Preparing for your Classics Admissions Test (CAT)

You need to take the Classics Admissions Test (CAT) if you are applying for any of the following Oxford courses:

- Classics;
- Classics and English;
- Classics and Modern Languages;
- Classics and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

The Classics Admissions Test is an online test delivered on behalf of Oxford University by assessment specialist Pearson VUE. This means you will need to register for your test and book to take it at a Pearson Test Centre.

Registration and booking

You can register and book any time **from 15 August to 4 October**. We strongly advise candidates to register and book as soon as possible as appointments are first come, first served.

When booking your test, you will be able to request any access arrangements you are normally eligible for when taking public exams at your school or college. If you know you will need access arrangements, it is important to register as soon as you can as this involves a few more steps, including submitting supporting documents. You do not have to have submitted your UCAS application before booking your test.

In 2024 all candidates will sit the Classics Admissions Test on **Tuesday 22 October**.

Test preparation

Our admissions tests aim to stretch the strongest applicants so don't worry if you find the test hard - it's supposed to be.

The best way to prepare for the CAT is to explore the practice materials you will find on our website. We know that applicants who practise tend to do better, so we strongly recommend that you familiarise yourself with the test content, structure and format so you can do your best on the day. When doing past papers, we recommend that you practise typing your answers to help familiarise yourself with the online test format.

If you are already studying Latin **or** Greek to A-level or equivalent, you will need to take the relevant language section. If you are studying both Latin **and** Greek, you will need to take both of these sections. If you are **not** currently studying either language, you will just take the Classics Language Aptitude Test (CLAT) section.

You are allowed one hour to complete each relevant section. No one takes more than two sections. Both the Latin and Greek sections of the CAT have two questions. The Language Aptitude Test is divided into two sections – A and B. Section A carries 25 marks and Section B carries 50 marks, so if you are taking this bit of the CAT make sure you spend more time on Section B.

You will not be allowed rough paper in your test but you will be given wipeable sheets for note taking and planning. You will need to hand these in after your test. Please also note that no dictionaries are allowed.

Navigating the Pearson online test platform

In the top right-hand corner, you can select your preferred colour scheme. You will be able to change this any time during your test.

Once you have read the instructions on the landing page, click on the Next button in the bottom right hand corner of the test screen.

In Question 1, you will see the passage to translate on the left and space to write your answer on the right hand side of your screen. You can edit your answer using your keyboard or the buttons along the top [cut, copy etc]. You can also adjust the font size on the screen by zooming in or out. You can adjust the width of both sides of the screen by hovering over the blue vertical line running between them and moving the arrows.

If you are taking the CLAT or Classics Language Aptitude Test you will be able to use a virtual keyboard by clicking on the icon when this is displayed in the response text area. To use accented characters, press the 'AE symbol' in the top left hand corner. You can also use keyboard shortcuts for example, ctrl + alt + a for a acute

Always remember to scroll down to the bottom of the page by using your mouse or the scroll feature on the screen to make sure you don't miss any of the extract given as part of the question.

In the top right hand corner, you will see the time you have remaining. Immediately below is the number of the page you are on and the total number of pages.

You will also see a 'flag for review' option which you can use to navigate back to this question at the end of your test. Don't worry if you don't use this though - you will still be able to review any answers again before submitting your test.

In the top left hand corner, you will find a highlighter button. Use this to select text in a variety of colours and also remove highlighting.

Clicking on Next will take you to the next question. Clicking on Next again will take you to the Item Review Screen. Here you can see the status of your answer. Using the heading at the top of the table, you can select Review All or Incomplete. This will only show if you haven't started your answer yet. If you flagged your answer for review, you will also see this option listed under that heading. Essentially there are several easy ways to go back to review your answer and it doesn't matter which one you choose.

If you return to the question to review your answer, you will now also see a Review Screen button in the left hand corner. You will only see this after navigating through the test and after visiting the Review page.

Back on the Review Screen, in the bottom left hand corner, you will now see a Submit test button. Once your answer is complete and you are ready to submit your test, click on this to finish. A warning pop-up will appear asking you to confirm whether or not you want to submit your test. If you click 'yes' another one will appear to double-check.

If you are taking a second section of the test, this will now automatically appear. Otherwise you will be asked to End Exam by clicking on a button in the bottom left of your screen.

<u>Differences on test day</u>

Doing the online practice test should help you feel confident about taking your test, but there are likely to be a few small differences between this and your actual test.

1. Non Disclosure Agreement. After logging on to the test platform, you will be asked to agree not to share the contents of the test with anyone. If you don't agree to this, you will not be allowed to start your test.

2. Before starting your test, you will be given the option of a quick online tutorial on using the test platform and exploring the various functionality. If you don't want the tutorial, you can skip this and immediately progress to take your test. Whether or not you opt for the tutorial, your test duration will remain the same.

3. Please note that in the practice test, you can select to take any of the three sections. In your actual test, you will only see the section or sections you have registered to take when booking.

Have a go at the CAT online practice test at www.ox.ac.uk/CAT but please note that you will not be able to submit your practice test for marking.

For all information and guidance on Oxford's admissions tests including tutors' top tips for success in your CAT, go to: www.ox.ac.uk/tests