

Commonly Used University Admissions Tests

Many universities require applicants to take admissions tests to help assess a student's aptitude for a particular course. Test results are reviewed to:

- inform whether an offer should be made
- choose whether to invite a student to interview
- decide between two equally ranked applicants following interview

The tests can seem challenging and both the nature of assessment and the grading can be very different, therefore it is important to prepare through accessing the practice tests available on the test websites. Ensure you read the guidance for candidates to understand the test structure and the weightings given to each section by different universities. Also, check the test deadlines as some universities and courses will not accept a student without the relevant test.

Tests sat in school:

The tests listed below are sat in school in early November. You need to complete an entry form in early September for school to register you – these are available from Mrs Humphrey, Sixth Form Examinations Officer:

- **Biomedical Admissions Test - BMAT**

A 2-hour test for students applying for medicine, veterinary medicine, biomedical science and dentistry. There is a charge for the test. The website has specimen and past papers.

- **Engineering Admissions Assessment - ENGAA**

A 2-hour, pre-interview written exam taken by prospective Cambridge Engineering applicants. The test is split into two sections consisting wholly of multiple-choice questions to test how you can apply your maths and physics knowledge. The website has practice tests and preparation

- **English Literature Admissions Test - ELAT**

A pre-interview, 90-minute admissions test for applicants to English courses at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge which is designed to enable applicants to demonstrate their ability in close reading. Candidates write one essay. The website has practice tests and preparation guidance.

- **Mathematics Admissions Test - MAT**

Used by the University of Oxford's undergraduate degree courses in mathematics, computer science and associated joint degrees to test a candidate's mathematical ability. Imperial College London also uses MAT for all its undergraduate mathematics course applicants. The website has practice tests and preparation guidance.

- **Physics Aptitude Test - PAT**

A 2-hour, pre-interview written exam taken by all applicants to the University of Oxford's Engineering, Materials Science and Physics undergraduate degree courses. The test consists of maths and physics questions which are mixed in sequence.

- **Sixth Term Examination Paper - STEP**

A mathematics examination designed to test the ability to study undergraduate mathematics. Universities use it differently in their admissions processes. The test consists of up to 3 paper-based examinations, each lasting 3 hours. Depending on the university, candidates are usually required to sit one or two of the examinations in June. The website has past papers.

- **Thinking Skills Assessment - TSA**

A test designed to help universities identify critical thinking and problem-solving skills. In the UK, there are three different thinking skills tests used by the universities of Cambridge and Oxford and University College London. The tests vary between institutions. The website has past papers.

- **Test of Mathematics for University Admission - TMUA**

Designed to give students the opportunity to demonstrate mathematical thinking and reasoning skills needed for a demanding Mathematics or Mathematics-related course such as Economics and Computer Science at certain universities. In most cases, the test is not compulsory, however a good performance may result in a reduced offer. There is a fee for the test

Tests sat outside school:

The following tests are sat outside school in a Pearson VUE test centre. Candidates complete a 2-step process using their online registration system to first register and then book a test:

- **Law National Aptitude Test - LNAT**

A 135-minute online admissions test for applicants to law. The test is in two parts, with multiple-choice questions and an essay. Students can register from August and the test can be taken at centres across the country during September and October. Check the current dates and fees on the website. The website has sample papers and tips on how to prepare.

- **University Clinical Aptitude Test - UCAT**

An online test used for some medicine and dentistry courses which has been designed to test the mental abilities, attitudes and the professional behaviour required of new doctors and dentists. The test lasts two hours and includes subtests involving verbal reasoning, decision-making, quantitative reasoning, abstract reasoning and situational judgment. Students can choose when to sit the test in July or August. Check the website for fees, practice tests and preparation guidance.

Commonly Used Tests

| University | In school | | | | | | | | Outside school | |
|-------------------|-----------|-------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|------|----------------|------|
| | BMAT | ENGAA | ELAT | MAT | PAT | STEP | TSA | TMUA | LNAT | UCAT |
| Bath | | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Birmingham | | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Brighton & Sussex | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| Bristol | | | | | | ◆ | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Cambridge | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Cardiff | | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Durham | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Edinburgh | | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Exeter | | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Glasgow | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Imperial | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ◆ | | | | |
| King's College | | | | | | ◆ | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Lancaster | ✓ | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Leeds | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| Liverpool | | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| LSE | | | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Manchester | | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Newcastle | | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Nottingham | | | | | | ◆ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Oxford | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Queen Mary | | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Belfast | | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Sheffield | | | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Southampton | | | | | | ◆ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| UCL | ✓ | | | | | ◆ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Warwick | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| York | | | | | | | | | | ✓ |

◆ May be considered in offers but not a requirement for all students. Check individual university websites for more information.

Nb, this table is subject to change. Please check individual university websites for course entry requirements

Careers Department

St. Aidan's and St John Fisher Associated Sixth Form