PPE admissions 2025-26
Information for applicants

Section 1: admissions statistics

This year the number of applicants was **1885**. The number of applicants per place was **7.85**. There were **219** open applications and **37** deferred entry applications. Candidates listed their gender in the following ways **816** as woman, **1046** as man, 6 use another term, and 17 prefer not to say. There were **986** home, **197** EU and **702** overseas applicants. **681** applicants were shortlisted and **261** were offered places.

Section 2: admissions processes

The selection criteria for PPE are on the admissions criteria page of the PPE course website. The shortlisting criteria are described on the interviews page of the PPE course website as follows: "We only interview those who have a realistic chance of getting in, when judged by past and predicted exam results, school reports, personal statements and the pre-interview test. Applicants who do not take the pre-interview test will not normally be shortlisted for interview."

Colleges are set deselection targets so that across all colleges at least 2.75 applicants per place are shortlisted, this year 2.84 applicants per place were shortlisted. When making shortlisting decisions admissions tutors give the following weighting to the various elements of each application.

Information	High	Medium	Low
Pre-Interview Admissions Test	Yes		
GCSE (or equivalent) profile	Yes		
Predicted (or actual) performance at A-Level (or equivalent)	Yes		
UCAS teacher's reference		Yes	
AS-Level module grades			Yes
UCAS personal statement			Yes

See **section 4** for graphs on the GCSE scores and A-Level scores of applicants at different stages.

After colleges have deselected their target number of applicants, some shortlisted applicants are reallocated. This year 127 applicants were reallocated. Applicants are sent to the college where they will have the best theoretical chance of success, based on where they will be ranked highest within the existing cohort of the college. They are ranked according to a reallocation score which is based on TSA section 1 results and contextualised GCSE data where available. After the reallocation has taken place colleges can choose to rescue deselected applicants.

Section 2.2: interview process

Applicants will normally have at least two interviews at their first college. Most colleges will have a minimum of two interviewers per interview. Colleges normally wish to involve tutors from all three subjects, but since there are no specific subject requirements, this is not necessarily the case.

The interview is described on the course website as follows: "The interview is not primarily a test of existing knowledge. It is aimed primarily at assessing the candidate's potential for future development. Interviewers will be looking for evidence of the candidate's potential for development in the following four areas:

> **Understanding:** this can be shown in (for example) a candidate's ability to listen carefully, to analyse problems, to identify the premises and conclusions of arguments, and to express in their own words someone else's ideas.
>
> **Intellectual flexibility:** this can be demonstrated by (for example) a candidate's willingness to consider alternative views, and readiness to respond to problems and criticisms.
>
> **Critical thinking and problem-solving:** this can be shown in (for example) a candidate's ability to adopt logical and critical approaches to problems, to critically assess arguments, to identify good and bad reasons for believing a particular claim, to assess relevance, and to think independently.
>
> **Communication:** this can be shown in (for example) a candidate's ability to express ideas clearly, to give considered responses to questions, and to address the point under discussion instead of veering off topic."

Colleges assign candidates up to three interview scores. These do not have to be subject-specific. Interviews are marked on a 1-100 scale:

70-100	Excellent	A mark above 70 is a strong indicator for admission
65-69	Positive	Most candidates admitted will have interview scores above 65.
60-64	Neutral	
50-59	Weak	A candidate with interview and test marks consistently below 60 is in a weak position
49 or less	Very poor	Interview strongly suggests that the candidate is not suitable

After colleges have entered their first interview scores and decisions candidates are ranked according to a post-first interviews score which is based on interview scores, TSA scores, and contextualised GCSE information where available. Colleges then select candidates for second interviews using all information available for each candidate.

