**Cambridge questions**  
  
o are you an ambitious person? - Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic, Cambridge  
o how do you think that the pagan/Christian differences shown in the  
Archaeology of Avebury relate to that of the Sutton Hoo ship burial? -  
Archaeology & anthropology, Cambridge  
o compare music to architecture ( I was pushed to answer questions on this  
Topic for 20 mins - architecture, Cambridge  
o how do you think science and art link together? - Architecture, Cambridge  
o is humanity destined to repeat the mistakes of history?' - Classical archaeology and ancient history, Cambridge  
o do I think its right for a country to fight another one in self defence -  
classics, Cambridge o whether I could see a link between Greek and Japanese culture - classics, Cambridge  
o if the government passed a law requiring people to wear seatbelts, why might this result in more road accident casualties? - economics, Cambridge  
o when I was walking around the college in the morning, what questions did I  
think or want them to ask me. - economics, Cambridge  
o how do you think you could calculate the number of calories that you have  
burnt after you have gone for a run? - engineering, Cambridge  
o how does a fridge work, I had no idea! I suppose they asked this since I wrote 'I like finding out how everyday objects work' in my personal statement. - engineering, Cambridge  
o do you think children's literature should be studied at university level? - English language and literature, Cambridge  
o I would describe maps as an example of unreal realism. how would you react? to that statement? - geography, Cambridge  
o compares the effects of live 8 to those of live aid. - geography, Cambridge  
o here is a Papua new guinea TV schedule - geography, Cambridge  
o where's our local limestone deposit? - geography, Cambridge  
o what did I think of Ben Elton - history, Cambridge  
o at one point was asked whether the American political system could be  
compared to the feudal system of the medieval age. - history, Cambridge  
o can you see a connection between Britain’s 'euro-skepticism' and its obsession with teaching about Nazism? - history, Cambridge  
o has the French revolution ended? - history, Cambridge  
o if you could interview anyone from history, who would it be? - history,  
Cambridge  
o is Hitler really evil? - history, Cambridge  
o was it more detrimental or beneficial to Elizabeth 1's image to align herself  
with the virgin Mary? - history, Cambridge  
o whether I thought stansted expansion was a good idea? - history, Cambridge  
o is Christianity solely about salvation? - history (modern), Cambridge  
o were the Russian peasants mystically connected to the countryside? - history (modern), Cambridge  
o what are the parallels between totalitarian control in the Nazi state and  
forms of control in the western world today? - history (modern), Cambridge  
o what can we learn from the south wall of Warwick castle? - history  
(modern), Cambridge  
o isn't golf all based on luck? - land economy, Cambridge  
o whether northerners should be forced to move south for jobs due to  
unemployment rates. - land economy, Cambridge  
o do you think courts are like theatres? - law, Cambridge  
o does law create morality or does morality create law? - law, Cambridge  
o how comfortable is that chair? - law, Cambridge  
o should judges be able to over-rule decisions made by parliament? - law,  
Cambridge  
o "if your friends were here now instead of you, what would they say about you? - mathematics, Cambridge"  
o integrate arctan x! - mathematics, Cambridge  
o what ever got you into pole dancing? - mathematics, Cambridge  
o why do you play table tennis - mathematics, Cambridge  
o what is a tree? - medicine, Cambridge  
o at what point is a person "dead"? - medicine, Cambridge  
o before my interview, when I got to the interview room 10 minutes early, the  
door was locked and there was a note to candidates instructing them to  
enter the room and sit beside the chymograph! I thought it was a test and a  
part of the interview, so I sear - medicine, Cambridge  
o how can reindeer tell the difference between spring and autumn? - medicine, Cambridge  
o how is a city like a cell? - medicine, Cambridge  
o how many genes are there in the genome of a rice plant? - medicine,  
Cambridge  
o how would you design a better brain - medicine, Cambridge  
o if I was given a magic wand and I could eradicate all third world problems  
but would have to stop all medical research and development, would I do it? -  
medicine, Cambridge  
o if urine was emptied into the intestine instead of the bladder, what would  
happen? - medicine, Cambridge  
o if you are in a boat in a lake and throw a stone out of the boat, what happens to the level of the water? - medicine, Cambridge  
o if you could invite any 2 people alive or dead to a dinner party, who would  
they be and why - medicine, Cambridge  
o what does the letter b stand for in b-lymphocyte? - medicine, Cambridge  
o what is your opinion on spontanteneous human combustion? - medicine,  
Cambridge  
o why don't we just have one ear in the middle of our face - medicine, Cambridge  
o what would happen here if someone caught bird flu? (this question was asked in German) - modern & medieval languages, Cambridge  
o do you feel that there is censorship in the English media? - modern & medieval languages, Cambridge  
o if you had a rugby match, an orchestra concert and a piece of homework,  
