



2026 Subject Interviews – Written Work Requirements

1. Which subjects require written work?

Written work required	No written work required
Asian & Middle Eastern Studies (European language applicants only)	Chemical Engineering
Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic	Computer Science
Archaeology	Economics
Architecture (Portfolio)	Engineering
Classics	Geography
Design (Portfolio)	History of Art
Education	Land Economy
English	Law
History	Linguistics
History & Languages	Mathematics
History & Politics	Medicine
Human, Social & Political Sciences	Natural Sciences
Linguistics & Modern Languages	Philosophy
Modern Languages	Psychological & Behavioural Sciences
Music	Veterinary Medicine
Theology, Religion & Philosophy of Religion	

2. Choosing your written work

- Each essay must be accompanied by a coversheet (except Architecture/Design portfolios). Download here: [Written work coversheet](#)
- Unless specified otherwise, you may submit any school/college work, even if not directly related to your chosen subject.
- Most submissions are between 1,000–3,000 words. Longer essays may not be read in full.
- Work must be in English, unless applying for a foreign language. Translations are acceptable.
- Ideally, at least one piece should show teacher's comments, but unmarked work will be accepted.

3. Submitting your written work

Step 1 – Create PDFs: One PDF per piece, cover sheet first (except Architecture/Design), max size 3 MB.

Step 2 – File names: LASTNAME Firstname – UCAS ID – Written Work X (e.g., POLLARD Ellie – 12345678 – Written Work 1).

Step 3 – Check your file: Ensure pages are included, in order, legible, first page = coversheet, under 3 MB.

Step 4 – Upload via the online questionnaire ([Written Work Upload](#)).

4. Deadlines

Final deadline: Wednesday 4 November 2026 (23:59 UK time).

Keep a copy of your PDFs and re-read before interview as they may be discussed.

5. Subject-specific information

Asian & Middle Eastern Studies (European language applicants only)

Submit one piece of recent schoolwork in a language you are studying at school, preferably the language you intend to continue at Cambridge. If you are currently studying, the work should be from this academic year.

Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic

Submit two pieces of recent classwork, preferably marked, in a subject (or subjects) of your choice. We would prefer full-length essays rather than answers to structured questions. The work may be used as a basis for discussion at interview.

Archaeology

Submit one piece of recent classwork in a subject of your choice, preferably marked. It should be in essay format rather than science coursework or a timed exam, with a maximum length of 1,500 words; an extract from an EPQ is acceptable. The essay may be discussed at interview.

Architecture

Submit a PDF of exactly 6 A4 pages (under 15 MB) containing images of your own artwork. Drawing and painting would normally form the basis of the selection, but sculpture, photography and other media may also be included; photographs are suitable for three-dimensional work. Sketchbook pages, preparatory investigations and ongoing drawings are particularly welcome. Include a variety of subject matter and select work that best represents your interests and abilities and that you would be happy to discuss at interview. We do not expect architectural plans or sections. No coversheet required.

Classics

Submit two essays completed as part of your A-level (or equivalent) studies, in a subject or subjects of your choice. At least one of the pieces must be in essay format.

Design

Submit a PDF of exactly 6 A4 pages (under 15 MB) containing images of your own artwork. We want to see work that illustrates your interests, experience and ability in the visual and material arts. This may include drawings, paintings, sculpture, photography and sketchbook work; photographs are suitable for three-dimensional pieces. Include a variety of subject matter and select work that best represents you. We do not expect architectural plans or sections.

No coversheet required.

Education

Submit two pieces of recent, marked schoolwork in a subject (or subjects) of your choice. Full-length essays are preferable where possible. The work may be used as a basis for discussion during part of the subject interview.

English

Submit two pieces of critical writing, preferably work completed and marked as part of your school or college studies. Scanned copies showing your teacher's original comments are particularly welcome. There is no word limit, but lengthy pieces may receive a more cursory reading because interviewers have a large volume of work to consider.

History

Submit two recent pieces of marked classwork in History. They should be work completed in the normal course of your studies, not written specially for your application, and should not be source-based. We would prefer full-length essays rather than answers to structured questions. The essays need not be your highest-marked work: choose topics you feel comfortable discussing, as the work will be used as a basis for discussion at interview.

History & Languages

Submit one recent History essay, not a source-based or document question. This will be used as a basis for discussion in one of your subject interviews. If you are applying for a language you are already studying to A-level (or equivalent), also submit one essay written in that language, on any subject. If you are applying for a language from scratch (ab initio), submit a second History essay instead.

History & Politics

Submit two recent, marked essays from your sixth-form studies. They should be normal curricular work, not competition entries or pieces specially prepared or revised for your application, and should not be based on document extracts or other source material. A timed essay written under exam conditions, or an extract from a longer piece, is acceptable. One or both pieces may be used as a basis for discussion at interview, so choose subjects that have genuinely interested or excited you and that you would be happy to talk about. The interviewers may ask you to reconsider or develop ideas from the essay, so the most useful work is something whose argument and subject matter you know well.

Human, Social & Political Sciences

Submit two recent pieces of classwork from your sixth-form studies, in a subject (or subjects) of your choice. Marked work is preferable, and we would prefer full-length essays rather than answers to structured questions. The pieces do not have to be directly related to HSPS: choose work that gives a good indication of your interests and ability to construct and support an argument. The work may be used as a basis for discussion at interview.

Linguistics & Modern Languages

Submit one marked piece of recent classwork. If you are applying for a language you already study at A-level (or equivalent), the piece should normally be from that language course. If you are applying for an ab-initio language, the work may be from another relevant subject.

Modern Languages

Submit two pieces of recent classwork produced in the normal course of your current studies, rather than work prepared specially for Selwyn. Marked work with teacher comments is preferable. We are more interested in extended writing than in short language exercises. Try to include something written in one or both of the foreign languages you are studying, but an essay written in English on a subject such as History, English Language or Literature, or Politics is also useful because it can show your suitability for an arts-based course. Choose pieces that you feel represent your work well. Written work is not normally used as the basis for discussion in your interviews, although there may occasionally be exceptions.

Music

Submit four recent pieces of marked work completed as part of your A-level (or equivalent) studies: two harmony and counterpoint exercises (preferably Bach chorale harmonisations) and two essays, usually from your Music studies. If necessary, essays from related subjects such as English Literature, History or History of Art are suitable substitutes. The pieces should be the marked versions showing your teacher's corrections rather than clean fair copies, and each piece must be dated. The submitted work may be used as a basis for discussion in the subject interview, so keep a copy and re-read it beforehand.

Theology, Religion & Philosophy of Religion

Submit two recent, marked pieces of classwork from your current studies, in a subject or subjects of your choice. If you are studying Religious Studies and/or Philosophy at A-level (or equivalent), we would prefer to see an essay from that course if possible. The pieces should be work produced in the normal course of your studies rather than prepared specially for your application. We would prefer full-length essays rather than answers to structured questions, as these give a better indication of how you develop and support an argument. The work may be used as a basis for discussion at interview.