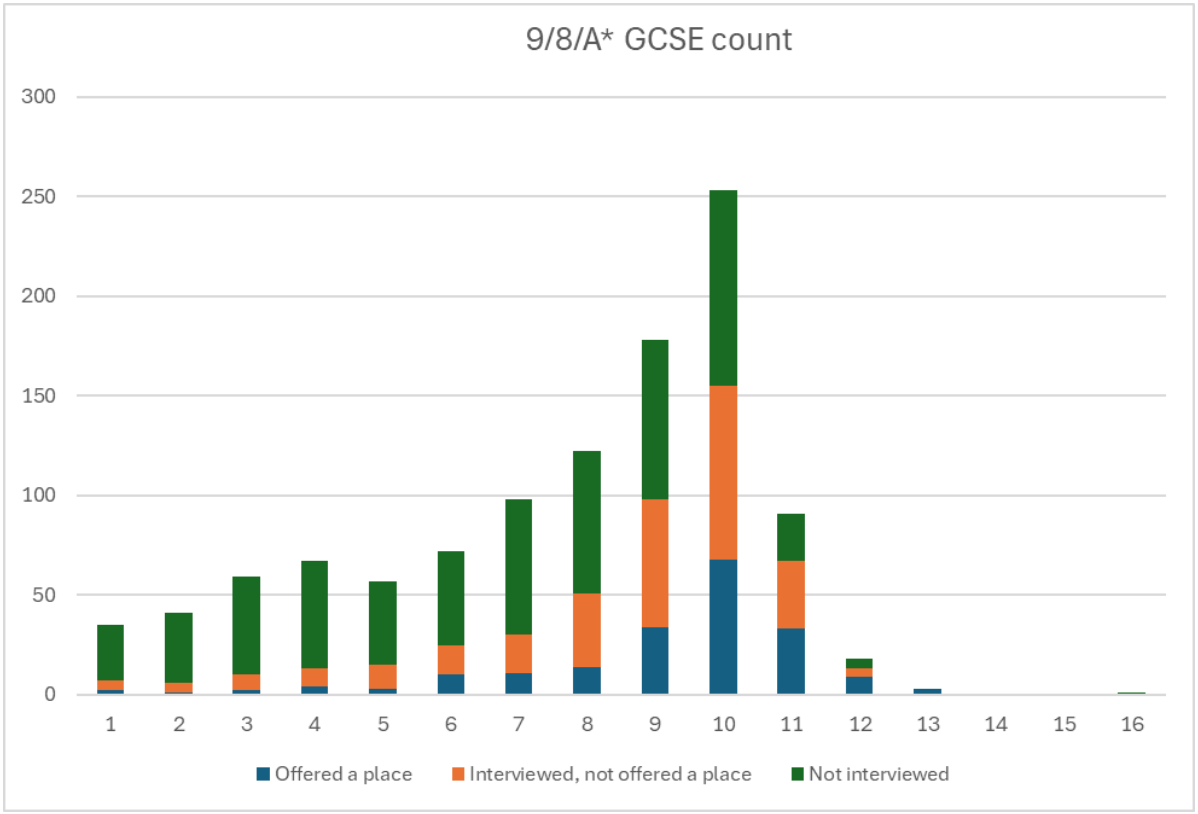
This year **13** candidates were selected for second interviews. After second interviews have taken place colleges make their final decisions based on all information available for each candidate at this stage.

Section 3: pre-interview admissions test

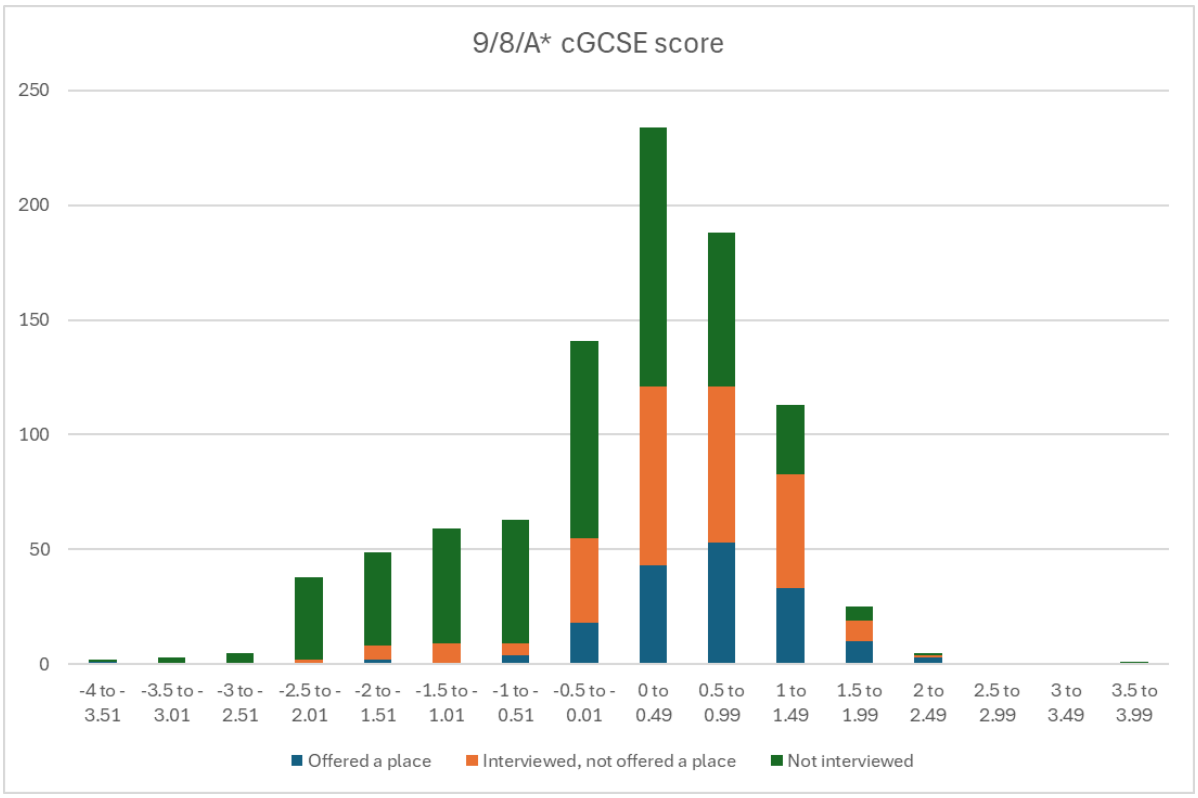
TSA Section 1 Results were made available to candidates on 16th January 2025 through the test registration system. The average test performance of applicants at the different stages is set out in the graphs in **section 4**.

