



LSE

THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS ASSESSMENT

Your Handbook

The Admissions Assessment

The Undergraduate Admissions Assessment (UGAA) at LSE is a test that is used to fairly assess applicants from non-traditional educational backgrounds and it is for this reason that you have been invited to sit the test.

The assessment gives our Admissions Selectors the opportunity to see a sample of your original work, produced under examination conditions, and allows them to assess your application in a fair and equitable manner.

This document should provide all of the information that you will need to prepare for the assessment and will hopefully answer any questions that you might have. If you have any further questions you can contact the Undergraduate Admissions team by email (ug.admissions@lse.ac.uk) or you can visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).



What is the UGAA?

The UGAA gives our Admissions Selectors the opportunity to see a sample of an applicant's original work, produced under examination conditions, and seeks to assess applicants from a variety of backgrounds in a fair and equitable manner. The assessment is three hours long and consists of an English section and a Mathematics section, designed to test your written and numerical skills.

The assessment has three sections: comprehension exercises (**Section A**); essay questions (**Section B**); and mathematical problems (**Section C** or **D**). It is not an assessment of general knowledge.

WHY DO I NEED TO SIT THE UGAA?

There are a number of reasons why further assessment is required for students from certain educational backgrounds, some of which include:

- The qualification contains few formal examinations – as the majority of assessment at LSE is by exam we need to see how you perform under examination conditions.
- The qualification is not standardised – grades can vary from school to school so we would like an independent assessment of your skills.
- We are uncertain whether your curriculum offers full coverage of required subject material, especially Maths.
- The qualification is relatively new or recently reformed, or we have not had many applicants offering that qualification before. The UGAA gives us an independent measure of how well the qualification prepares students for study at LSE.
- An applicant has taken a break from study or followed a non-standard educational pathway.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The UGAA is a compulsory for students who are invited by the Selector. LSE is unable to further consider students who opt not to sit the assessment. Your application will be considered as incomplete and cannot be fairly compared to other similar students.



Location

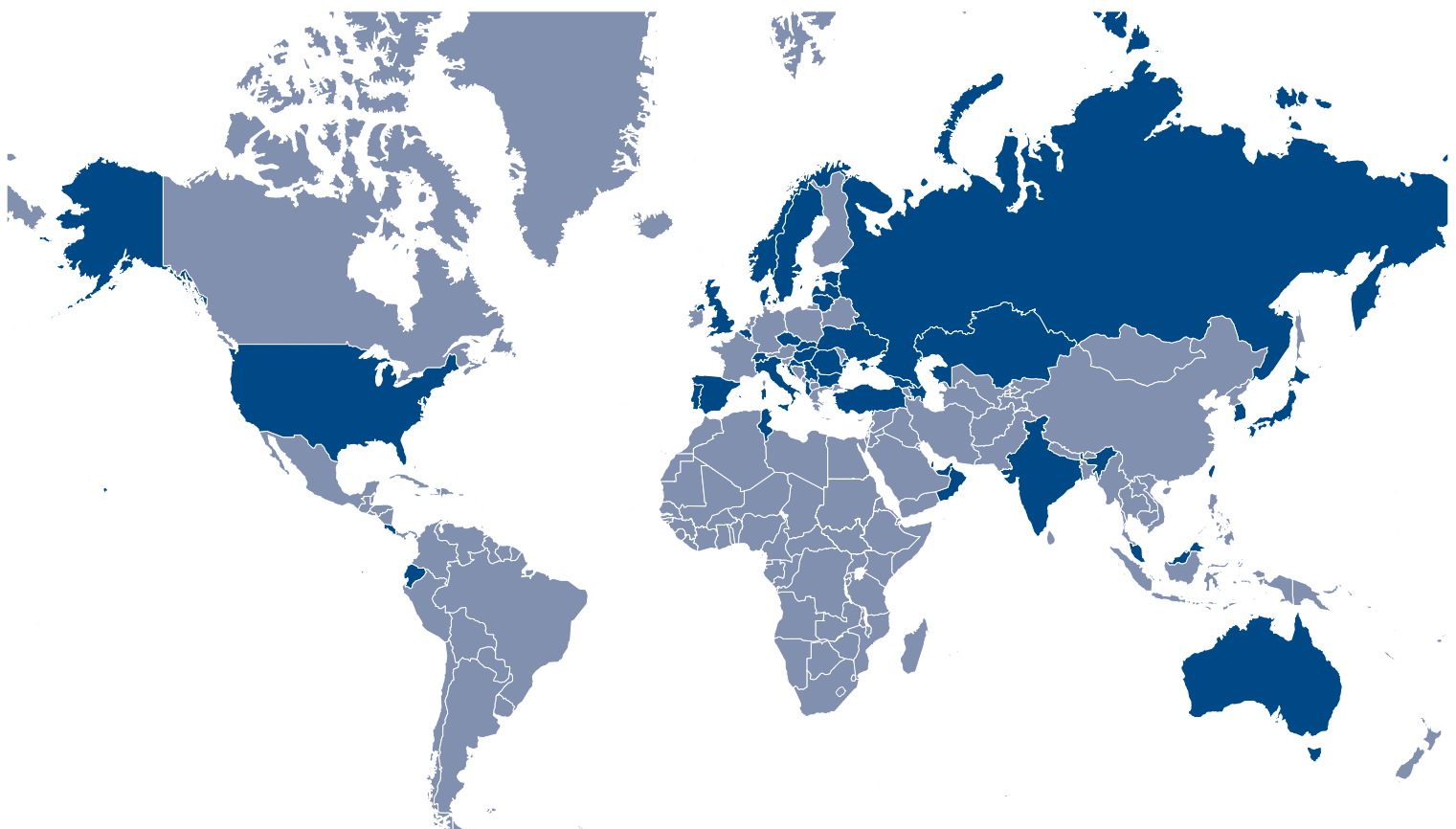
Most applicants sit the UGAA at the LSE campus. However, as applicants from all over the world are invited to sit the UGAA, we fully understand that not all students can come to London for the assessment day.

