

2020

Oxbridge Entrance

# TSA TO INTERVIEW COURSE

U2 TUITION. & MINDS  
UNDERGROUND™

# OVERVIEW

## COURSE OUTLINE (1.5 HOUR SESSIONS)

This tutorial series seeks to prepare students applying for social science degrees at Oxford and Cambridge. The course begins with an overview of the application process before elucidating the TSA. Several Lessons will clarify the research and preparation necessary to excel with the TSA by using past paper examples and tips and tricks for the TSA test. The course follows by clarifying the style of interview popular among social science professors after which preparation techniques and approaches to differing interview styles will be clarified and discussed.

01

### LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION

**Topic Outline:** This lesson will introduce the Oxbridge application process including key dates and stages. Some attention will be paid to the interview process but much of the overview will focus on the TSA Sections 1 + 2 which will occur much sooner than the interviews.

**Lesson Plan:** The timeline of the application process will be clarified before the details on the TSA, the different types of questions included in the TSA, the best resources to begin preparation for the TSA, and the most effective strategies to take forward with each question type will all be clarified. These foundations will form the basis of the following lessons which will clarify these approaches in more detail.

02

### LESSON 2: ARGUMENTS, CONCLUSIONS, ASSUMPTIONS AND FLAWS

**Topic Outline:** This lesson will focus on the argument style questions found in section 1 of the TSA. The questions focus on the logical form of arguments and the various features that such arguments can have,

**Lesson Plan:** The notion of an argument will be broken down into its constituent premises and conclusions. After this we will discuss flaws in arguments, the concept of assumptions in arguments, as well as briefly discussing validity as it applies in the TSA.

## 03

**LESSON 3: PROBLEM SOLVING, COMPLEX ARITHMETIC AND SPEEDING UP THE MATHS**

**Topic Outline:** This lesson will focus on the other question group found in the TSA section 1 – problem solving questions. Whereas the previous lesson will focus on logical argument questions, the questions discussed in this lesson will be much more mathematical. While the mathematics required is within the capability of most prospective students, emphasis will be placed on the speed of answering questions, which must be fast to achieve good scores in the TSA.

**Lesson Plan:** Complex calculations, deciphering information from complete and incomplete tables, visual reasoning and other mathematical reasoning will be outlined and discussed. These questions can seem daunting at first and the familiarity gained through this lesson will be particularly helpful ahead of the TSA in October.

## 04

**LESSON 4: THE ESSAY SECTION OF THE TSA**

**Topic Outline:** This lesson will focus on section 2 of the TSA – the essay section. Unlike section 1, section 2 will require the student to answer a single question on some topical or thought-provoking question. The lesson will outline the styles of questions asked and the best approaches to employ in answering them.

**Lesson Plan:** A review of section 2 and its mark scheme will be discussed, followed by a past paper overview where students will be invited to submit practice essays for marking between lesson 4 and lesson 5.

## 05

**LESSON 5: THE INTERVIEW**

**Topic Outline:** This lesson will review the interview process, which takes place after the TSA where TSA results are sufficiently high. As well as reviewing the process, this lesson will detail the types of questions and interviewing techniques used at Oxford and Cambridge.

**Lesson Plan:** The interview will be outlined. A distinction will be made between Socratic, problem solving, reading comprehension & personal statement-based interviewing styles, and practicing/ performance tips will be outlined.