how would you prioritise them and why? - modern & medieval languages,  
Cambridge  
o if you had to send 3 things in a package to a group of isolated tribes’ people  
that would immediately let them know what it means to be 'French', what would you choose? - modern & medieval languages, Cambridge  
o tell me the most interesting thing about yourself. - modern & medieval  
languages, Cambridge  
o what is wrong with the sentence 'here comes bob'? - modern & medieval  
languages, Cambridge  
o why do things have names? - modern & medieval languages, Cambridge  
o would you describe yourself as a post-modernist? - modern & medieval  
languages, Cambridge  
o describe a potato and then compare it with an onion. - natural sciences,  
Cambridge  
o do you think Neanderthals understood the concept of death - natural  
sciences, Cambridge  
o if you were a rat what would be the most important thing to you? (I think he wanted me to say food!) - natural sciences, Cambridge  
o is it an advantage for a virus to kill its host? - natural sciences, Cambridge  
o is there blood in your brain - natural sciences, Cambridge  
o if I could pass any piece of legislation through parliament, what would it be? - philosophy, Cambridge  
o what about fatalism? - philosophy, Cambridge  
o is it better to be a leader or a follower? - social & political sciences,  
Cambridge  
o can you think of a piece of governmental legislation that includes both  
compassionate and utilitarian aspects? - social & political sciences,  
Cambridge  
o do you like Birmingham? - social & political sciences, Cambridge  
o how may we introduce feminism more effectively into business situations? -  
social & political sciences, Cambridge  
o what TV I had watched recently - social & political sciences, Cambridge  
o what would you do if you were in charge of the world? - social & political  
sciences, Cambridge  
o where would you take a martian to show them British culture? - social &  
political sciences, Cambridge  
o why do the English like cricket so much? - social & political sciences,  
Cambridge  
o six candidates, two places, why you? - theology & religious studies, Cambridge  
o define 'greed' - economics, Cambridge  
o distance from London to new York, work out - economics, Cambridge  
o tell me why playing your sport will make you a better economist - economics, Cambridge  
o why do Ryan air try and sell tickets for Dublin day passes on flights into  
London stansted? - economics, Cambridge  
o a man, who is stuck in a burning house, calls to you and offers to pay you a  
lot of money if you save him. however, upon saving him, he refuses to pay you this money. can you sue him? - law, Cambridge  
o what is the difference between a rule, a command and a request? - law,  
Cambridge  
o what is the meaning of life? - law, Cambridge  
o how does an electric guitar work? - natural sciences, Cambridge  
o how would you cope if you weren't getting top grades if you were studying  
here? - natural sciences, Cambridge  
o if I wanted to create a new strain of potatoes that were purple, how would I go about doing this? - natural sciences, Cambridge  
o if you had to look back on 2005 in ten years' time, what would you tell people about it? - natural sciences, Cambridge  
o which way is the earth spinning? - natural sciences, Cambridge  
o do you think that the TV programme space cadets is morally right? - social & political sciences, Cambridge  
o if I put you in the British library for 3 days, what books would you read? -  
social & political sciences, Cambridge  
o how are cats similar to cows (in terms of digestion) - veterinary medicine,  
Cambridge  
o how does a cat know how far away a mouse is, when it is about to pounce on it. - veterinary medicine, Cambridge  
o what percentage of the world’s water is contained in a cow? - veterinary  
medicine, Cambridge  
  
**Oxford questions**  
  
o is it possible to grow mushrooms in the bathroom - biological sciences,  
oxford  
o to describe a log in the room. - biological sciences, oxford  
o why is the sky blue? - earth sciences, oxford  
o the had a toy car and propelled it by attaching a blown up balloon and  
releasing it, they asked my question on how to increase the speed, the flow of the air and momentum. - engineering science, oxford  
o what challenges do you think you would be facing as a formula 1 engineer  
in 10 years time? - engineering science, oxford  
o question: so.....this very passage is a fundamental contradiction of its own  
message? what does that say about the writer when compared to the tonal  
difference of the last line? answer: (pardon???)...... - English and modern  
languages, oxford  
o would taxi drivers use a different part of their brain to remember routes -  
experimental psychology, oxford  
o who do you most admire and why? - law (jurisprudence), oxford  
o if a bank manager tells me I have £100 in my account when I actually have £90, and I go out and spend £100 thinking I have that amount, who is at fault and should I have to pay the money back to the bank? - law (jurisprudence), oxford  
o if I said Manchester won a football match believing without a doubt that this  
was true but actually Chelsea won, was I lying? - law (jurisprudence), oxford  
o do you know where the multiplication sign came from - mathematics and  
statistics, oxford  
o what is the significance of prime numbers? - mathematics and statistics, oxford  
o "how can china be so materialistic, and yet be one of the biggest Buddhist  
countries in the world if Buddhism teaches non attachment?  
