TEST OF ACADEMIC REASONING FOR ADMISSIONS

Prepare for the TARA online – at your own pace

Applying to Oxford or UCL for a course that asks for the TARA? Our self-paced course takes you through Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and the Writing Task, so you build the reasoning and writing skills the test looks for – no subject knowledge needed.

- Topics for Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, plus a Writing Task guide
- Activities, quizzes and mock tests, plus links to the official practice materials
- 100% online – start any day, study from anywhere



Official Pearson VUE test centre
Sit your TARA with us in High Wycombe

~~Was £999~~ **£499**

Login access within 2 working days

Buy now – £499 | **Fill in the assessment form** | **WhatsApp us**

Secure payment by Stripe · Pay in your local currency

Not ready to buy? Fill in our Student Initial Assessment Form – we will get back to you within 2 working days.

8,000+	Since 2018	300–400	365 days
learners served across our various exams and courses	supporting exams and courses	students a year sit top-university admissions tests – ESAT, TMUA, TARA – at our centre	a year – enrol any time

Please note: Oxford College of Education is an independent course provider. The TARA is owned and run by UAT-UK. OCE is not connected to or endorsed by UAT-UK or any university named on this page. UAT-UK provides free preparation materials – our course is optional additional support. We never use or share live test content.

WHY JOIN US

An established UK education provider – over 8,000 learners served across our exams and courses

Since 2018, Oxford College of Education has served over 8,000 learners for their various exams and courses – and now we bring that experience to the TARA.

Established since 2018

A UK education provider based at Bridge House, High Wycombe.

Over 8,000 learners

We have served over 8,000 learners across our various exams and courses – students and adults from many backgrounds.

Book your exam with us

Every year, 300–400 students come to our official Pearson VUE test centre for top-university admissions tests like the ESAT, TMUA and TARA. Study with us online and sit your TARA at our centre.

Built on the official specification

Every unit follows the UAT-UK TARA specification, linked to the free official practice materials.

Study your way

Self-paced, on any device, on the Moodle Workplace app too. A desktop is advised for timed tests.

Support beyond the test

Help with exam booking and UK university admissions, plus accommodation and airport arrivals for international students.



Prepare with us online. Sit your TARA with us in High Wycombe.

About our test centre

FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Clear support for students – and peace of mind for parents

For students

- A clear, step-by-step path through all three TARA modules
- Learn at your own speed around school and your UCAS application
- Practise with quizzes, mock tests and official practice materials
- Sit your test at our centre in a place you already know

For parents

- A structured course that follows the official TARA specification
- Buy online and receive login access within 2 working days
- Our team can guide your child through booking the exam
- Talk to us any time by phone, email or WhatsApp

COURSE AT A GLANCE

Everything you need to know, in one place

~~Was £999~~ **£499**

Full course · one-off payment · login access within 2 working days

Buy now – £499

The course

Course name	**TARA Preparation**
Syllabus	**Official UAT-UK TARA specification**
Content	**3 modules: CT, PS, Writing Task**
Delivery	**100% online, self-paced**
Duration	**3–6 months**
Start date	**Any time – 365 days a year**

Study tools

Study notes & activities	**Every topic**
Specimen & practice exams	**Included**
Writing Task guide	**Plan, structure, argue**
Official practice tests	**Linked from UAT-UK**
Mobile app	**Moodle Workplace**
Devices	**Any internet device**

Your exam

Exam sittings	**October & January**
Exam dates	**Official key dates**
Test centre	**OCE High Wycombe, or any Pearson centre**
Booking help	**Our team guides you**
International students	**Welcome to sit in the UK**

UNDERSTAND THE TEST

What is the TARA?

The Test of Academic Reasoning for Admissions is a non-subject-specific test used in a range of subject areas at the University of Oxford and UCL. It assesses generic thinking skills and your ability to express yourself clearly in writing. You do not need any subject-specific knowledge.

3
compulsory modules: Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Writing Task

22 + 22
multiple-choice questions in Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

40 min
for each module – 2 hours in total

1–9
separate scores for Critical Thinking and Problem Solving – no pass or fail

- No calculator or dictionary
- No marks lost for wrong answers
- Writing Task is not scored
- One sitting per admissions cycle

MODULE	WHO TAKES IT	CONTENT	TIME
Critical Thinking	All candidates	22 multiple-choice questions	40 minutes
Problem Solving	All candidates	22 multiple-choice questions	40 minutes
Writing Task	All candidates answer one question	One essay-style question chosen from three; 750-word limit	40 minutes

All three modules are compulsory and are pre-selected for you when you book. The Writing Task is not scored by UAT-UK – a copy of your response is sent to the universities you applied to for courses that require the TARA.