Section 4: graphs

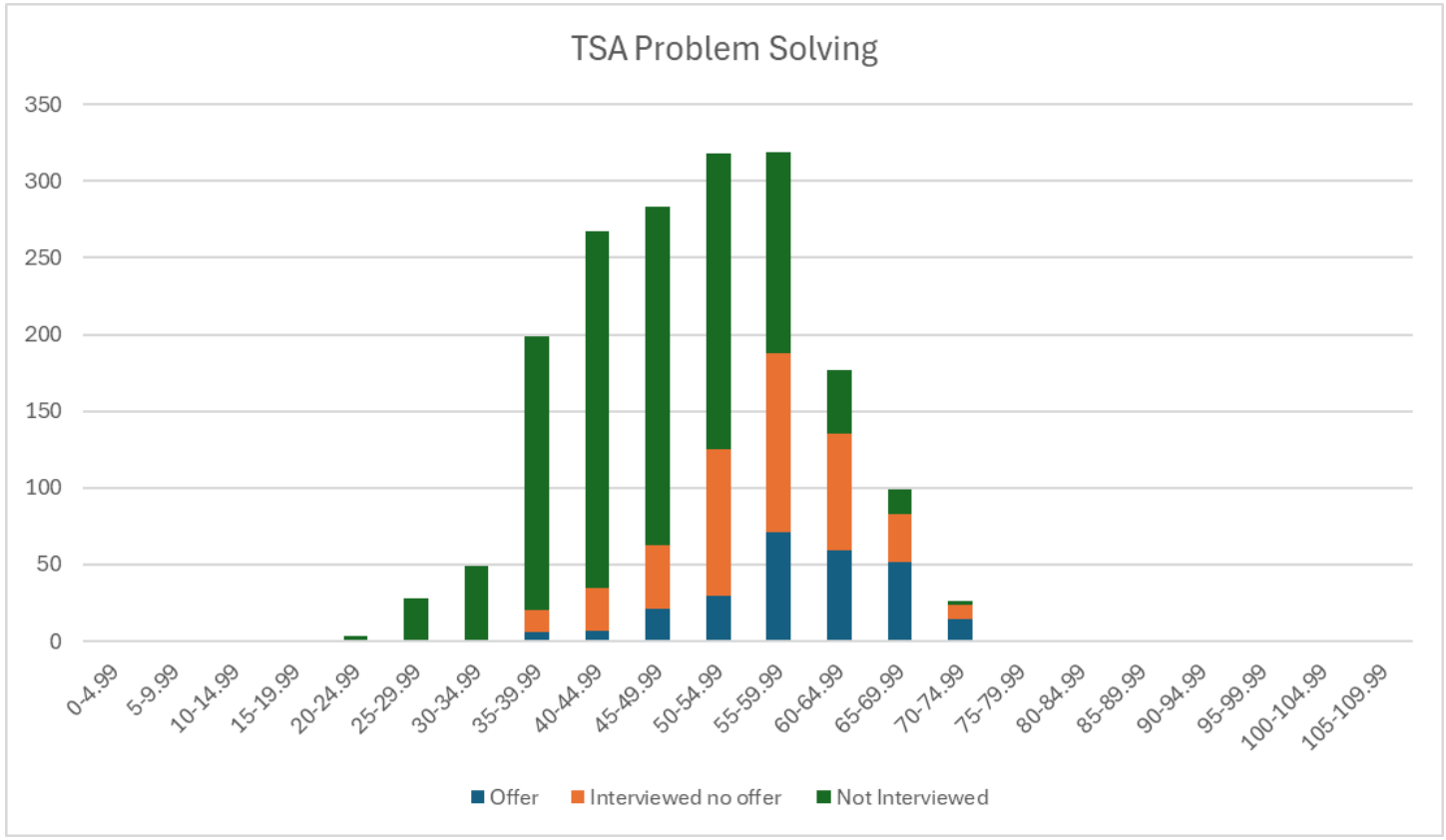
GCSE grades: 9/8/A* count



