

# *University Admissions Tests & Interview Workshops*

*26 -27 October 2017*

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INDEPENDENT  
THINKERS EDUCATION



St Mary's School  
CAMBRIDGE

## OUR WORKSHOPS

*Independent Thinkers Education, in conjunction with St Mary's School, Cambridge, offers Sixth Form students the best preparation for demanding admissions processes at the UK's most competitive universities.*

We aim to provide students with the skills needed to excel in the university admissions assessments for Oxbridge, Medicine (BMAT) and Law (LNAT).

The focus of each workshop is on acquiring and practising core academic skills, such as critical thinking, essay writing and/or advanced scientific thinking and analysis. The workshops are designed to be stimulating, enjoyable and educational in themselves, and to encourage students to think about their prospective university courses in ways which take them beyond Sixth Form curricula, as well as preparing participants for competitive university admissions tests.

### Our courses

Each two-day course offers comprehensive coverage of all aspects of each test. Our small group sizes, capped at 15 students, allow for tutors to give detailed individual and group feedback. Students also cover interview skills in their chosen subject.

Our materials and courses have been developed in consultation with experienced Sixth Form teachers, and tutors with extensive experience of teaching at Oxbridge and other leading universities (see advisory board on our website).

### Course outline:

Day 1	
10.00am-10.30am	Arrivals
10.30am-12.45pm	Session 1 (with 15 minutes' break)
12.45pm-1.15pm	Lunch
1.15pm-3.30pm	Session 2 (with 15 minutes' break)
3.45pm-4.45pm	Supervised timed essay task/practice test session

Day 2	
10.00am-10.30am	Arrivals
10.30am-1.15pm	Session 1 (with 15 minutes' break)
1.15pm-1.45pm	Lunch
1.45pm-4.30pm	Session 2 (with 15 minutes' break)

## COURSE DETAILS

### Course 1: ELAT and studying English at university

*Tutor: Cal Revely-Calder*

These workshops will involve an introduction to the ELAT, Practical Criticism, and studying English at university, especially Oxford and Cambridge. We will look at past instances of the ELAT, how it works, and how to approach it, and run through some comparison exercises. We will also discuss the topic of Practical Criticism, and look at the styles and practices of reading for an English degree at Oxbridge. Students will receive individual written and oral feedback on their work during the workshops.

### Course 2: Preparing for Oxbridge Admissions Tests for Physics, Engineering and Physical Natural Sciences

*Tutor: Stephanie Walton*

This course will cover how to tackle the hardest PAT questions from previous years, including common pitfalls, mathematical shortcuts, and how to approach comprehension style questions. How to tackle the new Cambridge assessments for Physical Natural Sciences and Engineering will be addressed. Next, we will discuss how students can upgrade their Maths and Physics above and beyond A-level, and the admissions tests; finally, the course will give students an overview of the reasoning skills needed to succeed at interview. Registered students will be sent work to complete in advance of the workshops.

### Course 3: Preparing for Oxbridge applications for Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry (Oxford) and Biological Natural Sciences (Cambridge)

*Tutor: Adele Julier*

These workshops will include sessions exploring examples of the sorts of questions applicants might face in the Biology and Chemistry sections of the Cambridge Natural Sciences admissions test, and how to approach them. Sessions on expanding Biology and Chemistry beyond A-level will give students the chance to gain further knowledge in an areas of particular interest, and to hone scientific communication skills. The course will end with an interview skills workshop.

### Course 4: Preparing for the BMAT

*Tutors: Ibrahim Humoud and David Carey*

This course will cover all three sections of the BMAT. The workshops will (i) take participants through strategies for tackling the problem solving and critical thinking questions in section 1 of the test; (ii) offer tips for, and guidance on potential pitfalls in, section 2 on scientific knowledge and its applications; and (iii) explain to participants how to structure effective and persuasive argumentative essays for section 3 of the test. Students will also attend a workshop in advanced Biology and Chemistry, which will prepare them for Medicine interviews at Oxbridge, Imperial and UCL.

