

INDEPENDENT THINKERS EDUCATION

ENRICHMENT AND UNIVERSITY APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

A week of exciting and stimulating programmes with experienced Oxbridge tutors

Held at Putney High School GDST
35 Putney Hill
SW15 6BH

From Monday 13th - Friday 17th July 2015

1) Oxbridge and Russell Group Applications Workshop - Jonathan Paul, Jane Slinn and others

Friday 17th July, 10am-5pm

This intensive, interactive workshop will cover all the main aspects of creating an effective application for a competitive university place. Topics will include advice on preparing all aspects of written applications, as well as guidance on succeeding in admissions tests and essential interview skills.

Schedule

09:45-10:00 Arrival and Registration

10:00-11:00 How to make an Outstanding Application to competitive UK Universities, including Q & A session

11:00-11.15 Break

11.15-12.45 Writing an Outstanding Personal Statement

12:45-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 Admissions Tests or Mock Tutorial (as appropriate to subject)

15.00-15.30 Break

15.30-17:00 Presentation and Interview Skills Workshop

10:00-11:00 How to Make an Outstanding Application to University, including Q & A session with former Cambridge tutor

This initial session introduces the range of elements that candidates need to bring together to create a successful application to a competitive degree course. In addition to having strong grades, applicants need to create an effective personal statement to secure an interview – and to know what admissions tutors are looking for. They also need to understand the critical thinking skills that are crucial to success in interviews and admissions tests.

11.15-12.45 Writing an Outstanding Personal Statement

In our experience, students are often confused as to what to include in a personal statement. This section will advise students on the importance of a proven passion for your intended area of study, which will be evident through further reading, work experience, scholarships, prizes, participation in academic competitions and other relevant activities. An outstanding personal statement makes clear the applicant's motivation and suitability for the course for which they are applying. We'll work with applicants to make sure that their unique sets of experience, aptitude and motivation shine through in their personal statements, leaving admissions tutors in no doubt as to the applicant's true potential. We will also make sure that they understand which common pitfalls to avoid. Students will also have the opportunity to ask questions and receive detailed responses from our expert tutors.

13:30-15:00 Admissions Tests or Mock Tutorial (as appropriate to subject)

For this session, the students will be divided into groups and, depending on their subject interests, given an insight into the skills that are required to succeed in admissions tests. For those students applying for subjects that do not use an admissions test, a mock tutorial will provide ideas and reading suggestions to show how each candidate can improve their performance by extending their knowledge of their subject beyond their school work – something that is valued very highly in applications to selective universities.

15:30-17:00 Presentation and Interview Skills Workshop

This final, highly interactive session gives students a thorough overview of the skills that are required for succeeding at interview. What are the skills that admissions tutors value? How can students make a good impression? What kind of preparation is most valuable? What are the crucial mistakes to avoid?

2) 'Essaying Essays': A Masterclass in Essay Writing - Dr Emma Park **Monday 13th-Thursday 16th July, 10.30am-12.30pm**

Day 1. Anatomy of an essay

This session will focus on the essence of humanities essays: presenting a logically coherent, convincing, focused argument. We will look at powerful ways to begin, internal structure, including the classic 'yes-but-no-although' argument, and clever ways to conclude. We will consider elements appropriate to particular subjects, according to the needs of the class, such as the use of historical sources and quotation in literature essays. We will consider a couple of examples of interesting and well-structured academic essays by professionals, and analyse what makes them successful.

Day 2. Language and style

The second day will provide the essential complement of the first: having got content nailed, we will now look at form. We will consider the importance of writing clearly and precisely, and consider the type of language and expressions appropriate for an academic style. We will reflect on the perennial question, 'Can I say 'I' in an essay?' — and on the reason behind the equally important rule, 'Don't say "Don't"?' We will consider how students can exercise some creativity in developing their own essay-writing styles, and how writing formally does not necessarily mean writing impersonally. For fun, we will look at some examples of particularly creative essays by modern writers.

Day 3. Essays under exam conditions

In this session, we will look at a challenge faced by all students: how to write an essay under timed conditions. We will take examples of exam questions from humanities subjects, as far as possible tailored to the interests of the class. We will go through the whole process of writing to time, from reading and understanding the question, planning the essay so as to answer it appropriately, to actually writing it, and what to do if you run out of time.

Day 4. Write your own essay!

At the beginning of the session, students will be given a list of topics, from which they will have to choose one and spend half an hour writing a short essay about it. Students will then swap essays and present their comments on them to the class. We will look at things done well and how to improve. We will finish by looking at some examples of essays on similar topics by famous writers, such as Sir Francis Bacon and Susan Sontag.