o how can Buddhists believe in anatta (no permanent self) and also in karma  
and rebirth? - oriental studies, oxford"  
o I was given two pieces of Chinese art and asked to comment on the similarities  
between them (and there were hardly any!) - oriental studies, oxford  
o how do we know if 1 + 1 = 2 if the concept of numbers was in fact 'invented' by humans? - philosophy and modern languages, oxford  
o why do you think grandparents feel the need to academically surpass their  
children and grandchildren? - philosophy and modern languages, oxford  
o is it possible for a society to exist in which everyone lies all the time? why? - philosophy, politics and economics (ppe), oxford  
o define 'cruelty' - philosophy, politics and economics (ppe), oxford  
o if there were three beautiful, naked women standing in front of you, which one would you pick? does this have any relevance to economics? - philosophy, politics and economics (ppe), oxford  
o of all nineteenth century politicians which was most like Tony Blair? -  
philosophy, politics and economics (ppe), oxford  
o "put a monetary value on this teapot!  
o (he wasn't joking either!) - philosophy, politics and economics (ppe), oxford"  
o would you describe the following as 'traditional British values'? drinking tea,  
eating roast beef and hitting school children... - philosophy, politics and  
economics (ppe), oxford  
o why can’t you light a candle in a spaceship - physics, oxford  
o why does fire go upwards - physics, oxford  
o what do you think of gay couples adopting? - psychology, philosophy and  
physiology (ppp), oxford  
o whether Mussolini would have been interested in archaeology - archaeology  
& anthropology, oxford  
o name a scientist that influenced me. - archaeology and anthropology,  
oxford  
o explain how a perm works - biochemistry, molecular and cellular, oxford  
o for which disease do you think it is an advantage to be a carrier of cystic  
fibrosis? - biological sciences, oxford  
o here's a piece of bark, please talk about it. - biological sciences, oxford  
o if I said that when I tossed this coin and every time it said heads you have to give me 50p but every time it showed a tails I give you a pound, how many times would you let me flip it and the coin show heads in a row before you would stop playing the game? - biological sciences, oxford  
o does language exist? - classics, oxford  
o should a doctor kill one person with little chance of living to save 3 others  
who needed this person's organs immediately to survive? - classics, oxford  
o was Augustus just an arrogant child? - classics, oxford  
o what is free will? - classics, oxford  
o what is life? - earth sciences, oxford  
o are you in it just for the money - economics and management, oxford  
o management: what would you do to overcome the language and cultural  
difficulties after merger. - economics and management, oxford  
o compare Stephen hero and Stephen daedalus to beavis and butthead. - English language and literature, oxford  
o compare avian flu and hurricanes - geography, oxford  
o define 'risk' - geography, oxford  
o what did I notice about vegetation on the side of the a34 Newbury bypass? (I went past there on the way to oxford. - geography, oxford  
o what would make anyone want to settle in a place such as Iceland? -  
geography, oxford  
o do you think the dumbing down of history for television and in museums is a  
good thing? - history, oxford  
o history repeats itself in paragraphs rather than sentences - history, oxford  
o how would one apply effective governmental systems to Mongolia? - history  
(modern), oxford  
o was Russia just too damn big for democracy? - history (modern), oxford  
o what is your view on women in the second world war, eg. any gains?(asked by a panel of 3 women) - history (modern), oxford  
o why do archaeologists love pots so much? - history (modern), oxford  
o explain the social behaviour of bees - human sciences, oxford  
o why do few Americans believe in evolution? - human sciences, oxford  
o explain Naomi Campbell’s life - law (jurisprudence), oxford  
o if a man was in prison and dying, would it be right to kill him and give his  
organs to seven or so people? - law (jurisprudence), oxford  
o if there is a baby in a supermarket with a bomb strapped to it, would you shoot the baby to save x no of people? - law (jurisprudence), oxford  
o you are a train driver. you are driving a train at maximum speed, and the  
brakes suddenly fail. the track forks into 2 ahead of you. on the left side is a  
car with one man in it, alive, who can't get out. on the right side is a car with  
five men in it, al - law (jurisprudence), oxford  
o you’re in a desert and 2 enemies are working independently. one poisons your water bottle, the other then tips the water out (not knowing it was poisoned). you walk out into the desert and die of thirst. which one is guilty of murder? - law (jurisprudence), oxford  
o your old aunt Ethel has given you too much money for your birthday and  
you're aware of her mistake. she's getting on a bit so what should you do?  
