

Freya McIvor

Oxbridge Interview Report

Please answer in as much detail as possible. Your responses will definitely help other Surbiton girls to win a place at Oxford or Cambridge.

Name: Freya McIvor

University: Oxford

Subject: CAAH

Written test sat when at Oxford or Cambridge: Of what did it comprise ?

How, out of 10, would you rate your performance in this written test ?

First Interview

College: St. Hilda's

Subject, if applying for joint honours: Ancient History

Names of Interviewer(s) and / or position within College, if known (e.g., Admissions Tutor):

Sarah Chen

Ben Watson

Were you given anything to look at before going into the interview ? If so, please give as many details as possible (including how long you were given to prepare).

Given a picture of an artefact to look at for a couple of mins in interview.

If you were given something to prepare, what did they ask you about it once in the interview room ?

What I thought it depicted and why.

To what extent was the interview based around your personal statement- none / a bit / quite a lot (underline one) ? Please give some examples of questions asked about your personal statement.

I mentioned Augustus' building programme and they asked me about living conditions under Augustus for the people.

Were you required to send written work to the university before interview ? Yes / No (underline one). If "Yes", to what extent was the interview based around it- none / a bit / quite a lot (underline one) ? Please give some examples of questions asked about your written work.

I wrote an essay about architecture under Augustus (see above).

Please write in the space below as many other questions as you can remember not covered above.

Half was about Augustus' living conditions - what were they like?
(for the people) - did they mind?
- where else would they go?
Other half was about artefact.

Which question or kind of question did you find the most difficult to answer ?

Looking at the artefact.

How, out of 10, would you rate your performance in this interview? 6

How well did your mock interview(s) prepare you for this one? (Please underline one of the following.) No use at all / A bit useful, but not much / Useful preparation / Extremely useful- it felt very similar indeed.

↳ in terms of interview skills.

Lastly, how do you think that you could have been better prepared for this interview?

Practice looking at and talking about visual material - artefacts.

Interview 2

College: St. Hilda's

Subject, if applying for joint honours: Archaeology

Names of Interviewer(s) and / or position within College, if known (e.g., Admissions Tutor):

Were you given anything to look at before going into the interview? If so, please give as many details as possible (including how long you were given to prepare).

Looked at images + graphs in interviews.

If you were given something to prepare, what did they ask you about it once in the interview room?

What you could tell from images + graphs.

To what extent was the interview based around your personal statement- none / a bit / quite a lot (underline one)? Please give some examples of questions asked about your personal statement.

Were you required to send written work to the university before interview? Yes / No (underline one). If "Yes", to what extent was the interview based around it- none / a bit / quite a lot (underline one)? Please give some examples of questions asked about your written work.

Please write in the space below as many other questions as you can remember not covered above.

What is Classical?

What is Greatness?

What would make you feel Roman?

Why Archaeology?

Which question or kind of question did you find the most difficult to answer?

Open questions like 'What is Classical?' I mentioned Greece + Rome then they asked if Egypt was 'Classical' and why?

How, out of 10, would you rate your performance in this interview? 6

How well did your mock interview(s) prepare you for this one? (Please underline one of the following.) No use at all / A bit useful, but not much / Useful preparation / Extremely useful- it felt very similar indeed.

Lastly, how do you think that you could have been better prepared for this interview?

Practiced looking at archaeological remains and deciphering graphs.

Oxbridge Interview Report

Please answer in as much detail as possible. Your responses will definitely help other Surbiton girls to win a place at Oxford or Cambridge.

Name: Hannah Parish

University: Cambridge

Subject: Human, social and political sciences

Written test sat when at Oxford or Cambridge: Of what did it comprise ?

No written test

How, out of 10, would you rate your performance in this written test ?

First Interview

College: St. Catharines

Subject, if applying for joint honours: Archaeology

Names of Interviewer(s) and / or position within College, if known (e.g., Admissions Tutor):

Gilly Carr (and someone else)

Were you given anything to look at before going into the interview ? If so, please give as many details as possible (including how long you were given to prepare).

no

If you were given something to prepare, what did they ask you about it once in the interview room ?

To what extent was the interview based around your personal statement- none / a bit / quite a lot (underline one) ? Please give some examples of questions asked about your personal statement.

Were you required to send written work to the university before interview ? Yes / No (underline one). If “Yes”, to what extent was the interview based around it- none / a bit / quite a lot (underline one) ? Please give some examples of questions asked about your written work.

Please write in the space below as many other questions as you can remember not covered above.

Had to pick an artefact from 4, and say as much about it, and what it told you about the society it came from, as possible

Then given 2nd artefact, same process

Asked about history of archaeology:

Why did the British and French governments have so much interest in Egyptian archaeology in the 19th C?

What was the Egyptian governments reaction to this?

Asked about ethics of exhuming and analysing bodies

Asked about what museum displays should be like

Which question or kind of question did you find the most difficult to answer ?

The one about museum displays- completely unexpected

The artefacts were quite tricky too, as in the amount they wanted you to be able to say

How, out of 10, would you rate your performance in this interview ? 6-7

How well did your mock interview(s) prepare you for this one ? (Please underline one of the following.) No use at all / A bit useful, but not much / Useful preparation / Extremely useful- it felt very similar indeed.

Lastly, how do you think that you could have been better prepared for this interview ?

More practice with artefacts

Interview 2

College: St. Catharines
politics

Subject, if applying for joint honours: anthropology, archaeology and

Names of Interviewer(s) and / or position within College, if known (e.g., Admissions Tutor):

Harald Wydra (and someone else)

Were you given anything to look at before going into the interview ? If so, please give as many details as possible (including how long you were given to prepare).

No

If you were given something to prepare, what did they ask you about it once in the interview room ?

To what extent was the interview based around your personal statement- none / a bit / quite a lot (underline one) ? Please give some examples of questions asked about your personal statement.

Were you required to send written work to the university before interview ? Yes / No (underline one). If “Yes”, to what extent was the interview based around it- none / a bit / quite a lot (underline one) ? Please give some examples of questions asked about your written work.

Please write in the space below as many other questions as you can remember not covered above.

Asked about connections between archaeology and anthropology

Eg,
Talk about an archaeological discovery that has changed the way we think about an aspect of society / society as a whole.

Then asked questions linking to my answer.

For politics, I was asked:

Do you feel the global power balance of USA/ Russia has changed significantly since the cold war? How?

Are political parties becoming more or less important in the UK and Europe ?

Then asked questions linking to my answers

Which question or kind of question did you find the most difficult to answer ?

These were all ok! I felt a bit out of my depth for politics, but only because I hadn't known I was going to be interviewed on it. Therefore my knowledge was more general, and I was less sure how balanced my ideas were, but it still went well.

How, out of 10, would you rate your performance in this interview ? 8-9

How well did your mock interview(s) prepare you for this one ? (Please underline one of the following.) No use at all / A bit useful, but not much / Useful preparation / Extremely useful- it felt very similar indeed.

Lastly, how do you think that you could have been better prepared for this interview ?

Only by knowing about the politics section! And as HSPS is a new course, no one had any idea how the interviews were going to work. But I think its fair to assume, from this, that they WILL ask you about politics, whatever you say in your personal statement. I only talked about arch and anth.