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## History Aptitude Test (HAT)

The History Aptitude Test (HAT) is a two-hour subject-specific admissions test, which is taken by applicants to the University of Oxford's undergraduate degree courses in History and its joint schools. Cambridge Assessment is working in partnership with the University of Oxford to administer the HAT.

*The University of Oxford's Faculty of History will continue to be responsible for:*

- ❖ test development and setting the paper
- ❖ the marking and moderation process for test scripts
- ❖ individual results feedback, supplied to candidates on request
- ❖ carrying out research into the test's validity

*Cambridge Assessment will be responsible for:*

- ❖ allowing centres to register their candidates for HAT, via Cambridge Assessment's secure Entries Extranet
- ❖ providing access to Cambridge Assessment's 'open centre' network worldwide, for candidates who do not have a test centre where they can take the test
- ❖ printing and despatching the test papers
- ❖ collating and sorting returned test scripts
- ❖ assisting with marketing communications and customer support for the HAT

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## What is HAT?

The HAT requires candidates to read two extracts and answer a total of four questions about them. One of the extracts will be from a work of History; candidates will be asked questions to test their comprehension of the arguments and ideas in it, their capacity to apply those ideas to historical situations they know about, and their ability to think and make judgements about the extract as a piece of historical writing. The other extract will be from a primary source, and candidates will be asked to offer thoughtful interpretations of its content without knowing anything about its context.

The HAT is a test of skills, not substantive historical knowledge. It is designed so that candidates should find it equally challenging, regardless of what period(s) they have studied or what school examinations they are taking.

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## Who has to take HAT?

All students applying for the following courses at the University of Oxford are required to take the History Aptitude Test:

- ❖ History (V100)
- ❖ History (Ancient and Modern) (V118)
- ❖ History and Economics (LV11)
- ❖ History and English (VQ13)
- ❖ all History and Modern Languages courses
- ❖ History and Politics (LV21)

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## When does it take place?

This year's HAT will take place on Wednesday 7th November 2012, on the same day as some other admissions tests such as the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT), English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT) and the Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA) Oxford.

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## Where do candidates take the test?

Typically, candidates sit the HAT at their school or college; however, Cambridge Assessment also hosts an extensive network of open centres in the UK and overseas, where candidates can register for and sit the HAT if their schools or colleges do not have the facilities in place to administer the test.

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## What preparation materials are available for HAT?

A specimen paper and sample answers with tutors' comments; past papers with marking schemes and helpful general guidance including FAQs can all be found on the Faculty of History's website, [www.history.ox.ac.uk](http://www.history.ox.ac.uk), on its undergraduate admissions pages for HAT.

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## What does it cost?

Candidates will not be charged an entry fee for taking the HAT in November 2012. Please note, however, that some open centres may charge an administrative fee for organising and administering the tests on behalf of external candidates. This administrative fee normally covers the cost of invigilation, despatch costs and room hire, where applicable.

Entries will be accepted until 5pm BST on Monday 15th October 2012. Candidates or centres who miss this deadline date should contact Cambridge Assessment.

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## Where can I find out more?

### University of Oxford:

Admissions Information Centre:

tel: +44 (0)1865 288000

email: [undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk)

website: [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/tests](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/tests)

The University of Oxford's Faculty of History website gives detailed information about the HAT on its undergraduate admissions pages: [www.history.ox.ac.uk](http://www.history.ox.ac.uk)

### Cambridge Assessment:

email: [hatinfo@cambridgeassessment.org.uk](mailto:hatinfo@cambridgeassessment.org.uk)

website: [www.hatoxford.org.uk](http://www.hatoxford.org.uk)



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## Key Dates for HAT 2012

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15 October *Last date for HAT entries*

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7 November *Test takes place*

Find out more:

[www.hatoxford.org.uk](http://www.hatoxford.org.uk)

### Experts in Assessment

Cambridge Assessment is working in partnership with the University of Oxford to administer the HAT. Cambridge Assessment is the international exams group of the University of Cambridge. It plays a leading role in researching, developing and delivering educational assessment to eight million learners in over 160 countries every year.

### Contact us:

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## History Aptitude Test 2012



HAT  
History  
Aptitude Test

All details are correct at the time of going to print in January 2012.  
Any updates or changes can be found on the HAT website.  
Photography: Stephen Bond.

HAT  
History  
Aptitude Test