

3.2 The Test Essay

Each candidate will write a 30-minute essay, from a choice of four questions, which will be marked by the tutors at the candidate's college.

Marking scheme for test essays

A single mark on the scale 1 – 100 should be given, to reflect the overall quality of the essay, and specifically whether the candidate has:

- addressed the question in the way demanded
- organised their thoughts clearly
- used clear, concise, compelling and correct English
- used general knowledge and opinions appropriately

70-100	Clear construction, interesting and effective argument, excellent use of English.
65-69	A well-written and well-structured essay addressing the question as required.
60-64	A reasonably well-argued and appropriate answer. There may be some weaknesses in the use of English, the scope of the answer, or the coherence of the ideas.
50-59	A weak answer failing to address the question appropriately, or with significant weaknesses in argument, structure, or use of English.
49 or less	A very poor answer strongly suggesting that the candidate is not suitable

4.1 Shortlisting criteria

The criteria for shortlisting for interview are specified on the university webpage (<https://www.ppe.ox.ac.uk/interviews>) as follows:

“We only interview those who have a realistic chance of getting in, when judged by past and predicted exam results, school reports, personal statements and the pre-interview test. Candidates from overseas may be considered without interview.”

The TSA results (and the banding of candidates according to TSA) are only a component part of making the decision to interview a candidate. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Therefore, it is important that the TSA informs our picture of the candidate rather than determining it. The weighting given to the information on a candidate should be as follows

Factor	High	Med	Low
Pre-interview Admissions Test	•		
GCSE (or similar) profile	•		
Predicted performance at A-level (or similar)	•		
UCAS reference		•	
AS level module grades			•
UCAS personal statement			•

To achieve consistency of short-listing decisions across colleges, all applicants will be allocated to *bands* according to their TSA overall score, as follows:

Band	
1	Almost certainly shortlist
2	Probably shortlist
3	Marginal – use other information
4	Probably Deselect
0	TSA score currently Unavailable; use other information

5.2 Interview scores

Up to three interview scores can be entered on ADSS. These may be separate grades for the politics, economics, and philosophy aspects, or non-subject-specific grades for different interviews.

Mark scheme for interviews

Interviews are marked on a scale of 1-100, and marks are interpreted as follows:

70-100	Excellent	A mark above 70 is a strong indicator for admission
65-69	Positive	Most candidates admitted will have interview scores above 65
60-64	Neutral	
50-59	Weak	A candidate with interview and test marks consistently below 60 is in a weak position
49 or less	Very poor	Interview strongly suggests that the candidate is not suitable