

# U2 Tuition – Mock Interview Day Report

<b>Interviewer Name</b>	
<b>Student Name</b>	
<b>Subject of Application</b>	Biological Natural Sciences
<b>University: Oxford / Cambridge / Other</b>	Cambridge
<b>Interview Date</b>	29/11/2020

For each section below, you have been rated on a scale of 1-5, where 1=weak, 2=needs improving, 3=average, 4=good, 5=outstanding

Area	Strengths & Weaknesses	Score
<b>Subject Knowledge/ Aptitude</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A-Level Knowledge</li> <li>- Evidence of off-curriculum exploration and outside reading</li> <li>- Breadth of interest</li> <li>- Awareness of wider implications of the subject</li> </ul>	Extensive technical and scientific knowledge. Able to answer every question asked with a cogent answer and often, follows through with the flow of thought, from small level details to large-scale implications. Good use of the essential keywords, however the student would stand out even more if they recalled more advanced ones that are relevant to their prospective area of study. Also, extensive evidence of extracurricular reading, but student should be prepared for interviewers to probe even the smallest details in the book's mentioned in their PS.	5
<b>Logical, Critical &amp; Analytical Ability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evidence of thought process</li> <li>- Structured arguments</li> <li>- Usage of terminology, facts and empirical evidence</li> <li>- Evidence of lateral thinking</li> <li>- Independence of thought</li> </ul>	Great logical thinking and commonly uses an effective [define-explain-example] format to answer more complex questions. Might benefit from using phrases like "to answer the first part of the question" to answer multi-part questions to demonstrate ability to consider and process large amounts of information. Good lateral thinking however, sometimes can jump to more advance points prematurely. The student should try to make the more obvious points first. For example, the invention of the microscope is probably a more fundamental pedestal in cell biology research than the discovery of stem cells. Also, the student should be more critical of their own and others' perspectives, offering alternative arguments when asked questions like "do you agree that...".	4
<b>Listening &amp; Teachability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interaction with new ideas</li> <li>- Flexibility in taking on new arguments</li> <li>- Response to the interviewer</li> </ul>	Always waits till the interviewer has finished speaking and thinks before speaking, which is brilliant. Could even pause to think for a bit longer. Often, starts answers with words that directly address the question asked and incorporates information from the question into their answer, demonstrating their confidence in interacting with	5

- Evidence of passion for the subject / particular course of application	new ideas. The student should not be afraid to ask the interviewer questions back to understand new information better. The student might benefit from responding more emphatically to topics of particular interest, using phrases like “this fascinates me because”, or “this struck my attention because”.	
<b>Online Interview Technique</b> - Confidence - Clarity of speech - Ability to respond under pressure - Body language / eye contact	The student has a calm, composed and confident demeanor, and fantastic clarity of speech. They could be more enthusiastic in their tone and body language and could maintain better eye contact. Having said that, they should try to remain as true to themselves as possible, showcasing merely the best version of themselves.	4
<b>Total Score out of 20</b>		<b>18</b>

### Tips for future preparation:

<b>What would be valuable for the student to explore further based on your discussions?</b>	The student might investigate their interviewers and their respective research niches, and take advantage of the information to prepare relevant and interesting case studies for topics mentioned in their PS. For example, if the interviewer is a specialist in ecology, how can CRISPR/Cas9 be used in plants to improve human food supply?
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<b>Additional Questions to Brainstorm:</b>	<b>Any tips for answering the question?</b>
[Question 1] What are other types of microscopes? How do they work?	Fluorescent microscope (epifluorescence and scanning confocal microscopes) Atomic force microscopes
[Question 2] Give a specific example of how a therapeutic drug can cause unintended harm, and how personalized medicine can help this.	Think of a specific disease, a specific drug, and a specific biological process.
[Question 3] As well as using stem cells to replace damaged cells in the body, how can stem cells be used therapeutically outside the body. Give examples.	Stem cells for creation of organoids. Organoids can be transplanted into the body. Organoids can be used for more accurate drug testing.
[Question 3] What are the limitations of stem cell therapy?	Think about the possibility of rejection. Can all adult stem cells be de-differentiated? Can you re-specialize stem cells outside the body as fast and fully as you can inside the body?
[Question 5] What are the limitations of gene editing?	Would you have to gene edit the mutation in every single cell of a patient’s body? What kind of mutations is gene editing limited to?

<b>Any final comments?</b>	Nice job, Isabel!
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