

Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA) Preparation Course  
Oxford Tutorial College

*This course is suitable for both Oxford and Cambridge Entrants*

10.00: Welcome and introduction to schedule outline for the day

10.10: Introduction to what it is all about – study of official specification document to gain an insight into the theory and practice of the test(s), with two main principles, i.e.:

a) Problem Solving - reasoning using numerical and spatial skills “Many of the problems encountered in academic and professional work are novel. No ready ‘off the peg solution’ is available. The task is to find or create a solution.”

b) Critical Thinking - reasoning using everyday written language.  
The skill of Critical Thinking is basic to any academic study and often involves considering an argument put forward to promote or defend a particular point of view.

c) *For Oxford Candidates, in addition :*  
*A Writing Task of 30 Minutes, one essay to be chosen from 3 questions. This section tests a candidate's ability to organise their ideas in a clear and concise manner, and to communicate them effectively in writing. Questions are not subject specific.*  
We will provide sample essays which you may use and e mail for response after the course.

11.30: Assessment elements; ideas and reflections on the above, so far

12.-12.15: Tea/coffee break

12.15-13.00: 20 minute Questionnaire and feedback, discussion on it

13.00-13.45: Lunch

13.45: Introduction to the 90 minute paper; commence going through it, together in groups of two or three. We will look at your own score, with integrity, at the end!

15.15: Finish of the above and draw conclusions, see scores and pool final observations; and ask questions.

15.30: Tea and coffee break

15.45: Book reviews on the recommended reading.

16.00: *For Oxford candidates:* Talking briefly about paper 2; for Cambridge Candidates, end of course.

16.15: *End of course for Oxford candidates*

*The aim of this course is to familiarize and dispel unnecessary fear as well as to provide practice and understanding of the intellectual processes required. Full participation is welcomed*