what does that law require you to do? - law (jurisprudence), oxford  
o if we have 25 people, what is the likelihood that at least one of them is born in each month of the year? - mathematics, oxford  
o what makes a tennis ball spin as it's travelling through the air? - mathematics, oxford  
o I’m going to play devil's advocate. how do these prions actually affect the  
brain? - medicine, oxford  
o calculate what volume of wine can be drunk to reach the legal  
concentration of alcohol in the blood for driving. - medicine, oxford  
o how does the body try to remove or recognise poison? - medicine, oxford  
o how many moles of h2o is there in that cup of water? (tutor randomly pointed at his cup on the table) - medicine, oxford  
o how many people believe in evolution in the united states? - medicine, oxford  
o how would I solve the aids crisis in south Africa - medicine, oxford  
o how would you design an experiment to disprove the existence of god -  
medicine, oxford  
o "what leaves you drier if it's raining: running or walking?  
o first I said having an umbrella, but I’d heard of this problem so I described the differences and how there's no point running if it's not too far.  
o why can you not see many stars when you stand on top of a mountain? -  
medicine, oxford  
o why should we choose you over the other candidates - modern & medieval  
languages, oxford  
o what I thought of the TV programme 'wife swap' and what class issues arose from this. - modern languages, oxford  
o what makes something poetic? - modern languages, oxford  
o why haven't there been many French operas? - modern languages, oxford  
o do you think the type of bow a violinist uses can affect our understanding of a piece? - music, oxford  
o if you were sent to a desert island to study composition, which 3 composers'  
works would you take with you and why? - music, oxford  
o why do black men say that white men can't rap? - music, oxford  
o what do you think of art for art's sake? what do you think of the turner prize? - oriental studies, oxford  
o why do you think Chinese students obey their parents more than those in the uk?- think about historical traditions - oriental studies, oxford  
o why do you think the birth rate in the usa is declining? - oriental studies, oxford  
o are you cool? - philosophy, politics and economics (ppe), oxford  
o the most bizarre question that I was aked was the question I was asked by the  
philosophy tutor. a person with 50 k is rich. a person with n pounds is rich and  
a person with n-1 pounds is also rich. so a person with 1 pound is rich. I then  
had to falsify I - philosophy, politics and economics (ppe), oxford  
o think of a question that you have prepared an answer to, ask yourself the  
question and show us how you would answer it in a logical fashion. -  
philosophy, politics and economics (ppe), oxford  
o does a cup of hot coffee cool quicker if milk is added before or after  
stirring? - physics, oxford  
o what angle should you aim when trying to shoot a monkey that will fall out  
the tree the moment you shoot - physics, oxford  
o what forces act on you were you at the centre of the earth? - physics, oxford  
o "why could you not time a pendulum for 10000 swings by watching it with a  
timer?  
o answer: you would get bored - physics, oxford"  
o how would you conceptualise an emotion? - psychology, philosophy and  
physiology (ppp), oxford  
o are you your body? - theology & religious studies, oxford  
o how can classical epics be compared to the bible - theology & religious  
studies, oxford