
Physics Aptitude Test (PAT)

The Physics Aptitude Test (PAT) is a subject-specific admissions test, which is taken by applicants to all University of Oxford Physics and Engineering undergraduate degree courses. Cambridge Assessment is working in partnership with the University of Oxford to administer the PAT.

The relevant Departments of the University of Oxford will continue to be responsible for:

- ❖ test development and setting the paper
- ❖ the marking and moderation process for test scripts
- ❖ for Physics courses: an overall report on the conduct of the test. The College to which the candidate applied will provide feedback on the test after the admissions process is complete, usually after Christmas.
- ❖ carrying out research into the test's validity

Cambridge Assessment will be responsible for:

- ❖ allowing centres to register their candidates for PAT, 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 PAT

What is PAT?

A detailed syllabus and information about the test paper format for the PAT can be found on the Department of Physics website. The test paper content is suitable for candidates who have studied mathematics and physics at GCSE and AS level or equivalent. No calculators, tables or formula sheets may be used.

Who has to take PAT?

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

- ❖ Physics (3 year course F300; 4 year course F303)
- ❖ Physics and Philosophy (VF53)
- ❖ Engineering Science (various course codes)
- ❖ Engineering, Economics and Management (EEM) (HLN0)

When does it take place?

This year's PAT 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.

Where do candidates take the test?

Typically, candidates sit the PAT 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 PAT if their schools or colleges do not have the facilities in place to administer the test.

What preparation materials are available for PAT?

A sample paper with a set of model solutions, past papers with reports and general FAQs can all be found on the Department of Physics website, www.physics.ox.ac.uk, on its undergraduate 'study here' pages for the Physics Aptitude Test.

What does it cost?

Candidates will not be charged an entry fee for taking the PAT 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.

Where can I find out more?

University of Oxford:

Admissions Information Centre:

tel: +44 (0)1865 288000

email: undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk

website: www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/tests

The University of Oxford's Department of Physics website gives detailed information about the Physics Aptitude Test on its undergraduate admissions pages at www.physics.ox.ac.uk

Cambridge Assessment:

email: patinfo@cambridgeassessment.org.uk

website: www.patoxford.org.uk

Key Dates for PAT 2012

15 October *Last date for PAT entries*

7 November *Test takes place*

Find out more:

www.patoxford.org.uk

P A T
P h y s i c s
A p t i t u d e T e s t

Experts in Assessment

Cambridge Assessment is working in partnership with the University of Oxford to administer the PAT. 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:

PAT Support Team
Cambridge Assessment
1 Hills Road
Cambridge
CB1 2EU
United Kingdom

tel: +44 (0)1223 553399

fax: +44 (0)1223 553042

email: patinfo@cambridgeassessment.org.uk

website: www.patoxford.org.uk

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



Physics Aptitude Test 2012



P A T
P h y s i c s
A p t i t u d e T e s t