Two sittings every year: October and January

Most Oxford applicants must sit in October; the exception is the Astrophoria Foundation Year, which has a January deadline. For UCL and Oxford Foundation Year applicants there is no advantage in either sitting. Always check the official key dates for exact dates and deadlines.

See official key dates

TARA exam fee (set by UAT-UK)

Testing in the UK or Republic of Ireland	**£78**
Testing anywhere else	**£133**
Late bookings	**Not accepted**

Paid to UAT-UK when you book, separate from our course fee. Fees may change – check the official registration page. UK students in financial need may qualify for a UAT-UK bursary covering the full test fee.

UNIVERSITIES

Oxford and UCL use the TARA

For the courses below, the TARA is compulsory, according to UAT-UK's official course list for 2027 entry. Always confirm on each university's own course page before booking.

University of Oxford

- Economics and Management
- Experimental Psychology
- History and Economics
- History and Politics
- Human Sciences
- Philosophy and Linguistics
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
- PPE with Foundation Year
- Psychology and Linguistics
- Psychology and Philosophy

UCL

- BSc Computer Science
- MEng Computer Science
- MEng Computer Science and Mathematics
- BEng Mechanical Engineering
- MEng Mechanical Engineering
- MEng Robotics and Artificial Intelligence

Don't miss the test. If your course requires the TARA and you don't register, UAT-UK warns your application may be invalid. See the full UAT-UK course list.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

Three modules. A clear path through every skill.

Each topic comes with OCE study notes and practice, and specimen papers and practice exams help you prepare for test day under timed conditions.

Critical Thinking · 8 topics

- 8 topics, from argument structure and assumptions through to parallel reasoning
- Study notes and practice for every topic
- Timed practice for the 22-question module

Problem Solving · 6 topics

- Number and measures
- Spatial reasoning
- Graphs
- Logic puzzles
- Timed practice for the 22-question module

Writing Task

- Choosing one question from three
- How to plan, structure and argue
- Writing within 750 words in 40 minutes

ENROL TODAY

TARA Preparation Course – Oxford College of Education

~~Was £999~~ **£499**

One-off payment · 100% online · 3–6 months access · Course login sent within 2 working days

Buy now – £499

Not ready? Fill in the assessment form

YOUR LEARNING JOURNEY

Study online. Practise with purpose. Be ready for test day.

1 **Buy now**
Pay securely online – we send your login access within 2 working days – then begin your first topics.

2 **Learn topic by topic**
Read the study notes, then practise each skill.

3 **Practise**
Use specimen papers and practice exams under timed conditions – no calculator, just like the real thing.

4 **Sit your test**
Book through your UAT-UK account at OCE High Wycombe or any Pearson centre.



HOW IT WORKS

Before, on and after test day

1. Before the test

Create your UAT-UK account and book your test. If you need a bursary or access arrangements, apply **before** booking.

Registering for a test

2. On the day

Arrive on time at your Pearson test centre to check in, with photographic ID that meets UAT-UK's ID Policy.

Test day information

3. After the test

You'll be notified when your results are in your UAT-UK account, approximately four weeks after your test sitting. Results go automatically to universities where you applied for a course that requires the TARA.

Key information on results

CANDIDATE SUPPORT FROM UAT-UK

Bursaries and access arrangements

UAT-UK is committed to removing barriers to entry. Apply for either one in your UAT-UK account **before** you book your test.

Bursary scheme

Available to UK candidates in financial need. If you, or your parent or guardian, meet the criteria and provide the documents, the bursary covers the full cost of your test. UAT-UK can't refund you if you pay before applying.

Find out more about bursaries

OCE can't advise on bursary or benefit eligibility.

Access arrangements

Tell UAT-UK about any access arrangements you need and provide documentary evidence before booking. Adjustments can't be made when you arrive at the test centre.

Apply for access arrangements

SCORES AND RESULTS

How your TARA is scored

Scores run from 1.0 (low) to 9.0 (high), to one decimal place. You get separate scores for Critical Thinking and Problem Solving. The Writing Task is unscored; your answer goes to the universities, who decide how to use it.

A scale set by the cohort

The scale is based on how all candidates perform: the median score is fixed at 4.5 and the 90th percentile at 7.0. There are no grade boundaries and no pass mark.