3) 'Can I Persuade you to Become a Lawyer?' - Dr Emma Park

Monday 13th-Thursday 16th July, 1.30pm-5.00pm

Day 1. Introduction to the English Legal System

On the first day, we will look at the basic structure of the English legal system. This will include an introduction to the court system and the hierarchy of courts and tribunals, the difference between barristers and solicitors, and the role of the judge. We will take a brief look at constitutional law and consider the legal basis for the sovereignty of Parliament. We will then consider Britain's place in the European Union, and take a brief look at the EU's Court of Justice. We will also look at the role of the European Convention on Human Rights, and its ratification into English law through the Human Rights Act 1998.

Day 2. Fundamental Legal Questions

On the second day, we will look at key issues in different areas of English law. We will discuss the law's solution to certain problems, and whether the current approach ought to be reformed. We will focus on the following topics:

- Crime: when does a failure to act become a crime?
- Tort: to whom do I owe a duty of care?
- Contract: how do you interpret a contract?
- Land: who has a right to unclaimed land?
- Equity and trusts: who is allowed to profit from an illegal bribe?
- Legal ethics: if your client tells you he committed a crime, what do you do?

Day 3. Focus Point: Commercial Awareness and Commercial Law

On Day 3, we will look at commercial law in more depth, to show both how law can operate in practice, and the practical concerns involved in litigation. There will be a short introduction to commercial awareness, covering the sort of considerations facing lawyers when advising business clients on whether to settle or sue. These are the sort of issues that frequently come up in internship and job interviews. We will also consider some tips for how to make a good impression in interviews. We will then look at a case study involving the international sale of goods, and think of the different issues that might be involved in representing the interests of the seller of the goods, the owner of the cargo, and the shipowner. If time permits, we will conduct a mini-negotiation, with groups representing each of the three parties.

Day 4. Advocacy and Persuasiveness

The final day will be dedicated to another of the lawyer's key skills: speaking persuasively. We will consider the crucial differences between Parliamentary-style debating and courtroom advocacy, including manner, style, language, and behaviour towards one's opponent and the judge. The class will then be divided into teams and given a short legal problem. Students will then take turns in presenting their case to the 'court'. Prizes will be awarded for the most persuasive and professional speakers.

4) Concepts Across Post-GCSE Physics - Dr Jonathan Paul

Monday 13th -Thursday 16th July, 1.30pm-5.00pm

These sessions will be designed to break down some of the hardest areas of Physics into more easily understandable terms. Topics covered will include electricity and magnetism, the physics of the Earth, the behaviour of waves, kinematics, and optics. Worked examples and a degree of interactivity will ideally complement all post-GCSE students' studies. This course is aimed at students who have recently completed GCSE Physics and will be starting A-level Physics in September, as well as students who have recently completed AS Physics and want to consolidate and extend their understanding of key concepts in the subject.

5) Study and Presentational Skills for Scientists and Social Scientists – Dr Jonathan Paul

Tuesday 14th July, 10.30am-12.30pm

This intensive workshop demonstrates how students can enhance their academic profiles through advanced study skills. These will include learning how best to structure an essay or report; enhancing their skills in giving clear presentations. Using topical examples that slot into several different subjects like Economics, Geography, and Politics, we will discuss the way in which information can be conveyed effectively. Particular attention will be given to learning how to write effective CVs and cover letters to secure internships.

6) Key Debates in Economics – Rishi Majithia

Tuesday 14th – Wednesday 15th July, 10am-5pm

This course gives students a taste of how Economics helps us to understand topical issues in a new light. The course is suitable for students studying or about to study A-level Economics. It is also designed for students not currently studying Economics who would like to apply for an Economics related degree course.

Day 1: Morning – Game Theory

The prisoner's dilemma and its application in the real world Game theory forms the basis of behavioural economics, a very popular subject at university. It shows the different strategies players can take in games in order to maximise their returns. We will first understand the basic model behind game theory and then go on to look at examples of how this actually presents itself in real life in examples from WW1 right through to TV game shows! We will end with a game in class where we will reenact the famous prisoners dilemma and see which student is able to get themselves the best deal.

Day 1: Afternoon – The Alternative General Election.

Which party would you have voted for? In this session we will split up into the different parties of the General Election and debate their different policies with particular regards to the economy. At the end we will take a vote to see who would have been sitting in 10 Downing Street in our alternative election.

