

# ASPIRING TO OXBRIDGE



JFS, APRIL 2023



# OXFORD 2009-2012



ALICIA, CONSULTANCY DIRECTOR

# OXBRIDGE APPLICATIONS, LONDON



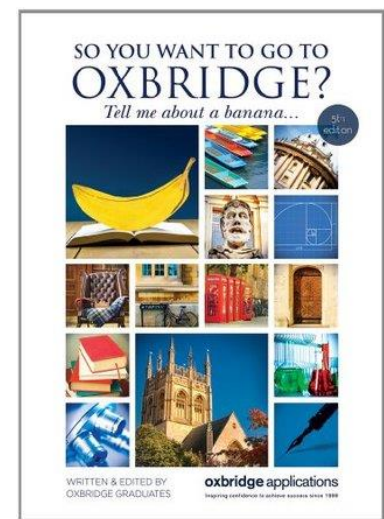
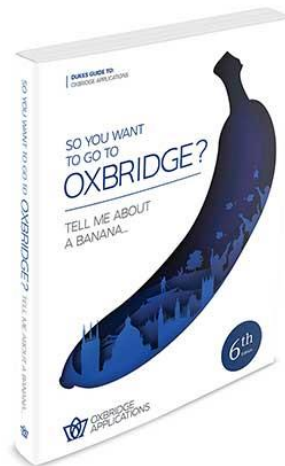
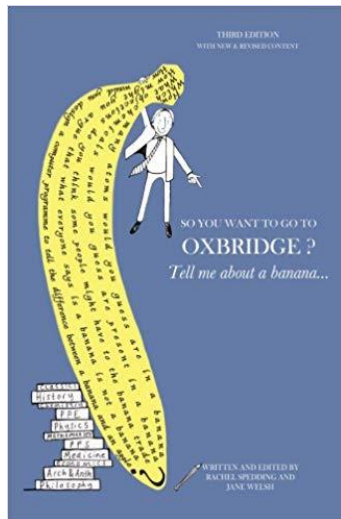
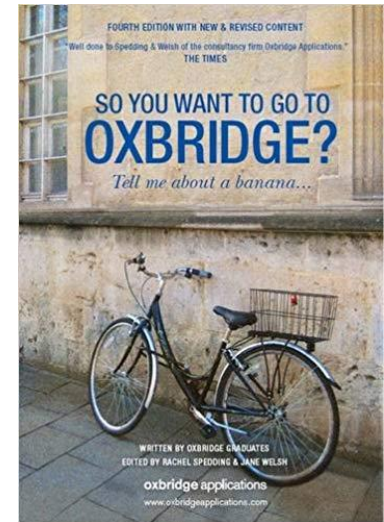
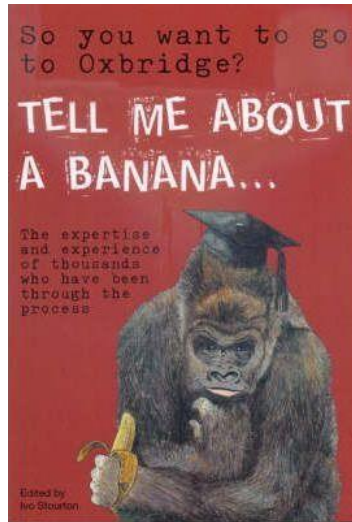
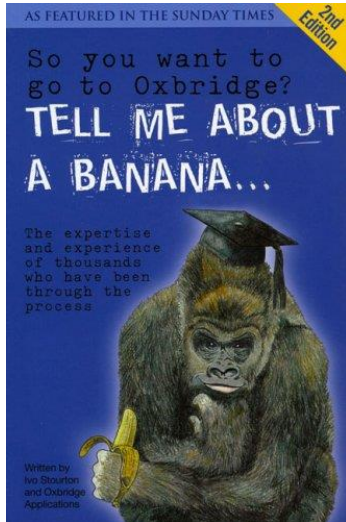
## WELCOME TO OXBRIDGE APPLICATIONS

