Preparing for your 2025 Classics Admissions Test (CAT)

You need to take the Classics Admissions Test (CAT) if you are applying for any of the following Oxford courses:

- Classics
- Classics and English
- Classics and Modern Languages
- Classics and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

The Classics Admissions Test is an online test delivered on behalf of Oxford University by assessment specialist Pearson VUE. This means you will need to register for and book to take your test at a Pearson VUE Test Centre.

Registration and booking

In 2025, there are separate registration and booking processes you need to follow to take your admissions test.

Candidates will need to register for their test between **18 June and 19 September, 6pm BST**, via the Oxford Admissions Test registration portal (oxford.useclarus.com).

Registered candidates will be able to book their test appointment via Pearson VUE's booking system between **18 August and 26 September, 6pm BST**.

We strongly recommend that you book as soon as possible as test centre places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. To book your test, you must have already started your UCAS application, as you will need your UCAS ID when you register.

It is particularly important that you register early if you are requesting access arrangements, as this involves a few additional steps. You will be required to submit documented supporting evidence of eligibility from a medical or educational specialist and have your request and evidence approved by Oxford.

Please watch our 'Registering and booking for an Oxford admissions test' video, which outlines the process. Or if you require access arrangements, for example, extra time, then please watch our 'Registering and booking for an Oxford admissions test with access arrangements' video for more information. Both videos as well as further guidance are available at www.ox.ac.uk/CAT under the tab 'How do I register and book'?

In 2025 all candidates will sit their Classics Admissions Test on either **Wednesday 22, Thursday 23 or Friday 24 October**.

<u>Test preparation</u>

Our admissions tests aim to stretch the strongest applicants so don't worry if you find the test hard – it's supposed to be. The test is designed to show what you can do with your knowledge, rather than just find out how much you know.

The best way to prepare for the CAT is to explore the practice materials. There is an online practice test and further past papers available on our website at www.ox.ac.uk/CAT under the tab 'Test preparation and practice materials'.

We know that applicants who practise tend to do better, so we strongly recommend that you familiarise yourself with the test content, structure and format so you can feel confident and do your best on the day. When doing past papers, we recommend that you practise typing your answers to help familiarise yourself with the online test format.

If you are already studying Latin **or** Greek to A-level or equivalent, you will need to take the relevant language section. If you are studying both Latin **and** Greek, you will need to take both of these sections. If you are **not** studying (or have not already studied) either language to A-level or equivalent, you will just take the Classics Language Aptitude Test (CLAT) section.

You are allowed one hour (60 minutes) to complete each relevant section. No one takes more than two sections. The Latin and Greek sections of the CAT have two questions each – translating a passage of verse into English and translating a passage of prose into English. The passages are carefully chosen to be of a difficulty suitable to students at A-level or equivalent. You are not allowed to take dictionaries, grammar books or notes into the test, so if you are not used to translating without these aids, you should get lots of practice doing so, and try to learn vocabulary before sitting the test.

The CLAT is divided into two sections – A and B. Section A carries 30 marks and Section B carries 70 marks, so if you are taking this section of the CAT make sure you spend more time on Section B. (In the past papers available on our website the CLAT also contains a Section C, but in 2025 the CLAT will contain Sections A and B only.)

You won't be allowed rough paper in the test, but you will be given laminated sheets for note taking and planning. You will need to hand these in after your test.

<u>Navigating the Pearson online test platform</u>

While on the test landing page, you can choose your preferred colour scheme from the dropdown menu in the top right-hand corner of your screen. You can change this again at any time during your test.

Once you have read the instructions on the landing page, click on the Next button in the bottom right-hand corner of the test screen to begin your test.

You will see the question on the left-hand side of your screen and space to write your answer on the right-hand side. You can edit your answer using your keyboard or the buttons along the top, such as Cut, Copy, etc. You can also adjust the font size on the screen by zooming in or out.

You can adjust the width of both sides of the screen by hovering over the blue vertical line running between both, and moving the arrows.

Always remember to scroll down to the bottom of the page by using your mouse or the scroll feature on the screen to make sure you don't miss any part of the question.

If you want to leave a question for later, you will see a Flag for Review option in the top right-hand corner. By clicking on this, you can navigate back to this question at the end of your test. Don't worry if you don't use this option, though. You will still be able to review any answers again before submitting your test.

Also in the top right-hand corner, you will see the time you have remaining. Immediately below is the number of the page you are on and the total number of pages in this section of the test.

In the top left-hand corner you will find a Highlight button. Use this to select text in a variety of colours or to remove the highlighting.

Clicking on Next will take you to the next question. Clicking Next after the final question will take you to the Item Review Screen. Here you can check that you've answered each question and navigate back to review your answers. Using the headings at the top of the table, you can select to review All questions or filter for just those which are Incomplete. (In the Latin and Greek tests, Incomplete will only show if you haven't started your answer yet.) You will also see listed here any questions which you chose to flag for review. Essentially, there are several easy ways to go back to review your answer, and it doesn't matter which one you choose.

When you return to a question now, you will also see a Review Screen button in the bottom left-hand corner. You will only see this after navigating through the test and visiting the Review page. Up until this point, you will have to use the Next button to navigate to the Review Screen.

Back on the Item Review Screen, in the bottom left-hand corner, you will also now see a Submit test button. Once your answers are complete and you are ready to submit your test, click on this to finish. A warning pop-up will appear asking you to confirm whether or not you want to submit your test. If you click Yes, another one will appear to double-check.

If you are taking a second section of the test, this will now automatically appear. Otherwise, you will be asked to End Exam by clicking on the button in the bottom left-hand corner of your screen.

Differences on test day

Doing the online practice test should help you feel confident about taking your test, but there are likely to be a few small differences between this and your actual test.

1. Non-Disclosure Agreement. After logging on to the test platform, you will be asked to agree not to share the contents of the test with anyone. If you do not agree to this, you will not be allowed to start your test.

2. Before starting your test, you will be given the option of a quick online tutorial on using the test platform and exploring the various functionality. If you don't want the tutorial, you can skip this

and immediately progress to take your test. Whether or not you opt for the tutorial, your test duration will remain the same. The tutorial will not count towards the test duration.

3. Although you will be able to see all three sections of the CAT on the online practice test, in your actual test, you will only see the section or sections you have registered to take.

Have a go at the CAT online practice test at www.ox.ac.uk/CAT but please note that you will not be able to submit your practice test for marking.

For all information and guidance on Oxford's admissions tests including tutors' top tips for success in your CAT, go to: www.ox.ac.uk/tests

Thank you and good luck.