

History and Modern Languages (Modern Language ab initio)

The History and Modern Languages ab initio Admissions Assessment will be invigilated via Zoom. We will send you a link to access the session and detailed instructions shortly before the test date. You may take the assessment at your home or school – whichever environment feels the most comfortable to you and has the most reliable internet connection.

The invigilator will allow **60 Minutes** for the completion of the paper, and you must stop writing when instructed. If you have been granted extra time to complete the assessment, then please refer to the timing provided to you by the College assessing your application. You will be asked to stay on the call until the receipt of your completed answer has been confirmed.

The assessment has two sections: a comprehension and writing exercise in Section A and language exercises in Section B. **You will need to print out the question sheets for Section B before starting.** For further guidance on the assessment, please see:

https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/files/publications/history_and_modern_languages_ab_initio_at-interview_written_assessment_information.pdf

Section A (32 marks) involves reading a short passage of text in English and answering two questions. You should expect to spend around 40 minutes on this section.

Section B (16 marks) requires you to:

- i) translate between English and an unknown language X (i.e. a modified version of a real language);
- ii) work out some basic aspects of language X's grammar, using the provided English translations to help you

You will be given a set of sample sentences in language X with their English translation. In order to translate between the two languages, you will need to **examine and compare the sample sentences in language X and their English translation** in order to work out language X's vocabulary and how its words and sentences are put together. You should expect to spend around 20 minutes on this section.

If possible, please write your answers **by hand**.

Your work must be entirely your own, unaided by consultation with any other person. Answers will be checked for academic integrity, including plagiarism and the use of artificial intelligence or machine translation (e.g. Google Translate); this will include where passages have been produced by AI and manually rewritten. Breaches of academic integrity are taken seriously and will invalidate your application. Use of reference works (e.g. dictionaries) or other resources is **not** permitted, and the invigilator will report if you are suspected of using these, or receiving other help, during the assessment.

Please save your answer as a PDF with the file name: **LAST NAME_First name_UCAS ID_HML_Assessment** with your last name capitalised. If possible please provide a scanned pdf version of your answers, rather than a photo as this will lead to a clearer image. You can find instructions on how to take a scan from a phone on our website here:

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/after/written-work-portfolio>. You may wish to practice this in advance of the assessment if you have never done so before. Please do not delay the submission of your answers if you cannot scan to pdf.

If you experience any difficulty during the assessment, either technical or personal, you should report this to the invigilator as soon as possible for taking into proper consideration.