

What is a good TARA score?

What the 1.0--9.0 scale can tell you, what it cannot, and how to set a target without inventing a cut-off.

THE SHORT ANSWER

UAT-UK says a typical candidate scores around **4.5**, while approximately **10% score higher than 7.0**. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving are reported separately. There is no pass mark, no TARA total and no official raw-mark conversion table. The Writing Task is sent to universities unscored.

Checked against the sources named in this guide, August 2026. British English. Free to share.

1 Start with the two numbers that exist

TARA reports a score from 1.0 to 9.0, to one decimal place, for each of its two multiple-choice modules. UAT-UK's current explanation gives two useful anchors: typical candidates score around 4.5, and about 10% score higher than 7.0.

That supports a cautious interpretation:

- **Around 4.5** is central in the tested cohort, not a school-style pass.
- **Above 4.5** is above the typical score, but the decimal alone does not reveal a course decision.
- **Around 7.0 and above** is upper-tail performance; UAT-UK says roughly one candidate in ten scores above 7.0.

The cohort is already self-selecting. Being around its middle is not the same as being an average sixth-form student. Equally, being in its upper tail is not the same as having a 90% chance of admission.

1 The tell

Ask every score claim: *which module, which sitting and which official table?* If it cannot answer all three, it may be turning a scale anchor into a university cut-off.

2 There is no total to calculate

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving are equated and scaled separately. Adding 6.1 and 5.7 to make 11.8 creates a number UAT-UK does not report. Averaging them to 5.9 is tidier, but still unofficial. Keep the profile visible: one module may be a strength and the other a repair target.

The Writing Task belongs in a different column. UAT-UK does not mark it. A copy goes to each participating university where your course requires TARA, and that university decides how to use it.

3 Why a practice mark is not a scaled score

Each multiple-choice question is worth one raw mark and wrong answers lose no marks. After the sitting, UAT-UK uses a Rasch model to account for item difficulty and small differences between forms. The two modules are then scaled separately.

UAT-UK does not publish a fixed rule such as “15 correct always becomes 6.0”. Its specimen and practice tests deliberately give correct-or-incorrect feedback without a scaled result. A calculator offering an exact conversion is therefore an estimate unless it names new official data.

Claim	What is defensible	What is missing
“I scored 16/22 in practice”	Raw accuracy on that particular set	An official live-form conversion
“My score is 5.8”	A reported scaled result for one named module	A university-specific threshold
“I scored above 7.0”	Upper-tail evidence in that module	A guaranteed interview or offer
“My essay felt strong”	A useful reflection prompt	A UAT-UK essay mark, because none is issued

Worked example Choose the conclusion the evidence supports

UAT-UK states that typical candidates score around 4.5 and approximately 10% score higher than 7.0. It publishes no universal pass mark. Noor receives 6.2 in Critical Thinking and 7.3 in Problem Solving. Which conclusion is best supported?

- A. Noor has passed TARA.
- B. Noor ranks in the top 10% of all candidates once the two separately scaled module scores are combined into one result.
- C. Noor is above the typical score in both modules, with especially strong upper-tail evidence in Problem Solving.
- D. Noor’s Writing Task must also be strong.
- E. Noor must receive an interview.

Correct: C. It keeps the two reported scores separate and stops where the published evidence stops.

Trap: B invents an overall ranking. A invents a pass mark. D and E infer outcomes that the scores do not establish.

This is the reasoning habit the score scale demands: extract what follows, then refuse the attractive extra sentence.

4 How universities change the meaning

UAT-UK sends results automatically to participating institutions on a course-by-course basis. It says universities may use them differently and normally consider them with other application information. Oxford and UCL course pages are therefore more important than any generic target shared online.

For 2027 entry, Oxford lists TARA for courses including Economics and Management, PPE, Human Sciences, History and Economics, History and Politics, Experimental Psychology, and Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics. Most Oxford applicants must use the October sitting. UCL uses TARA for several courses, including its Computer Science programmes and Mechanical Engineering in the 2027 cycle. Requirements can change, so check every exact course page before booking.

No official source named here publishes a single offer-holder average or cut-off covering all those courses. A strong score may help different departments in different ways. It cannot erase the rest of the application, and a weaker decimal is not an automatic rejection rule unless a university explicitly says so.

5 Set a target that can guide practice

Write a band for each scored module, then attach a behaviour:

- **Moving towards 4.5:** finish all 22 questions, remove blanks and secure direct inference or arithmetic marks.
- **Moving above 4.5:** identify repeated question types, especially assumptions, flaws and relevant-selection errors.
- **Moving towards 7.0:** reduce avoidable misses while preserving reach; do not spend four minutes proving you can solve one difficult item.

Record raw accuracy, time used, question reached and error cause. These measures can improve every week even when no honest scaled conversion exists.

2 Try it

Replace “I need a 6.5” with two lines: “Critical Thinking target band” and “Problem Solving target band”. Under each, write the three error types currently costing the most marks. The target now points to work rather than anxiety.

6 Sources

UAT-UK, TARA Explanation of Results: October 2025 and January 2026

Separate 1.0–9.0 module scores, the typical score around 4.5, the share above 7.0, score caps and the unscored Writing Task. [Read the official PDF.](#)

UAT-UK, Test Results

Equating, separate module scaling, UCAS matching, the absence of grade boundaries or a pass mark, and the limits of specimen performance. [Read the official page.](#)

Oxford and UCL admissions pages

Current course routing: [Oxford admissions tests](#); [UCL tests, tasks and interviews](#).

UniGenius is independent of UAT-UK, Pearson VUE, Oxford and UCL. Course rules are time-specific; recheck the live course page before registering.