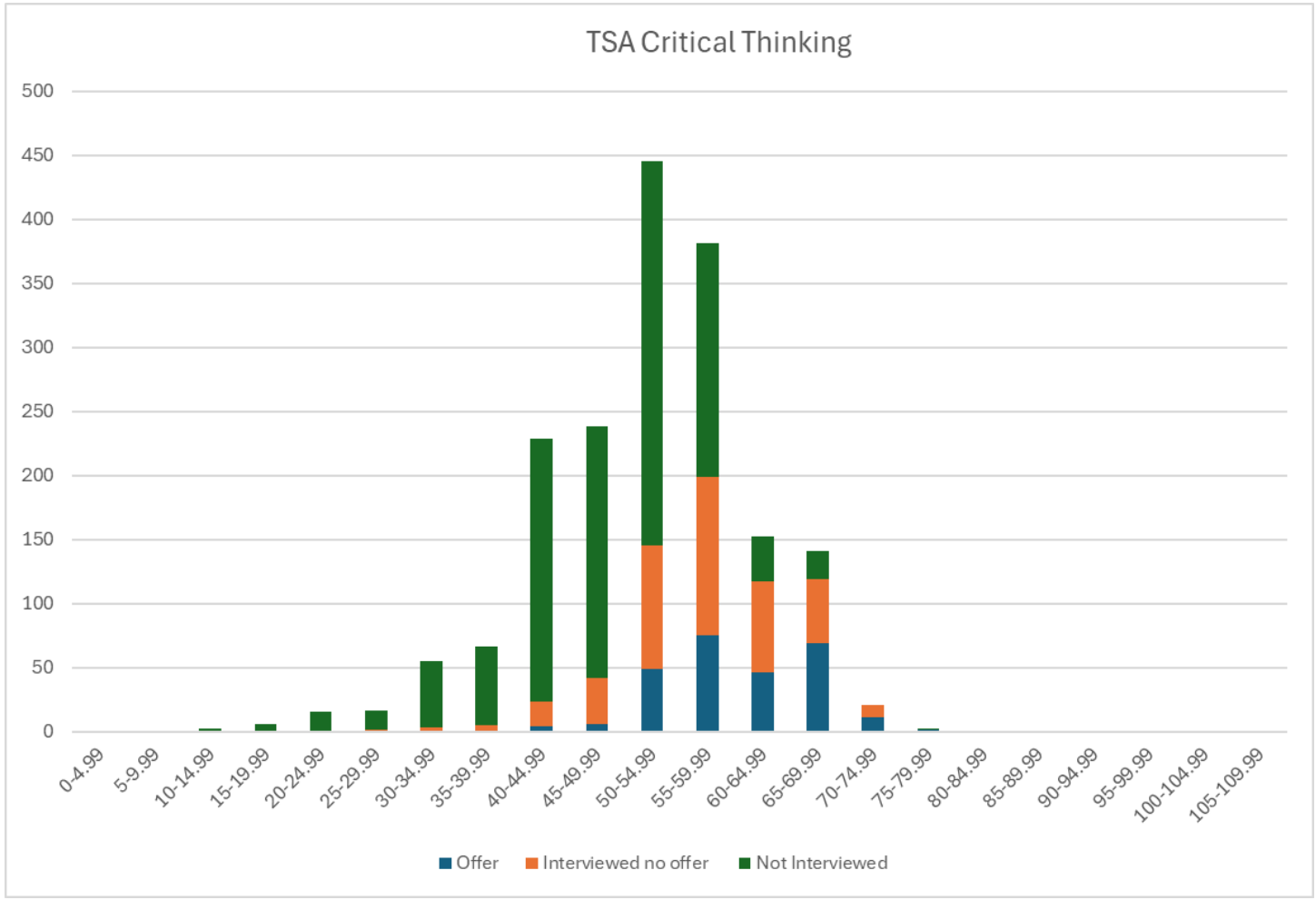
Predicted or achieved A Level grades: A* count



