



Jonathan Smith
By email

Reference: FOI-2019-738

21 November 2019

Dear Mr Smith,

Your request was received on 26 October 2019 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

You asked:

I would like to inquire about how the University of Cambridge weighs the 5 sections of Part 1 of the Natural Sciences Admissions Assessment (NSAA). Part 1 of the NSAA consists of 5 sections, the fifth of which is titled 'Advanced Mathematics and Advanced Physics'. Said section is more challenging than the standard Physics, Chemistry and Biology sections and I would expect a student to score lower accordingly. Are the scores of this section scaled up? For example, if a student is applying for Physical Natural Sciences intending to specialize in Physics, would it be preferred if they chose Section 5 and achieved a lower (but decent) score than they would have if they had chosen another Section?

This information is not held. Any decisions on whether and how to 'weight' scores in different parts of the NSAA would be made by the individual Colleges, each of which makes its own undergraduate admissions decisions. Each College is a separate legal entity and public authority under the Act.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review of this decision, you should contact us quoting the reference number above. The University would normally expect to receive your request for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter and reserves the right not to review a decision where there has been undue delay in raising a complaint. If you are not content with the outcome of your review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner may be contacted at: The

The Old Schools
Trinity Lane
Cambridge, CB2 1TN

Tel: +44 (0) 1223 764142
Fax: +44 (0) 1223 332332
Email: foi@admin.cam.ac.uk
www.cam.ac.uk



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE
Registry's Office

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
(<https://ico.org.uk/>).

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Allwood