INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS 2020-21

SECTION A: Basic information

1. **Number of Applicants**

History (Single Honours):	916
Ancient and Modern History:	99
History and Economics:	177
History and English:	126
History and Modern Languages:	92
History and Politics:	477
TOTAL:	**1887**

   (Includes 10 candidates who subsequently withdrew their applications.)

2.

   a) **Breakdown of Applicants by Domicile:**
   Home: 1421 applicants
   EU: 128 applicants
   Overseas: 338 applicants

   b) **Breakdown of Applicants by Gender**
   Male: 912
   Female: 975

   c) **Breakdown of Applicants by Entry Year**
   Applications for 2021:   1839
   Applications for 2022 (deferred):   48

   d) **Number of Open Applications:**
   There were 241 open applications for History and its associated Joint Schools in 2020.

3. **Number of Applicants Shortlisted**

History (Single Honours):	626
Ancient and Modern History:	62
History and Economics:	59
History and English:	53
History and Modern Languages:	81
History and Politics:	178
TOTAL:	**1059**

4. Number of Applicants Offered Places

	Number	Success Rate
History (Single Honours):	230*	25.1%
Ancient and Modern History:	25**	25.3%
History and Economics:	19***	10.7%
History and English:	15 ****	11.9%
History and Modern Languages:	24 *****	26.1%
History and Politics:	57 ******	11.7%
TOTAL:	**370**	**19.6%**

* This includes fifteen candidates who were interviewed for a place in a Joint School with History, but were subsequently offered places for Single Honours History. Includes six deferred candidates.

** 26, but one candidate accepted for single-honours History.

*** 20, but one candidate accepted for single-honours History.

**** 18, but three candidates interviewed for History and English were offered places for Single Honours, all three in English. Includes one deferred candidate.

*****28, but four candidates interviewed for History and Modern Languages were offered a place for Single Honours, three in History and one in Modern Languages. Includes two deferred candidates.

****** 65, but nine candidates interviewed for History and Politics were offered a place for Single Honours History. Includes one deferred candidate.

5. Procedure for Shortlisting

Candidates are shortlisted if their combined HAT/contextualised GCSE score (or HAT score alone, if no cGCSEs are available) is above the cut-off point of the cohort as a whole. The cut-off point will be determined by the Organising Secretary at a level to ensure that the University's preferred interview to place ratio (3-1) is not exceeded. This year, owing to the impact of the Covid pandemic on interview arrangements and capacity, the cut-off was raised with the aim of achieving an interview to place ratio of around 2.5-1. Colleges are also able to shortlist candidates whose score is below the cut-off level if they consider there are strong grounds for retaining particular candidates on the basis of school performance data and/or other relevant information from the UCAS forms (eg. illness or difficult family circumstances).

In the case of HPOL, AMH, HML, and HECO, joint school candidates will also be recommended for shortlisting if they are above the cut-off point on the cGCSE/HAT score. In the case of HENG, English written work will also be included in the shortlisting algorithm (according to the formula of 40% HAT, 30% English written work, and 30% contextualized GCSE). In the case of HECO, the TSA score will also

be included in the shortlisting algorithm (according to the formula one third HAT, one third TSA, one third contextualized GCSE). Joint-School candidates may also become candidates for English (HENG) or Modern Languages (HML), in each case with the agreement of the tutors from the other side of the school.

College tutors may also make a case to deselect other candidates whose scores are above the HAT/GCSE threshold, on specific grounds (for example they are not predicted grades which meet our conditional offer).

6. Weighting of Test/GCSE scores

Candidates are given scores and ranks at three different stages in the application process: at the shortlisting stage, immediately before the interviews, and after the interviews at the first college. The weightings of the different components used to score the applicants at each stage are outlined below:

History (Single Honours)

Application Stage	Contextualised GCSE score	History Aptitude Test (HAT)	History Written Work	History Interview
Shortlisting	50%	50%		
Pre-Interview	40%	40%	20%	
Post-Interview	30%	30%	10%	30%

Ancient and Modern History

Application Stage	Contextualised GCSE score	HAT	History Written Work	History Interview	Classics Interview
Shortlisting	50%	50%			
Pre-Interview	40%	40%	20%		
Post-Interview	30%	30%	10%	15%	15%

History and Economics

Application Stage	Contextualised GCSE score	HAT	TSA	History Written Work	History Interview	Economics Interview
Shortlisting	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%			
Pre-Interview	40%	40%		20%		
Post-Interview	20%	20%	20%	10%	15%	15%

History and English

Application Stage	Contextualised GCSE score	HAT	English Written Work	History Written Work	History Interview	English Interview
Shortlisting	30%	40%	30%			

Pre-Interview	30%	40%	30%			
Post-Interview	20%	20%	20%	10%	15%	15%

History and Modern Languages

HML candidates are considered at each stage of the process through consultation between College tutors from both History and ML. All information about these candidates, for both subjects, - GCSE score, pre-interview test scores (HAT and MLAT), written work scores, interview times and scores - is entered into the Modern Languages Admissions Database (MLAD) by the College's ML Primary User (who is one of the ML tutors). This results in each candidate carrying a 'guide score' (school written work scores are not included in this calculation). Final admissions decisions may be informed by this score, but it is not used mechanistically as a ranking tool.

History and Politics

Application Stage	Contextualised GCSE score	HAT	History Written Work	History Interview	Politics Interview
Shortlisting	50%	50%			
Pre-Interview	40%	40%	20%		
Post-Interview	30%	30%	10%	15%	15%

7. **How information from different sources is factored together in reaching decisions at each stage of the admissions procedure.**

Although the scores, individually and combined, provide a helpful framework for assessing candidates, tutors also take into account the individual circumstances and potential abilities of each candidate.

