**Academic Interviews**

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| **Interviews – what to expect** | **Common pitfalls** | **Summary and questions** |
| **Focused, challenging questions** | **Wrong subject** | **Right course** |
| **New approaches to existing knowledge** | **Subject knowledge insecure** | **Recent academic track record** |
| **Prompting from interviewers** | **Lack of relevant exploration beyond studies** | **Read** |
| **Questions from you** | **Poor organisation** | **Revise** |
| **Interviews to cover:**   * **Academic work** * **Reading/super curricular exploration** * **Subject related wider awareness** * **Prompt materials** | **Inability to engage with the questions being asked** | **Not great GCSE’s is not a barrier if you can show you’ve developed your knowledge in your chosen subjects** |
| **You do not have to get the answers correct** | **Insufficient clarity of thought or analytical engagement** | **GAP years are fine. Math may not be unless you show you’re keeping up with it** |
| **You should justify answers/show how you reach decisions** | **Unwillingness to think in the face of contrary evident** | **EPQ is not included in the offer but is useful to do. It is good if relevant to your subject** |
| **No hidden agenda or trick questions** |  | **Should do 3 or 4 A-Levels. 3 is fine.** |

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| **Interview format** |
| **Typically two pairs of different people for 20-45 minutes.** |
| **Problem solving scenarios, discussion relevant to the course applied for.** |
| **Interactive assessment of :**   * **Interest** * **Aptitude** * **Core knowledge and technical skill** * **Capacity to learn from mistakes and listen in discussion** |
| **See websites for films of mock interviews** |

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* **How well would you cope with the teaching style? Especially one to one students.**
* **Can you think and ideas that have not come from your teacher?**
* **Can you look at problems creatively with several alternative solutions?**
* **How do you react to challenging questions?**
* **It is a good idea to have a formal interview with the Head Teacher.**
* **Expect to be questioned on new source material.**
* **If you write about a book you’ve read, write what you’ve learnt from it.**
* **Stand out by showing that what you’ve learnt is different to the others**
* **When it becomes challenging this is positive, do not give up, things are going well!**
* **They wont let you waste time but will want to see you deal with challenge.**