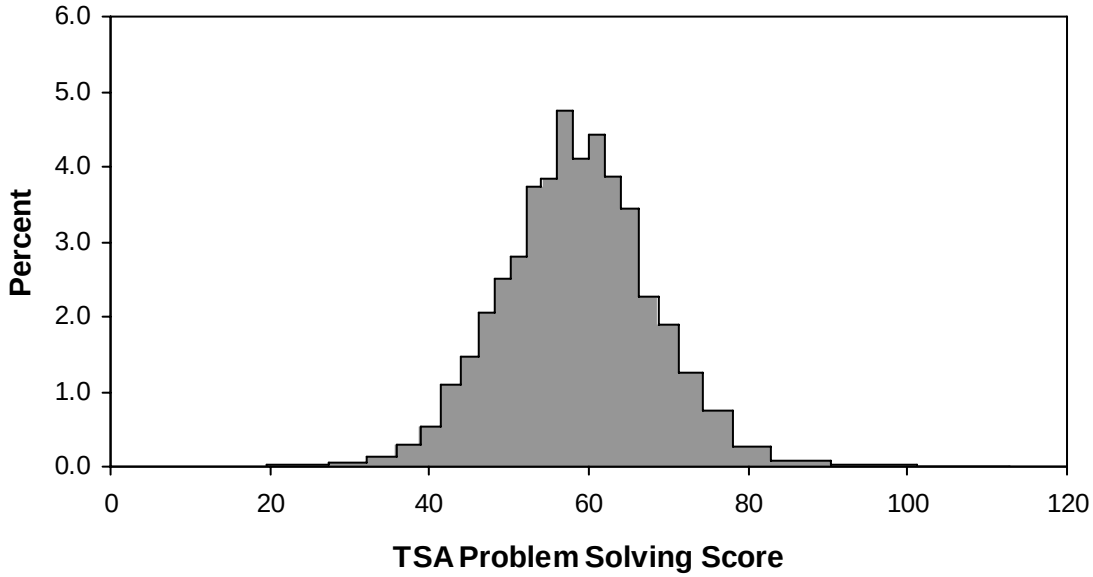
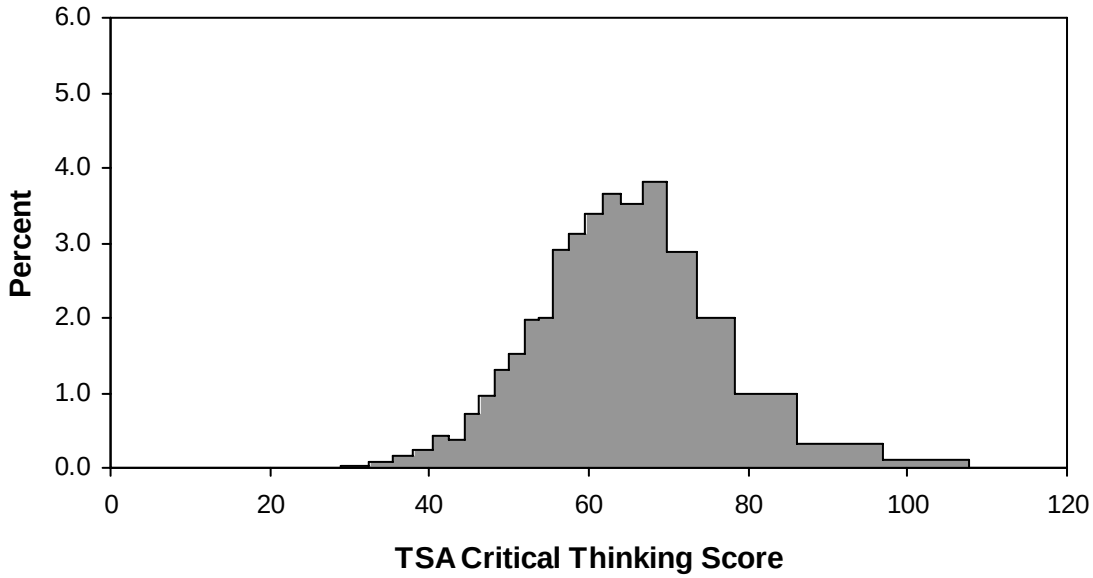
CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT

