explore results by department to learn more about the range of scores previous applicants achieved for the ESAT or TMUA.

**Please note that this is historic data.** Admissions test scores, score distributions, and offer outcomes can vary from year to year, and the scores shown here should not be taken as indicative of requirements or outcomes for the current or future admissions cycles.



# Warwick



- Goal: Fair, robust, informed admissions decisions
  - Manageable process
- Challenge – excess (and increasing) demand in specific subject areas
  - Predicted grades insufficient to distinguish candidates
  - Existing measures had disadvantages
- Significant consideration given ahead of adopting the test
  - Robustness
  - Equality of opportunity / WP
  - Extenuating circumstances
- How it's used varies by department (as department needs/demand varies) aligns with the overarching goal
- TMUA scores may be assessed alongside other factors (including GCSEs, contextual indicators and predicted grades) to determine which applicants receive an offer.



# Questions & Answers

An opportunity for your questions