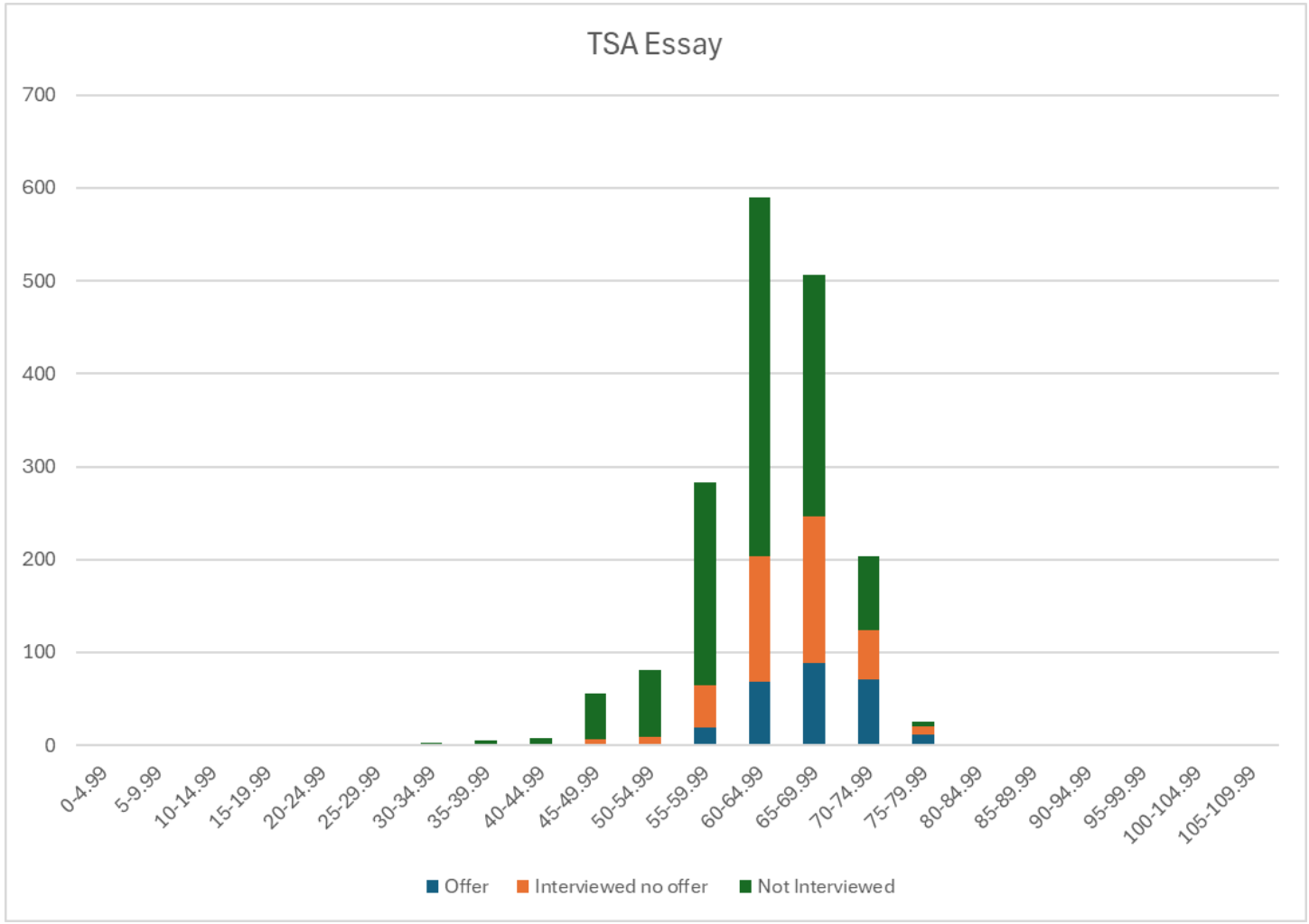
TSA Problem Solving



TSA Critical Thinking



TSA Essay


TSA Essay
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
0-4.99
5-9.99
10-14.99
15-19.99
20-24.99
25-29.99
30-34.99
35-39.99
40-44.99
45-49.99
50-54.99
55-59.99
60-64.99
65-69.99
70-74.99
75-79.99
80-84.99
85-89.99
90-94.99
95-99.99
100-104.99
105-109.99
Offer
Interviewed no offer
Not Interviewed