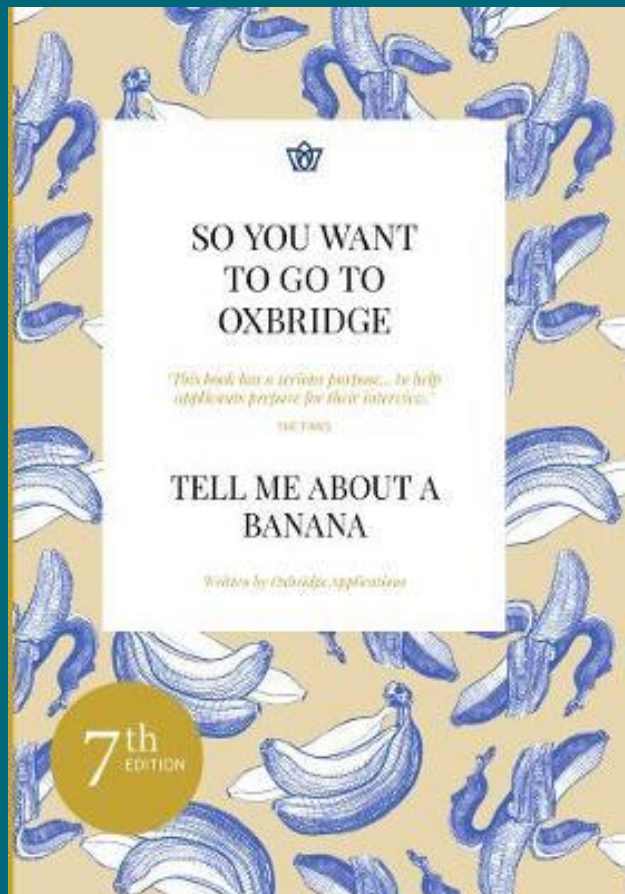
Established in 1999, Oxbridge Applications is the global leader in Oxbridge admissions consulting. We provide expert guidance and support for students at every stage of their application to Oxford and Cambridge, as well as those applying to top UK medical and law schools.

[READ MORE ABOUT OUR HERITAGE](#)

# 23 YEARS OF OXBRIDGE RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY











Should your student consider  
Oxford or Cambridge?





The “tutorial/supervision” system of teaching

# LEARNING “IN REVERSE”



TEACHING YOURSELF THEN SHARING YOUR WORK



# OXBRIDGE TRADITION



GOWNS, BALLS, ARCHITECTURE, HISTORY, ALUMNI  
NETWORK



# OXBRIDGE COLLEGE LIFE



LIVING IN 'SETS', 'STAIRCASES' OR 'CORRIDORS'



# NETWORKING WITH SPEAKERS



DINNERS, DEBATES, WORKSHOPS, TALKS,  
INTERNSHIPS

**Library facilities**

**Best job opportunities after graduating**

- Banking - Medicine
- Law - Business

**Faculty expertise**

**Inspiring visitors and guest speakers**

**Blues-level sports**

**Exciting peer group**

**Master's degree**

**Collegiate-environment**







THEY WANT TO APPLY -  
CAN THEY?



# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

IB: 40- 42 points  
minimum

A Levels : A\*A\*A - AAA



**GCSEs: At least 8 x 8/9**



# CHOOSING A SUBJECT



DO THEY WANT TO BE A SUBJECT SPECIALIST?

# IS OXBRIDGE THE RIGHT ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK FOR THEM?

## Single-Honours:

Engineering  
Medicine  
History (23%)  
English  
Philosophy (20%)  
Classics (40%)  
Geography  
+ LOTS MORE

## Integrated:

PPE, Oxford  
  
HSPS, Cambridge  
Nat Sci, Cambridge

## Joint honours:

History and Politics  
(11%)  
  
Physics and  
Philosophy (9%)  
  
Classics and  
Languages (36%)



# WHICH DEGREE TO APPLY FOR?

✓ Law

✓ Medicine

✓ HSPS

✓ Economics and Management  
✓ Land Economy

✓ Physics

✓ Mathematics and Statistics

✓ Experimental Psychology

✓ Oriental Studies

✓ Natural Sciences

✓ Biochemistry

✓ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

**Around 30 undergraduate courses at Cambridge and 50 at Oxford**

# Subject Variations and statistics?

**They like History....**

## Oxford

History, 23 %, 244 places

History and Economics, 11%, 17 places

History and English, 13%, 13 places

History and Politics, 11%, 44 places

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CAAH 24%, 22 places

Arch + Anth, 24%, 26 places

## Cambridge

History, 33%, 217 places

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Asian and Middle Eastern Studies  
50%, 49 places

Archaeology: 50%, 24 places

Classics, 50%, 106 places



# HAVE THEY CHOSEN THE RIGHT UNIVERSITY?



## ✓ Oxford

- Fond of all 8/9s
- Largely pre-test
- High interview cut



- Strong, in-person pooling system



## ✓ Cambridge

- Wider GCSEs
- More tests at interview
- Interview over 75%



- Weak, paper pooling system

Which pathway suits me?

# HAVE THEY CHOSEN THE RIGHT COURSE?



**ARE THEY  
THE BEST?**





# CHOOSING A COLLEGE



# CHOOSING A COLLEGE







HOW DO THEY DO IT?



