A Rough Guide to Interviews
at Trinity Hall

Interviews are just one part of the admissions process at Cambridge. By the time you come to interview, we will already have seen your UCAS application and SAQ (or COPA), your personal statement, your school reference, your previous and/or predicted exam results and, in some cases, an example of written work. It is into this context that we will place your interview.

The interview is predominantly academic in content, and is designed to allow both you and your interviewers to explore whether the course you have applied for would be suited to your particular interests and aptitudes. The interviewers will be looking for such things as an enthusiasm for your chosen subject, an ability to think independently, and the motivation and commitment to work hard.

It is perfectly normal to be apprehensive about the interview, but your interviewers will do their best to put you at your ease. They will have read your application carefully and so will have a good idea of which subjects you have done at school and to what level; they will accordingly tailor the interview to what you have done. At the same time, they will try to push you just that little bit further into areas you may not have studied in depth, not to catch you out but to see how you respond to something new. They will not necessarily be looking for a single ‘right’ answer, but will be more interested in the process of thinking through an issue or question.

Here are some tips for getting the most out of your interview:

- Read through your personal statement before your interview, as your interviewers may want to talk to you about something you have written. Similarly, if you have been asked to submit written work, it is a good idea to look over that to refresh your memory.
- There is no dress code for the interview – just make sure you are wearing something you feel comfortable in and that will keep you warm in the cold Cambridge weather.
- Allow plenty of time for your journey – it is much better to arrive early than to be rushing around making yourself more nervous! (If you do find that you are delayed because of traffic, etc, please phone the Admissions Office on 01223 332535 or the Porters Lodge on 01223 332500.)
- During the interview, make sure you listen carefully to the questions. If you have not heard or understood a question, please ask the interviewer to repeat it or make it clearer – they will be very happy to do so.
- Be yourself, and try to view the interview as an interesting challenge rather than an unnerving obstacle!

The Cambridge Undergraduate Admissions website also contains some helpful advice on Interviews (see: http://www.study.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/interviews/)

Finally, please note that the content of your interviews (and any written assessment or preparatory material) must not be discussed with other interview candidates under any circumstances. This is to ensure fairness for all.

Good luck!