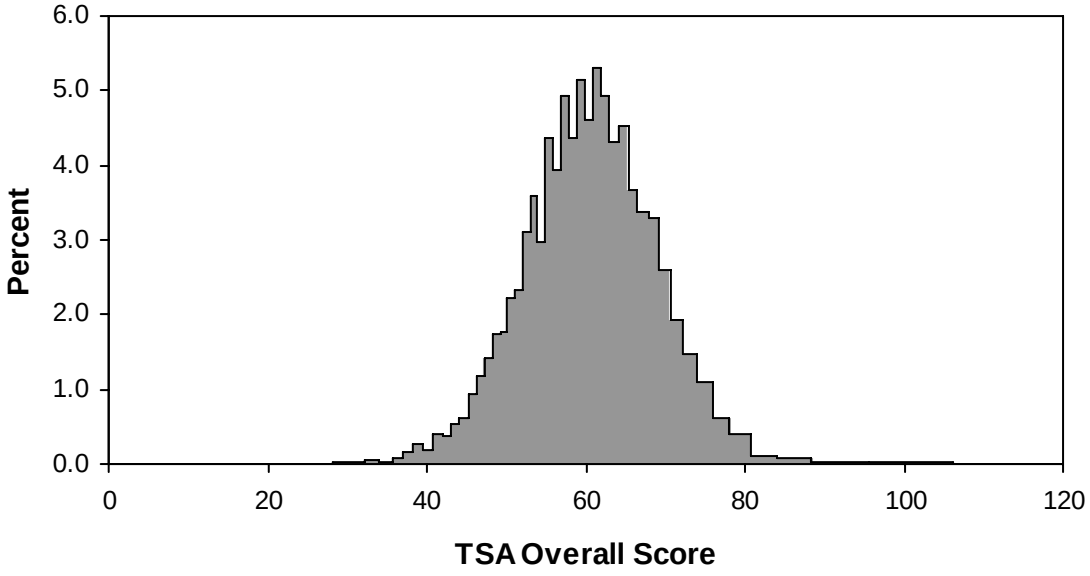
Explanation of TSA Oxford Results

Results for Section 1 of TSA Oxford are reported on a scale that runs from 0 to 99, to one decimal place. Scores are reported separately for Problem Solving and Critical Thinking components, together with an overall score. Each is calculated separately, taking into account the difficulty of questions. This allows scores on different versions of the test to be directly compared. Extreme scores are expected to be comparatively rare. The scale has been designed so that typical applicants to the most highly selective undergraduate university courses in the UK (who are by definition academically very able) will score around 60. The best applicants will score more highly, but 70 represents a comparatively high score and only a few very exceptional applicants will achieve scores higher than 80. A score of 0 could be attributable to the candidate not being matched as an Oxford University applicant.

Charts showing the November 2010 TSA Oxford score distributions are presented below.







Note that, in all three charts, the total area under the chart is 100% (all candidates). The percentage of candidates scoring below a given score is the total area under the chart below this score.

Section 2: Writing Task

Candidates' essays are not marked by Cambridge Assessment, but are sent to admissions tutors, together with details of scores on Section 1.

Use of TSA Oxford Results

TSA Oxford helps admissions tutors to assess whether candidates have the skills and aptitudes that are required to study at the highest level - for example, the ability to think critically, reason analytically, and use language accurately and effectively - without having to rely on any particular subject knowledge.

This test is only one of the elements used in the admissions process. Others include a candidate's academic record and forecast grades in school-leaving examinations; UCAS application form; examples of recent written work submitted to the college to which they are applying; and performance at interview, if invited to attend.

For further information, please see the Admissions Tests website: (www.admissionstests.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/adt/tsaoxford) and the Oxford admissions web pages (www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses).