

oxbridge applications

Inspiring confidence to achieve success since 1999

TSA (Oxford) mini-paper



Mock Examination 1

Thinking Skills Assessment Oxford

Time allowed: 2 hours

Section 1: usually 90 minutes to answer 50 questions. Here we have included six.

Section 2: 30 minutes

Calculators and dictionaries may not be used during the examination.

Section 1 – Multiple Choice

Time Allowed: 90 minutes

Instructions to Candidates

Please read this page carefully

You will require a soft pencil and an eraser. Please write very clearly.

Speed as well as accuracy is important in this section. ***Work quickly, or you may not finish the paper.*** There are no penalties for incorrect responses, only points for correct answers, so you should attempt all fifty questions. All questions are worth one mark.

Questions ask you to show your choice between five options. Choose the **one** option you consider correct and record your choice on a separate answer sheet. If you make a mistake, erase thoroughly and try again.

Calculators are NOT permitted.

Please turn over.

1. The table below shows the numbers of pupils at several schools applying to Oxbridge in last year's cycle, along with the number that subsequently received offers.

School	Applicants	Offers
Camden High	63	37
St. Aquin's	14	4
Stella Academy	16	7
Leith School	5	4
Westminster Grammar	49	27
Durham Prep	54	35

In which other school was the success rate closest to that of Leith School?

- A** Camden High
- B** St. Aquin's
- C** Stella Academy
- D** Westminster Grammar
- E** Durham Prep

2. I live in an extremely wealthy part of London. Irritatingly, three supercars drive past my mansion every night repeatedly whilst I am trying to sleep. The Ferrari Spider drives past every 3 minutes, the McLaren F1 every 108 seconds and the Lamborghini Aventador every 4.5 minutes.

All 3 have just passed my house together.

After how long will they all pass together again?

- A** 7 minutes
- B** 9 minutes
- C** 8.3 minutes
- D** 7.5 minutes
- E** 10 minutes

3. In the UK, every month 240 pets are rushed to the Vet for emergency surgery. However, recent research from the RSPCA suggests that in one third of these cases the owners purchased no insurance for their pet, resulting in extortionate fees. If more owners acted responsibly and purchased insurance then the number of cases of emergency surgery would dramatically reduce.

Which one of the following identifies the flaw in the above argument?

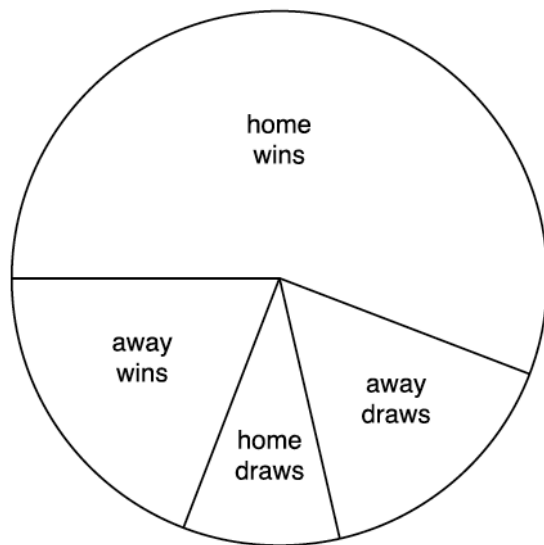
- A** We have no means of telling whether the reduction in cases of emergency surgery would be dramatic.
- B** It overlooks the possibility that some pets will not make it to the operating theatre.
- C** It overlooks the possibility that some cases of surgery would not be covered by insurance.
- D** It implies that there is some link between the number of cases of emergency surgery and a lack of insurance.
- E** It ignores the fact that in any given month the vast majority of pets in the UK won't require emergency surgery.

4. An incredibly bored admissions tutor decides to liven up his job. He has three decision letters intended for three Oxbridge candidates: an offer, a rejection, and a pooled response. He decides to send each candidate a letter intended for someone else to mess with the system.

In how many different ways can he send the letters?

- A** 2
- B** 4
- C** 6
- D** 8
- E** 11

5. The chart below shows the Varsity (Oxford v. Cambridge) football result from the perspective of Cambridge for the past 68 years. The venue alternates each year between Oxford and Cambridge. Cambridge has never lost.



How many Varsity matches have Oxford lost?

- A** 51
- B** 17
- C** 24
- D** 25
- E** 60

6. You can become a professional tennis star if you move to a Spanish tennis academy when young. You did not move to such an academy when young. Therefore, you cannot become a professional tennis star.

Which of the following has the same structure as the above argument?

- A** You can go to university if you study A-levels. You do not study A-levels so you will be unable to attend university.
- B** Oxbridge graduates earn more money than the national average. I earn more money than the national average, so I must have attended Oxbridge.
- C** You can become an F1 driver if your parents are wealthy. You are an F1 driver, so your parents must have been wealthy.

D You can avoid dying early if you exercise regularly. You regularly exercise, so you will not die early.

E You can become a model if you are tall. You are a model, so you must therefore be tall.

Section 2 – Writing Task

Time Allowed: 30 minutes

Instructions to Candidates

Please read this page carefully

This question paper contains a choice of three essay questions, of which you must answer only one.

The questions each provide an opportunity for you to show how well you can

- select, develop and organise ideas; and
- communicate them effectively in writing.

It is important that your answer is relevant to the question and addresses it directly. This is not a test of knowledge, nor is it assumed that the questions have right or wrong answers. If the question requires you to make judgements and express your opinions try to provide coherent arguments to support your views, and consider the merits of possible counter arguments.

Before you begin writing, take time to think carefully about what you need to say and the ways in which the organisation of your response might help convey your message.

Take care to show how well you can write and be concise, clear and accurate.

Dictionaries may NOT be used.

Please turn over.

1. Do we need cash anymore?

2. "Speciesism is no better than racism." Do you agree?

Turn over to see answers to Section 1

Answer Key

1 E

2 B

3 D

4 C

5 A

6 A