Higher education admissions tests Annexe #1

SAT	National Curriculum	uniTEST
Writing Section		
Short Essay (1)		
organise and express ideas clearly	En3 1d-o	
develop and support the main idea	En3 1d-o	
use appropriate word choice and sentence structure	En3 1b, c, e, f	
Multiple Choice (49)		
improve sentences and paragraphs	En3 2a, b, c; 7a-e	
identify errors	En3 2a, b, c; 7a-e	
Critical Reading Section (67)		**Verbal and Plausible Reasoning** (30)
Sentence Completion		
knowledge of meaning of words	En1 5; 6e; En2 1a	
understanding of how parts of sentences fit together	En3 7a-e	
Passage Based Reading		
vocabulary in context	En2 1a, g, 3a, b	
literal comprehension	En2 1a, h, 3a, b	
extended reasoning	En2 1a-d, g, h, i	interpretation
		socio-cultural understanding
		Critical Reasoning (30)
		decision making
		argument analysis
Mathematics Section (54)		**Quantitative and Formal Reasoning** (30)
Number and Operation		
arithmetic word problems	Ma2 4a	problem solving
properties of integers	Ma2 2a-f	
rational numbers	Ma2 2 c-d	
logical reasoning	Ma2 1a-b	problem solving
sets	KS2 (NNS)	
counting techniques	KS2 Ma2 2a	
sequences and series	Ma2 1j, 6a	
elementary number theory	Ma2 2a	
Algebra and Functions		
substitution and simplifying algebraic expressions	Ma2 5	
properties of exponents	Ma2 6f	
algebraic word problems	Ma2 5 h	problem solving
solutions of equations and inequalities	Ma2 5e, f, i-m	
quadratic equations	Ma2 5k	
rational and radical equations	Ma2 5b, f, k	
equations of lines	Ma2 6b-h	
absolute value	-	
direct and inverse variation	Ma2 5h	
concepts of algebraic functions	Ma2 5	
newly defined symbols based on commonly used ops.	Ma2 5a	
Geometry and Measurement		
area and perimeter of a polygon	Ma3 2i (KS2 Ma3 2e)	
area and circumference of a circle	Ma2 5g, Ma3 2h	
volume of a box, cube and cylinder	Ma3 2i	
Pythagorean theorem and special properties of triangles	Ma3 2b, f	
properties of parallel and perpendicular lines	Ma2 6c; Ma3 2a	
coordinate geometry	Ma3 3e	
geometric visualisation	Ma3 2i	
slope	Ma2 6c	
similarity	Ma3 2g	
transformations	Ma3 2g, 3b-d	
Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability		
data interpretation	Ma4 1a 5	dealing with information
statistics (mean, median and mode)	KS3 Ma4 4b, e, f	
probability	Ma4 4b, c, d, g, h	

NB Key Stage 4 National Curriculum English and Mathematics (higher) references are used, unless indicated.

- The SAT and uniTEST were developed independently and, whilst there are some areas of similarity, there are many areas of difference. One of the clearest differences between the SAT and uniTEST is that much of the SAT assesses knowledge of formal elements of Mathematics and English – something that is intentionally avoided in uniTEST. The focus of uniTEST is primarily on the assessment of the reasoning skills that underpin higher education studies. This reflects the different contexts for which the two tests were designed: the SAT is used *in the absence* of a National Qualifications Framework; uniTEST would be used *in addition to* the National Qualifications Framework.

- The vast majority of the material covered by the SAT is included in the English and Mathematics programmes of study of the National Curriculum. The level of difficulty is roughly equivalent to level 2 of the National Qualifications Framework (e.g. higher tier GCSE). It might be expected that performance on the SAT could be affected by a candidate's educational background, and by extensive preparation. Since uniTEST relies less on candidates' knowledge it is expected that, beyond a limited amount of familiarisation with the test, performance will be less susceptible to 'coaching'.

- Where there is overlap in the types of skills assessed by uniTEST and the SAT, the questions in uniTEST tend to be of a higher order of difficulty and complexity.