## Course 5: Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Essay writing for TSA (Oxford); Critical Thinking and Problem Solving for TSA (Cambridge)

*Tutor: David Carey*

This course will cover techniques for tackling both sections of the TSA (Oxford), and the whole of the TSA (Cambridge). First, David will work through examples from the problem-solving part of the tests, emphasising the importance of employing mental arithmetic and mathematical logic, as well as covering techniques for answering questions under tight time pressure.

Next, students will work on developing the techniques required for success in the critical thinking part of the TSA, namely, for analysing arguments, for identifying assumptions, for assessing the impact of additional evidence, and for detecting reasoning errors.

Students taking the TSA (Oxford) will also attend an essay-writing workshop focusing on how to structure the TSA writing task. This workshop will cover how to write a clear and effective introduction and conclusion to an essay, how to structure body paragraphs, making the best use of evidence and examples, and structuring counterarguments.

## Course 6: Critical Thinking, Advanced comprehension and essay writing for the Cambridge Entrance Assessments, and for the LNAT

*Tutor: David Carey*

This course is divided itself into two key parts. First, it offers thorough preparation for the Comprehension Parts both of the new Cambridge Admissions Tests and of the LNAT Section 1. Second, it provides an essay-writing workshop for students sitting the BMAT, the TSA, the LNAT, and the required writing task in the new Cambridge Admissions assessments.

The Comprehension Parts the new Cambridge Admissions Tests and the LNAT Section 1 consist of questions which require students to identify arguments, distinguish between explicitly and implicitly articulated arguments, analyse the evidence used to substantiate a claim, as well as to demonstrate advanced comprehension skills. We will practise the methods and strategies needed for all these types of questions, ensuring that students are readily prepared for every question-type that may appear.

This course will appeal to students who are preparing for the LNAT and to students who are taking the Cambridge Admissions Tests in any of the following subjects in the Humanities and the Social Sciences: [1] Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic (ASNC), [2] Asian and Middle Eastern Studies [2], [3] Geography, [4a] History, [4b] History and Modern Languages, and [4c] History and Politics, [5] Human, Social and Political Sciences (HSPS), and [6] Psychological and Behavioural Sciences.

## Course 7: Economics at Cambridge; Economics & Management at Oxford

*Tutors: David Carey and Camden Ford*

This course will start by covering the problem-solving part of the Oxford TSA and the Cambridge Economics Admissions Assessment. All students (Cambridge Economics and Oxford E & M) will also attend sessions on essay writing, and advanced Maths for Economics in the context of interviews. Finally, Cambridge candidates will attend a session on the Mathematics part of the Cambridge Economics Admissions Assessment, while Oxford E & M applicants will attend a session on the critical thinking part of the TSA.

## OUR TUTORS

We have an exceptional team of tutors who are all:

- Oxbridge graduates
- Educated to at least Masters level
- Subject specialists (with First Class Honours at undergraduate level and/or Distinctions in Masters courses)
- Highly experienced, specialising in working with students aged 16-18



**David Carey** has recently finished his Masters degree at Oxford in Maths and Philosophy, achieving first class honours. While he was there he was awarded two college exhibitions. He has eighteen months' teaching experience, working with students aged 15-18.



**Camden Ford** has been tutoring students in Maths, Chemistry, Engineering and Physics for over seven years, helping students prepare for Oxbridge admissions tests and US SATs, and teaching Maths and Engineering at undergraduate level. He currently teaches several polymers and composites courses for undergraduate Materials Scientists at Oxford University, having previously achieved his undergraduate and MSc degrees on the same programme. He has run practice interviews and tutorials for prospective Oxford students, and contributed to summer outreach and enrichment programmes for prospective scientists and engineers.



**Ibrahim Humoud** trained and qualified as a doctor in Germany, graduating in the top 5% of his year in the state medical examination. He worked as a Senior House Officer in Switzerland, before undertaking his MSc degree in Neuroscience at UCL. He is currently studying for his Ph.D. in Clinical Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge, where he is a recipient of a Vice-Chancellor's Award and a Cambridge Trust scholar.



**Adele Julier** studied Biological Natural Sciences at Cambridge, specialising in Plant Science and Ecology. She was awarded a MSc (with Distinction) in Biodiversity from the University of Edinburgh, and has recently completed her Ph.D. on pollen in Ghana. She has worked as an Assistant Botanist in Egypt, and led courses on Tropical Ecology in Indonesia. Adele has also developed a series of biology workshops for students aged 16-18 for the Brilliant club.