Day 2: Morning – The 2008 Financial Crisis

What would have happened if we were in charge? We will retrospectively consider the financial crisis and consider what moves we would have taken if we were put in the shoes of the Federal Reserve/Bank of England and the US/UK governments whilst discussing what actually happened too.

Day 2: Afternoon – Aid for Africa: How Can We Really Help?

Aid has been given to Africa for many years now but it seems that the money gets lost in the system and often the benefits of aid are difficult to see. What would we do if we were in charge?

TUTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Rishi Majithia

Rishi studied Economics and Management at Keble College, Oxford University. His finals options were macroeconomics, microeconomics, quantitative economics, mathematical methods, strategy, marketing, accounting and British economic history. He also participated in sport at university, playing football, cricket and rugby for Oxford University.

Before Oxford, Rishi went to school at St Paul's School where he was a junior and senior scholar. He was also a school prefect, head of house, captain of the Football 1st XI and vice captain of the Cricket 1st XI.

After his degree, Rishi went to Shanghai and worked at an investment bank for two months, specialising in restructuring; he subsequently worked in aircraft leasing in London. He is now undertaking the academic stage of legal training to be a solicitor and will take up a job at a top US law firm when he completes his legal studies.



Dr Emma Park

Emma is an enthusiastic teacher with a love of learning and excellent communication skills, who very much enjoys helping students get to grips with a subject and make real progress. She has a wide range of experience in school and university teaching. Emma's teaching philosophy is to engage on a personal level with each student, in order to best understand their needs, interests, and learning methods. She designs her lessons and courses in a way which will appeal to their individual character and spark their intellectual interest.

Emma completed her DPhil in Classics at University College in Oxford in 2012. At Oxford, Emma taught a wide range of classical and philosophical subjects to undergraduates. She was Latin Teaching Fellow at Warwick University from 2012-13, and was previously Classics Fellow at Marlboro College, USA. She recently finished a two-year law conversion course and will be starting pupillage in autumn 2015 at Quadrant Chambers in London, specialising in commercial and maritime law. She has published two papers with *Shipping and Trade Law*, a professional shipping law journal.



Dr Jonathan Paul

Jonathan Paul was born in 1988 and grew up in western England. He obtained an MSci degree in Geophysics (1st Class) from Imperial College in 2010, and was awarded his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2014. Currently, he is a Research Associate at Trinity College, and will move to London in October to take up a new academic position at UCL. He has over 200 hours tutoring, supervising and lecturing experience across a broad range of ages. He has also undertaken a broad variety of Outreach work and has worked in the Admissions departments of Imperial and Cambridge.



Dr Jane Slinn

Jane Slinn studied for her BA (First), M.Phil (Distinction) and Ph.D. in English Literature at King's College, Cambridge. Before setting up Independent Thinkers Education, she taught eighteenth-century and Romantic literature, philosophy of art, ethics, and literary theory at the University of Cambridge. She has also lectured on the Pembroke-King's Programme, and designed tailored programmes at Cambridge for students from leading US universities, including Harvard, Yale and UPenn, studying at Cambridge. As well as being the Director of Independent Thinking Education, Jane is a Director of AIM Global Ltd, which runs summer academic enrichment programmes for high-achieving 15-19 year olds.



She is a qualified barrister (called to the Bar 2011), and during her legal studies she was a Lord Haldane, Lord Denning and Hardwicke scholar of Lincoln's Inn. She has worked at a leading US law firm in London, as well as at an international human rights organisation.

Jane's academic research focuses on eighteenth-century and Romantic aesthetics and jurisprudence, and she has presented papers on these subjects at international conferences in Boston, Princeton and Cambridge. Her publications include an edited collection of essays on eighteenth-century ideas about conversation. She is currently working on a book projects on Samuel Taylor Coleridge's aesthetics and on the concept of dignity in eighteenth-century and contemporary legal thought.

Independent Thinkers Education

Independent Thinkers Education offers a broad range of educational services, including university applications workshops, advice on admissions to the most competitive UK and US universities, and bespoke academic tuition. We work with leading schools to deliver outstanding educational support to their students.

We believe that our network of academics, graduates and professionals from the world's leading universities and companies makes the courses and academic support we offer the best available.

As our name suggests, we place particular emphasis on helping students to develop the critical and independent thinking skills which are highly valued by leading universities and employers.

Course Costs

University Applications Workshop: £125

Essay Writing Course: £180

Law, Economics & Physics Courses: £250

Study and Presentation Skills Workshop: £70

To book a place, please contact us:

Email: info@independent-thinkers.co.uk

Website: www.independent-thinkers.co.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)1223 461822

Address: 25 Hooper Street, Cambridge, CB1 2NZ