

ELAT

English Literature Admissions Test

WHAT IS THE ELAT?

Name of Exam:

English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT)

How long is it?

90 mins

How many sections?

One section/essay

SECTION BREAKDOWN

You will be given six passages on the same theme but of different forms, and you will be asked to compare and contrast two of them in an essay.

Spend around half an hour reading and planning – go through all the extracts and annotate them on their literary and linguistic techniques. Once you have picked your two extracts, create a plan based around the theme and make sure to think outside the box! Then spend around an hour writing, editing and proof-reading your essay.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED TO BE A "GOOD SCORE"?

The paper is marked out of 60 and this is found by adding the total of two different examiners' marks out of 30. Achieving a Band 1 or 2 means that you will be highly or most likely to be interviewed. The boundaries for each band changes per year but Band 1 is roughly between 50-60 marks, Band 2 is between 45-49 marks, and so on.

USEFUL LINKS

- Use the ELAT sample and past papers extensively – these will be your best friends!!
- Read through examiner comments for the older papers to see exactly what they like and dislike
- Watch the Oxford ELAT workshop video
- Find mentorship platforms like Zero Gravity to be matched with Oxford students who have already done the ELAT and can give advice!

PREPARATION TIPS

- Before the exam, do as many past papers as possible. You don't need to write essays for them all but have a good balance of essays and plans. Maybe even get your teachers to read through a few.
- Brush up on your literary terminology and techniques so that you are able to recognise effects of structure, style and language.
- Remember that you do not need to know about typicality and context – the marks are based purely on your close reading skills.
- During the exam, don't stress out and rush through the extracts. It is crucial that you spend enough time reading, understanding and annotating the texts. Also maintain a balance within your essay – quality is always better than quantity.
- With your plan, be sure to have a sustained and perceptive links of argument, and set out what you want to talk about in each paragraph. Maintain a good sense of time management and set yourself mini 'deadlines' per paragraph.
- Ensure that you leave enough time to check your essay for SPAG errors, as well as to edit and refine your writing.
- Lastly, just try your best and don't be afraid to express unique ideas!