**Cal Revely-Calder** recently completed a PhD on twentieth-century Irish literature at Trinity College, Cambridge, and he continues to teach English to Cambridge undergraduates. He also completed his MPhil (with Distinction) and BA (Double First, top of the year) at Cambridge. Cal has extensive experience of teaching students in their final years at school, and advising them on applying to university.



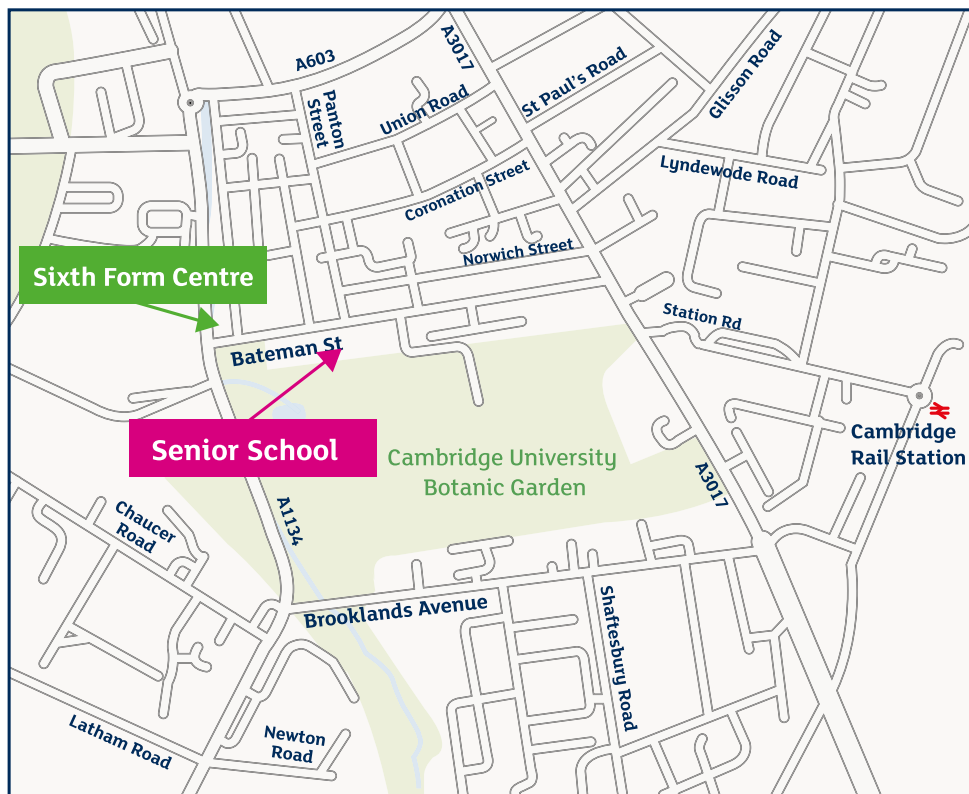
**Stephanie Walton** graduated from Oxford University with a First in Physics, and from Imperial College, London with a Ph.D. in Nanomagnetism. She has worked as Scientist in Residence at The Lady Eleanor Holles School, and now teaches Physics at a leading London school. She is an expert in Oxbridge admissions for the Physical sciences and Engineering.



## KEY INFORMATION

### Our location

Situated in the heart of Cambridge, just ten-minutes' walk from Cambridge train station, St Mary's School is the perfect location for our workshops.



Representing excellent value for money, the course fee of £360 covers all tuition, materials, refreshments and lunch each day.

Subject to demand, we may be able to offer overnight accommodation, at an additional fee of £100 to include dinner on day one and breakfast on day two. Please indicate on the booking form whether you would wish to choose this option.

To book your place, please download the booking form from [www.independent-thinkers.co.uk](http://www.independent-thinkers.co.uk) and return to [info@independent-thinkers.co.uk](mailto:info@independent-thinkers.co.uk). Your place will be confirmed upon receipt of the course fee of £360.





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