

## 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 late October/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, 3-part 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.
- [Natural Sciences Admissions Test - NSAA](#) A 2-hour, 2-part test for students applying for chemical engineering, biotechnology, natural sciences and veterinary medicine at Cambridge. There is no 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.
- [Modern Languages Admissions Test - MLAT](#) A computer-based test which consists of 10 sections. Which sections you take depends on the course you are applying for. 8 sections are for languages and the other 2 sections are the Language Aptitude Test and the Philosophy Test
- [English Literature Admissions Test - ELAT](#) A pre-interview, 90-minute admissions test for applicants to English courses at 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 2 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 2-hour test designed to help selected universities identify critical thinking and problem-solving skills. 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.
- **[Geography Admissions Test - GAT](#)** 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. In most cases, the test is not compulsory, however a good performance may result in a reduced offer. The test lasts 1 hour, 45 minutes.
- **[Classics Language Aptitude Test CLAT](#)** A computer based 1 hour test designed to assess your analytical skills, particularly in terms of how languages work. It is sat by candidates without any prior knowledge of either Latin OR Classical Greek.
- **[History Admissions Test - HAT](#)** A test of skills, not substantive historical knowledge, candidates will be asked to offer thoughtful interpretations of the source without knowing anything about its context in a computer based 1 hour test. The website has past papers.

**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 register and book a test:

- **[Law National Aptitude Test - LNAT](#)** A 135-minute online admissions test 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](#)** A 2-hour 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 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	NSAA	ENGAA	MLAT	ELAT	MAT	PAT	STEP	TSA	TMUA	CLAT	HAT	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 Schools