



By email

Reference: FOI-2019-457

7 August 2019

Dear ,

Your request was received on 10 July 2019 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

You asked:

*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I kindly request you to release your policy for the use of GCSE qualifications in the admissions process.*

*More specifically, I was wondering whether you will consider a GCSE grade 8 as equivalent to a 9 (in the sense that they are both A\*, with no higher weighting given to a 9 over 8) in the upcoming admissions cycle, as I have received conflicting information from your representatives on the phone. For example, would you consider an applicant with 10 8s as equivalent to an applicant with 10 9s (as Oxford would), or would you consider the one with 10 9s as superior (like St Andrews does), assuming the other parts of their application were the same?*

*In addition, if the policy varies by course, could you give the information relevant to BSc Economics. Furthermore, please could you ensure the information is undoubtedly correct, as many students may use this as a guideline for whether to apply or not (and on that note, I believe you should state it on your website).*

Colleges (which make undergraduate admissions decisions) do not differentiate between the top two GCSE grades. Further policy information on GCSE entry requirements is published at <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/entrance-requirements>.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Knapton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Knapton