Results by email

Results appear in your UAT-UK account approximately four weeks after your test, and you'll be notified. UAT-UK doesn't accept appeals of test scores.

Sent to universities for you

Scores go automatically, course by course, to universities on your UCAS application whose course uses the test. Add your UCAS Personal ID to your UAT-UK profile before you submit your UCAS application.

Expect a challenge. UAT-UK's tests are designed to separate highly capable applicants, so don't expect to score as highly as you do in school exams. Practice tests give feedback but no score, and practice results may not predict your live result. Official information on test results.

UAT-UK CANDIDATE ACCOUNT

Register or log in to book your TARA

You need a UAT-UK account to book a test and manage your booking. Returning candidates can use their existing account.

New to UAT-UK?

Create your candidate account before booking your TARA.

Register for a UAT-UK account

Already have an account?

Log in to manage your details and book your test.

Log in to UAT-UK



EXAM: BOOK YOUR TARA WITH US

Sit your exam at Oxford College of Education

We are an official Pearson VUE test centre. Every year, 300–400 students come to our centre for their top-university admissions tests, such as the ESAT, TMUA and TARA. When you book in your UAT-UK account, choose **Oxford College of Education** as your test centre – our team is happy to help you through it.

Address: Bridge House, 56 Bridge Street, High Wycombe, HP11 2EL

After booking, Pearson emails you your test date, time, centre address and directions. Arrive on time to check in, and bring photographic ID that meets UAT-UK's ID Policy.

See our test centre

What to expect (video)

Questions about booking or an issue on test day? Contact Pearson VUE – issues during your exam must be raised within 24 hours. You can also take a photo tour of a test centre.

FREE OFFICIAL RESOURCES

Start with the free official materials

UAT-UK recommends reading the test specification and answering the specimen test under timed conditions. It says you don't need any resources beyond what it provides.

TARA Specification
Official UAT-UK material

Specimen & practice tests
Official UAT-UK material

TARA Question Guide
Official UAT-UK material

Archive of past papers
Official UAT-UK material

GET STARTED

ESAT-TMUA-TARA Student Initial Assessment Form

Tell us about your test, your universities and how we can help. Our admissions team will get back to you within 2 working days. Parents and guardians are welcome to complete it with the student.

Fill in the assessment form

FAQS

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a paid course to prepare?

No. UAT-UK provides free preparation materials and says you don't need anything more. Our course is for students who want structured notes, practice and a clear study plan.

How do I join the course?

Click "Buy now" and pay securely online by Stripe. We will email your login access within 2 working days. Not ready to buy? Fill in our Student Initial Assessment Form and our admissions team will get back to you within 2 working days.

Do I need subject knowledge?

No. The TARA tests generic thinking skills and your ability to express yourself clearly in writing. You don't need any subject-specific knowledge.

Is the Writing Task marked?

Not by UAT-UK. A copy of your response is sent to the universities you applied to for courses that require the TARA. You answer one question from a choice of three, in up to 750 words.

Can I sit the TARA more than once?

No. You can sit each UAT-UK test only once per admissions cycle.

Can you help me book my exam?

Yes. The booking is made in your own UAT-UK account, and our team can guide you through each step. You can choose our High Wycombe centre or any other Pearson centre.

Can international students sit the TARA in the UK?

Yes. Sitting an exam is a permitted activity for UK visitors. Check whether you need a visa or an Electronic Travel Authorisation on gov.uk before you travel.

Will I score as highly as in my school exams?

Not necessarily. UAT-UK designs its tests to separate highly capable applicants, including students with top school grades, so scores are often lower than you may be used to. That is normal.

Is there a pass mark?

No. You receive separate scores from 1 to 9 for Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, and universities use them alongside the rest of your application.

I need access arrangements or a bursary. What should I do?

Apply through your UAT-UK account before you book, with the required evidence. Deadlines are on the official key dates page. OCE can't advise on bursary or benefit eligibility.

Where can I find more FAQs?

See our exam FAQs, our general FAQs and UAT-UK's scoring FAQs.

Your journey to a top UK university starts with the right preparation

Buy now for £499 (was £999) and we will send your login access within 2 working days. Not ready to buy? Fill in our Student Initial Assessment Form and we will get back to you within 2 working days.

Buy now – £499 | Fill in the assessment form | Chat on WhatsApp | Call +44 1494 25 6340

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Useful links
Student Initial Assessment Form
UAT-UK official website
Official key dates
UAT-UK policies
Exam FAQs

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