# OA METHOD:

## ✓ Application Strategy

- Choosing a Course
- Choosing a University
- Choosing a college
- Preparing Conscientiously



## ✓ Application Excellence

- Personal Statement
- Admissions Test
- Written Work
- Interviews



# PERSONAL STATEMENT (16<sup>th</sup> October 2023)

## Personal Statement:

- Why your course?
- Independent research and reading?
- 4000 Characters

# ADMISSIONS TEST (October and November 2023)

## Admissions Tests:

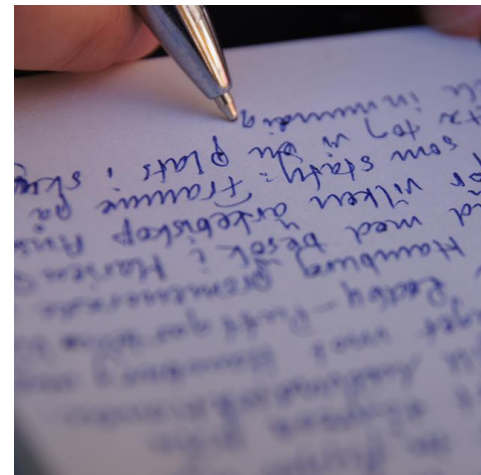
- Pre-tests and at interview tests
- Key part of interview selection process for Oxford
- Marked on a bell-curve (bands 1-4)



# WRITTEN WORK (Nov 2023)

## Written Work:

- Original school/college work
- Around 2000 words
- Predominantly for Humanities and the Arts



# INTERVIEWS (Dec 2023)

## Interviews:

- Between 2 and 4 interviews
- Questioned by university dons.