SECTION B – Statistical Information

1. **GCSEs and the Contextualised GCSE score**

Contextualised GCSE 9/8/A* score (cGCSE)

The cGCSE score provides information about how well an applicant has performed at GCSE compared to other applicants to Oxford, given the performance of the school at which they took their GCSEs. It can be useful for identifying applicants from low performing schools who have achieved fewer top grades than other applicants, but more than would be expected for an average applicant from that school, and vice versa. From 2018 entry, 'top grades' now includes 9 and 8 in reformed GCSE qualifications.

The cGCSE score is calculated by comparing the achieved number of 9/8/A* at GCSE to the expected number. Scores are expressed as standard deviation and will typically be in the range **-3** to **+3**, expressed to 4 decimal places:
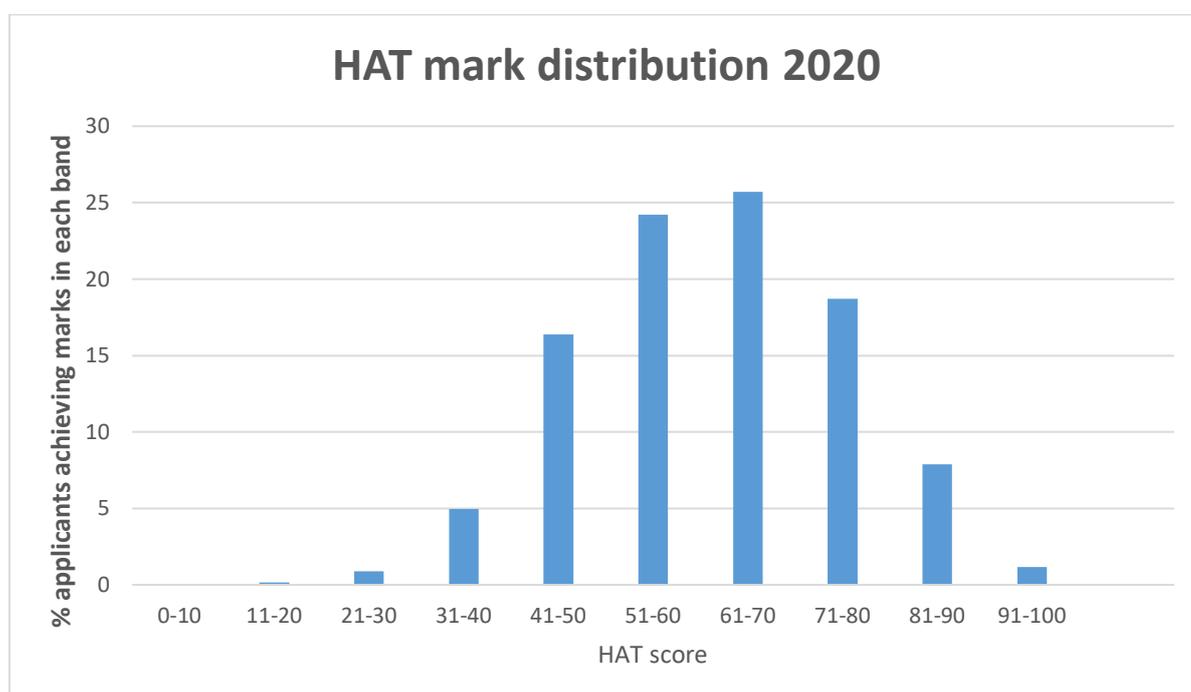
- Positive: a score **above 0**. This indicates that they have performed better than expected.
- Neutral: a score **of 0**. This indicates that they have performed at the level expected.
- Negative: a score **below 0**. This indicates that they have performed below expectations.

	All Applicants	Shortlisted Applicants	Placed Applicants
Average number of 8/9/A*s at GCSE	6.837	7.859	8.285
Average Contextualised GCSE Score	-0.151	0.2181	0.3831

2. The History Aptitude Test

This year the History Aptitude Test scores have also been contextualized, using the same school data as the contextualized GCSE scores.

	All Applicants	Shortlisted Applicants	Placed Applicants
Average HAT score (out of a possible 90 points, expressed as a percentage)	61.7	68.76	71.94
Average contextualized HAT score	-0.069	0.471	0.707

3. **History Written Work**

	Shortlisted Applicants	Placed Applicants
Average History Written Work Score (out of a possible 10 points)	6.67	7.10

N.B. History Written work is marked after the shortlisting stage.

4. **Interviews**

	Shortlisted Applicants	Placed Applicants
Average History Interview Score (out of a possible 10 points)	6.48	7.73

5. **Applicants with non-GCSE and non-A Level qualifications**

There were **414** applicants for History and its associated Joint Schools with pre-16 qualifications other than GCSEs. Of these applicants, **172** were shortlisted and **48** were placed (a 11.6% success rate).

There were **623** applicants taking post-16 qualifications other than A Levels (this includes **125** candidates taking a mixture of A-levels and other qualifications). Of these applicants, **306** were shortlisted and **95** were placed (a 15.3% success rate).

6. **Opportunity Oxford**

Opportunity Oxford offers are made to candidates who meet particular criteria in relation to socio-economic and educational disadvantage. Out of the total offers made, 344 were standard offers - ie. three As at A Level or an equivalent - while 26 were Opportunity Oxford offers - ie. three As at A level or an equivalent plus attendance on a short specially designed programme of skills acquisition and learning prior to starting their degree.

SECTION C: Feedback

Candidates should contact the college at which they were first interviewed for feedback on their performance at interview and in the submitted written work. HAT scores are available on request from the Faculty of History – please email undergraduate.admissions@history.ox.ac.uk.