We encourage students to take the assessment in their home country and we will ensure that the assessment materials are provided in good time. We suggest you ask your school if they are able to invigilate the UGAA, as they will be familiar with examination procedures. If this is not possible, you should contact your local British Council or local universities to ask if they offer invigilation services. Please ensure you complete our [questionnaire](#) with all the required details to guarantee safe delivery of test materials. The map below depicts past test locations, demonstrating that you can sit the assessment anywhere in the world.

TIME AND DATE

This year, the assessment is scheduled to take place on **5 March 2019**, from **10am - 1pm UK time**. We cannot change the date of the examination under any circumstances, due to our own strict time constraints within the admissions process.

If you are taking the UGAA in a different time zone and have concerns regarding timing, please [contact](#) UG Admissions for further guidance.



Albania
Australia
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bulgaria
Costa Rica
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark

Ecuador
Egypt
England
Estonia
Georgia
Hong Kong
Hungary
India
Italy

Japan
Kazakhstan
Latvia
Lithuania
Malaysia
Malta
Norway
Oman
Portugal

Qatar
Romania
Russia
Scotland
Serbia
Slovakia
South Korea
Spain
Sweden

Switzerland
Taiwan
Tunisia
Turkey
UAE
Ukraine
USA

Assessment Content

We review the content of the UGAA every year to ensure the assessment remains relevant to our admissions process. Generally speaking, the assessment will include the following:

- A précis
- An essay question
- Maths questions.

There are two different tests, depending on the level of maths required for your chosen degree. Please see [here](#) to confirm your test number.

- Students sitting **Test 1** will complete sections **A, B1** and **D**
- Students sitting **Test 2** will complete sections **A, B2** and **C**.

In the English, we are looking for...

Précis

- Ability to identify key points
- Be clear and concise
- Competent use of vocabulary
- Ability to express ideas in own words
- 150 word limit.

Essay

- Logical structure
- Appropriate use of English
- Well-developed and reasoned argument
- No word limit.

In the maths sections, you will be expected to...

Maths Section C

- Manipulate, interpret and analyse data
- Show evidence of logical reasoning
- Demonstrate numerical and graphical competence.

Maths Section D

- Knowledge of key techniques of differential and integral calculus of a single variable
- Competence in using algebra and calculus
- Solve unfamiliar problems requiring an element of mathematical modelling proficiency in algebra and algebraic manipulation.



How do I revise?

The UGAA does not require any specific preparation; it is designed to test generic skills that should be covered in your current programme of study.

We make past papers available so that students can see the level of English and Maths that is expected. Past papers can be found [here](#). Note that past papers should be used as a guide for the level of the test, not the exact format of the forthcoming assessment. However, if you are concerned about a particular part of the UGAA and would like to undertake some preparation, our Admissions Selectors have made some suggestions.

SECTION A

Read articles from a quality newspaper designed for native English language speakers (*The Guardian*, *New York Times* and *The Economist* and all allow some free access). Discuss the key points in English with a friend or teacher.

