



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

EDUCATION ADMISSIONS ASSESSMENT

DECEMBER 2016

Education At-Interview Assessment 1

Instructions

Time allowed: one hour – 15 minutes reading/planning, plus 45 minutes writing time.

This assessment is designed for you to demonstrate your ability to think critically about an educational issue. You are not expected to have detailed factual or contextual knowledge about the issue.

Study the source which introduces an issue in education. Then write a response to this question:

What do you think the purpose of assessment is – or could be?

You should write in an essay style. Take time to think about the issues and plan your work. Construct an argument. You may bring in points from your own experience and cultural context if appropriate.

Your written response will be judged on the following criteria:

- intellectual engagement with, and critical discussion of a source, giving a personal insight
- development and presentation of an argument, analysing a range of information
- evidence of an understanding of the purpose, and of the social and political contexts of educational practices

Please see below for the source material.

Source 1

'The teacher's job is not to transmit knowledge, nor to facilitate learning. It is to engineer effective learning environments for the students. The key features of effective learning environments are that they create student engagement and allow teachers, learners, and their peers to ensure that the learning is proceeding in the intended direction. The only way we can do this is through assessment. That is why assessment is, indeed, the bridge between teaching and learning.'

William, D (2011) *Embedded formative assessment*. Bloomington: Solution Tree.

Source 2

'Were all instructors to realise that the quality of mental processes, not the production of correct answers, is the measure of educative growth something hardly less than a revolution in teaching would be worked.'

Dewey, J (1926) *Democracy and Education*. New York: Macmillan.

Education At-Interview Assessment 2

Instructions

Time allowed: one hour – 15 minutes reading/planning, plus 45 minutes writing time.

This assessment is designed for you to demonstrate your ability to think critically about an educational issue. You are not expected to have detailed factual or contextual knowledge about the issue.

Study the source which introduces an issue in education. Then write a response to this question:

What role should tradition play in education?

You should write in an essay style. Take time to think about the issues and plan your work. Construct an argument. You may bring in points from your own experience and cultural context if appropriate.

Your written response will be judged on the following criteria:

- intellectual engagement with, and critical discussion of a source, giving a personal insight
- development and presentation of an argument, analysing a range of information
- evidence of an understanding of the purpose, and of the social and political contexts of educational practices

Please see below for the source material.

Source 1

'The problem of education in the modern world lies in the fact that by its very nature it cannot forgo either authority or tradition, and yet must proceed in a world that is neither structured by authority nor held together by tradition.'

Arendt, H (1954) *The Crisis in Education*.

Source 2

'...culture (is) a pursuit of our total perfection by means of getting to know, on all the matters which most concern us, the best which has been thought and said in the world, and, through this knowledge, turning a stream of fresh and free thought upon our stock notions and habits.'

Arnold, M (1875) *Culture and Anarchy*. Tokyo: Kenkyusha.

Source 3

'Most of what our students need to know hasn't been discovered or invented yet. 'Learning how to learn' used to be an optional extra in education; today, it's a survival skill.'

William, D (2011) *Embedded formative assessment*. Bloomington: Solution Tree