

Admissions Interviews and Assessments 2025

Please see the below table and accompanying notes for details about assessments and interviews for each subject.

Subject	Written work?	Written work information	Admissions assessment?	Admissions assessment summary	Assessment timing	How is assessment conducted?
Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic	Y	2 pieces	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Archaeology	Y	1 piece. This should be in essay format (not science coursework or a timed exam), up to 1,500 words, and can be taken from an EPQ.	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Architecture	Y	Portfolio. You will need to submit your own artwork prior to interview. The images you choose should, at least in some way, reflect material you might bring to interview as part of your portfolio. Your submitted artwork needs to be in pdf format, up to 6 A4 pages, and less than 15MB in size.	Y	Graphic and spatial ability (30 minutes)	At-interview	Online through Moodle (the University's virtual learning environment)
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies	N	N/A	Y (only if you are combining with a European language)	Discursive response in Foreign Language (40 minutes), discursive response in English (20 minutes).	At-interview	Online through Moodle (the University's virtual learning environment), invigilated on Zoom
Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology	N	N/A	Y	Engineering and Science Admissions Test (ESAT). More information is available here .	Pre-interview; register in advance	In-person in test centres
Classics	Y	2 pieces	Y	3-year: Latin or Greek skills assessment (20 minutes) 4-year: Language aptitude assessment (20 minutes)	At-interview	In-person in Cambridge
Computer Science	N	N/A	Y	Test of Mathematics for University Admission (TMUA). More information is available here .	Pre-interview; register in advance	In-person in test centres

Subject	Written work?	Written work information	Admissions assessment?	Admissions assessment summary	Assessment timing	How is assessment conducted?
Design	Y	Portfolio. You will need to submit your own artwork prior to interview. The images you choose should, at least in some way, reflect material you might bring to interview as part of your portfolio. Your submitted artwork needs to be in pdf format, up to 6 A4 pages, and less than 15MB in size.	Y	Graphic and spatial ability (30 minutes)	At-interview	Online through Moodle (the University's virtual learning environment)
Economics	N	N/A	Y	Test of Mathematics for University Admission (TMUA). More information is available here .	Pre-interview; register in advance	In-person in test centres
Engineering	N	N/A	Y	Engineering and Science Admissions Test (ESAT). More information is available here .	Pre-interview; register in advance	In-person in test centres
English	Y	2 pieces	Y	Essay/text response element (90 minutes)	At-interview	Online through Moodle (the University's virtual learning environment)
Geography	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
History	Y	2 pieces	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
History and Modern Languages	Y	2 pieces. These should be recent examples of writing completed for school. If you are applying for a post-A Level language, 1 piece of written work should be in the language you intend to study.	Y	Post-A Level languages: Discursive response in Foreign Language (40 minutes), discursive response in English (20 minutes) Languages from scratch (ab initio): discursive response in English (40 minutes), Language Aptitude Test (20 minutes)	At-interview	Online through Moodle (the University's virtual learning environment), invigilated on Zoom
History and Politics	Y	2 pieces	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
History of Art	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Human, Social, and Political Sciences	Y	2 pieces	Y	A choice of 1 from 5-10 essay questions (60 minutes)	At-interview	Online, invigilated on Zoom
Law	N	N/A	Y	National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT). More information is available here .	Pre-interview; register in advance	In-person in test centres

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Linguistics	N	N/A	Y	Three parts (20 minutes each) of short analysis questions about data used in linguistics	At-interview	Online through Moodle (the University's virtual learning environment), invigilated on Zoom
Mathematics	N	N/A	Y	Series of problem questions (60 minutes)	At-interview	Online, invigilated on Zoom
Medicine	N	N/A	Y	University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT). More information is available here .	Pre-interview; register in advance	In-person in test centres
Modern and Medieval Languages	Y	If you are already studying both languages you are applying for at A Level: 3 pieces, 1 in each of the languages and 1 in English If you are only studying 1 language at A Level and applying for another language from scratch (ab initio): 2 pieces, 1 in the language and 1 in English	Y	Discursive response in Foreign Language (40 minutes), discursive response in English (20 minutes)	At-interview	Online through Moodle (the University's virtual learning environment), invigilated on Zoom
Music	Y	1 harmony/counterpoint exercise or original composition and 1 essay on a musical topic. If you have not yet written essays for music, you can submit an essay for another subject or something original	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Natural Sciences	N	N/A	Y	Engineering and Science Admissions Test (ESAT). More information is available here .	Pre-interview; register in advance	In-person in test centres
Philosophy	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Psychological and Behavioural Sciences	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion	Y	2 pieces	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