SECTION B

If your current programme of study does not include timed essay writing, you might like to try writing one or two of the past essay questions under timed conditions. Being aware of current affairs can also help you become familiar with the topics you are asked to write about.

SECTION C

This Maths section is only for programmes that do not require A level Maths. It is broadly set at **GCSE standard** (grades A*-B), but with a focus on the skills necessary for the social sciences. If you haven't used your maths skills in a while websites such as [BBC Bitesize](#) or the [National Numeracy Challenge](#) can help you prepare.

SECTION D

This Maths section is for programmes which require A level Maths or equivalent. It is broadly set at **A level standard** (grades A-A*), focussing on the core units (C1-4). We expect that you have covered the majority of the topics in your own qualification, but if you would like further practice there are a number of A level Maths revision resources available online (eg, [Further Mathematics Support Programme](#) or [Bright Knowledge](#)).



Before the Assessment

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

You should inform the UG team of any disability which you feel may affect your performance in order for us to make suitable arrangements at the earliest opportunity. We normally agree to make the same arrangements that you have with your school or college during assessments.

Please also provide a note from your school, and/or a doctor which can be reviewed by our [Disability and Wellbeing team](#). If required, we will then confirm the amount of additional time you are permitted. We will confirm this with you prior to the assessment.

If you are sitting the assessment elsewhere, you should also contact your host institution to allow them to make similar arrangements.

FINAL PREPARATIONS

Before the assessment, ensure you know the location and room number where you will be sitting the assessment.

Please ensure you have made all relevant travel plans to your test centre. If you are travelling to LSE, you can find travel advice [here](#).

You should be familiar with the **Assessment Procedures for UGAA Candidates 2019**, a copy of which should already have been emailed to you. Please check our procedures for electronic items and the documents required for identification.

REMEMBER...

...if you are invited to sit the UGAA it means the Selector believes your application shows you have the potential to study at LSE. Having the UGAA as an independent assessment of your skills allows us to accept applications from a wider range of qualifications and maintain the diversity of students at LSE. An invitation is a momentous achievement!



Assessment Day – LSE

The **UGAA** usually takes place in Clement House at LSE. You will receive an email closer to the time which confirms your room number.

There will be a member of staff available to direct students to the correct room, if you are unsure.

Please arrive at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start time to avoid delays to the start of the assessment.

Electronic items (eg, mobile phones and smart watches) must be switched off and placed under your desk. Failure to comply will result in your paper being cancelled.

PLEASE NOTE

There is no dress requirement for the UGAA; please wear whatever makes you feel comfortable. You will not be judged on your clothing.

Please feel free to explore the LSE campus after the assessment. You can use our **LSE Explorer** to tour our main buildings and learn more about the history of the campus!

WHAT DO I HAVE TO BRING?

- **Photographic ID** (eg, driving licence, passport, or national ID card). Please **contact** UG Admissions immediately if this is not possible. Students without ID will not be permitted entry to the exam room
- Copy of your **confirmation email**
- Electronic calculator
- **Blue** or **black** ink pen
- A bottle of water if necessary.



Assessment Day – External Centre

You will be responsible for all local costs. This will include the cost of invigilation services and the returning of the documents via courier. Please ensure you check all costs with your centre before you confirm anything.

Examination papers are sent via courier directly to test centres in advance of the assessment. **These will be sent earlier, or via email, if the location is more remote.**

You must check what time your test centre would like you to arrive before the start of the assessment.

PLEASE NOTE

We email all test centres in advance to confirm what is required of them. For this reason, please ensure the contact details you provide on the reply slip are accurate.

Please check all final requirements with your test centre. You should **contact us directly** if you have concerns at any point.

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- Electronic calculator
- **Blue** or **black** ink pen
- A bottle of water if necessary.



What happens next?

Our Admissions Selectors will review your results alongside:

- The information on your UCAS application form
- The performance of other similar UGAA candidates.

Due to the high level of competition at LSE, passing the UGAA does not guarantee that an offer will be made. Our Selectors are only able to give offers to the strongest performing candidates.

All candidates will receive their final UCAS decision by **31 March 2019**.

WHAT IS THE PASS MARK?

There is a nominal **pass mark of 60 per cent** for the UGAA, including **at least 50 per cent in each section**. However, programmes which require Maths will pay close attention to your performance in this part of the assessment. Please note, programmes with higher entry requirements will look for candidates to exceed the published pass mark.

CAN I REQUEST MY RESULTS?

Results are available **on request** for individual candidates following the release of all final decisions to UCAS, these are not sent automatically. Results should be requested via email directly from the UG Admissions office. We are unable to comment on the performance of other candidates in your cohort.



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