# A SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT STANDS OUT AT ALL STAGES



STATEMENT, TEST, REFERENCES, ESSAYS,  
INTERVIEW

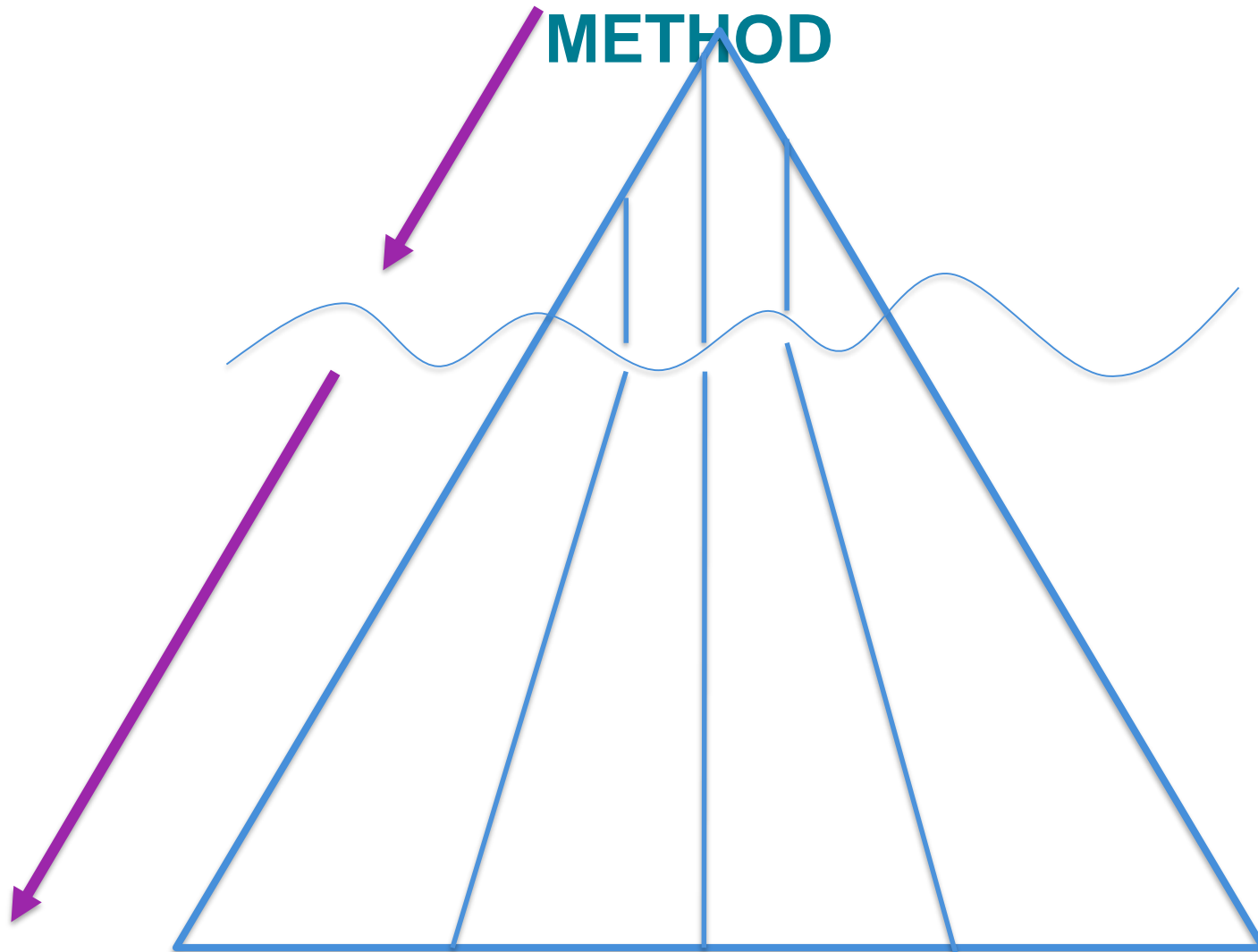
# THE PERSONAL STATEMENT



SUBJECT-SPECIFIC, WELL-RESEARCHED,  
EXCITING



# PERSONAL STATEMENT – THE ICEBERG



# APPLYING FOR SCIENCE?



MAKE SURE YOU KNOW ALL THE KEY HL CONTENT!












# THE ADMISSIONS TESTS



AIM FOR THE TOP 10% OF GLOBAL PERFORMANCE

# WHICH TEST DO I TAKE?

 <b>UCAS code</b>	LN12	 <b>Duration</b>	3 years (BA)
 <b>Entrance requirements</b>	A*AA (with Maths at A or A*)	 <b>Subject requirements</b>	 Maths
 <b>Admissions test(s)</b>	<a href="https://ox.ac.uk/tsa">ox.ac.uk/tsa</a>	 <b>Written work</b>	None
 <b>Admissions statistics*</b>	Interviewed: 24% Successful: 6% Intake: 83  *3-year average 2016-18	 <b>Contact</b>	+44 (0) 1865 271098  <a href="#">Email Economics and Management</a>









# WRITTEN WORK



DEMONSTRATE YOUR ESSAY-WRITING SKILL AND  
VERVE

# GET PREPARED EARLY

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Word document with a blue ribbon at the top containing tabs for File, Home, Insert, Draw, Design, Layout, References, Mailings, Review, View, Help, and a search bar. The document text is as follows:

In what ways and to what effects is isolation displayed through 'As I Lay Dying' by William Faulkner and in Emily Bronte's 'Wuthering Heights'?

In both William Faulkner's *'As I Lay Dying'* and Emily Bronte's *'Wuthering Heights'* the theme of isolation within familial structures is explored through narrative formation and the novel's construction.

Isolation is explored thematically and performed stylistically.

Faulkner displays a closed family structure from which the reader and the characters are segregated through the dialogue. Bronte similarly exploits the **narrative composition of both removed and manipulative narrators**, further fragmenting the characters, again emulating the distancing of the reader. However, while Bronte's **depiction of this separation is one of familial disruption** forged through **disingenuous characters such as Nelly**, its narrative structure alerts the reader to its dissociated fabrication. Whereas, Faulkner's syntactic and stylistic style, often deemed 'Faulknerian' although also Gothic, becomes entwined with and embodies the character's isolation.

.....

Ambiguous narration and narrative framing are used by both Faulkner and Emily Bronte to convey the evident separation, not only between the characters, but also between the reader and the text. In 'As I Lay Dying' Faulkner creates a structure that denotes the separation of the characters within their societies, the fragmentation of the text is therefore a manifestation of the fractured identity of the family within it. This is explicitly detailed through the detached monologues of each of the characters with no specific binding presence. LOVELY This novel of syncopated breaks, interruptions and silences can be seen as a joycean polyphony, yet instead of four monologues we are given 55

The bottom of the screenshot shows the Windows taskbar with the search bar, taskbar icons for various applications, and the system tray showing the date and time as 14:31 on 16/06/2019.

# WRITE AND EDIT WITH OXBRIDGE IN MIND



# THE INTERVIEW



ACADEMIC DEMEANOUR, ENTHUSIASM

# DO MOCK-INTERVIEWS



BODY LANGUAGES, FILLER-WORDS, CLARITY



# OXBRIDGE APPLICATIONS METHOD:

## ✓ Application Excellence

- Personal Statement
- Admissions Test
- Written Work
- Interviews

## ✓ Application Strategy

- Choosing a Course
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# THANK YOU

I am happy to answer your questions.

You can also contact the team or arrange to come and  
meet with us at:

**[www.oxbridgeapplications.com](http://www.oxbridgeapplications.com)**