Explanatory Notes

Pre-interview assessments: These are assessments you must register for yourself. Failure to do so by the deadline will mean your application is discontinued. More information is available [here](#).

At-interview assessments: These are assessments for which you will be automatically entered if you are invited to interview. Details about them will be communicated to you via email once you have been invited to interview.

Written work: Unless the subject matter is specified for your subject in the table above, any piece of work written for the subjects you study/studied at school or college will be fine, even if the work is not linked to the subject that you propose to study at Cambridge. In general, we would like to see work that best reflects your interests and abilities. You can submit work that is also being examined officially as coursework if you want to.

It is best to submit recent work; however, the essays you submit do not have to have been written in your final year at school. We do not expect gap-year students to produce new work – if you are on a gap year, please send essays from your final year at school.

We prefer essays to be marked by a member of your school staff. If submitting marked work is not possible for any reason, please add a brief explanatory note on the coversheet. School work must be original work, not re-written or corrected for Cambridge.

Essays may be either handwritten or typed. We prefer you to submit your work exactly as you produced it at school or college. Accordingly, please do not worry about such details as formatting or whether or not you included a bibliography.

Any essays you send should be pieces of work that you would feel happy to discuss in an interview. Your interviewers then decide whether or not to ask you about your written work.

There is no word limit. As a guide, and unless otherwise specified in the table above, most candidates submit essays that are between 1,000 and 3,000 words long. When selecting work, please note that we are looking for quality rather than quantity. If you submit work that is longer than 3,000 words, we are happy to receive it but do not guarantee that the interviewers will read all of it.

All essays must be written in English, unless we have requested them to be written in a foreign language that you are applying to study at Cambridge. It is best to submit work that was originally written in English, however we are happy to accept translations (either official translations or a translation by you) if you want to submit work originally written in another language. We are aware of differences in syllabus and methodology in different countries so you will not be disadvantaged if your essays are not written in the same style as those we receive from UK applicants.

If, for any reason, you are unable to submit any written work, it is in your interest to write to us before the deadline and to explain your circumstances.

To prepare your written work for submission:

1. Save and fill in a separate coversheet for each piece of work you plan to submit. You can find the coversheet [here](#).
2. Create a single PDF that has your coversheet as the first page, then your written work.
3. Make sure you create a separate PDF for each piece of work you plan to submit.
4. Check the size of your files and reduce them if you need to. Files need to be under 100MB (or 15MB if you're submitting an Architecture portfolio)
5. Name your PDF file following this format: Lastname_Firstname_UCAS ID_WrittenWork1. For example, Wilkinson_Joe_0123456789_WrittenWork1
6. Upload your written work through the link sent to you in an email.

Interviews: Interviews will generally be 25 minutes in length; however, if you are applying for a subject which only conducts one interview, your interview will usually be 35–50 minutes. Interviews will be conducted by two fellows who are academic specialists in your chosen subject, although occasionally they will be conducted by one fellow and one observer. The interviews will be designed to test your ability to apply knowledge and skills learned in your school studies to new, and unfamiliar challenges/problems, and to assess whether you would likely cope with the academic demands of your course. More information about interviews can be found on the [Applicant Information 2025 page](#).

Pre-reading: For some interviews, you will be asked to read a short text around 30 minutes in advance of the interview. This will then be discussed during the interview. You will be informed about where you need to go to collect the reading, and where you need to stay while you read it. The pre-reading will not assume any prior knowledge of the subject and is not something for which you can/should prepare.