WhatDoTheyKnow

Sixth Term Examination Papers (Mathematics) - Mark Schemes

Amrit Lohia made this Freedom of Information request to University of Cambridge

The request was **successful**.

Amrit Lohia 5 June 2016

Delivered

Dear University of Cambridge,

I am writing to request the mark schemes that were used for the Sixth Term Examination Papers (STEP) in Mathematics from the years 1998 to 2014 inclusive. If any of these are unavailable, please supply as many as possible from those that you do possess.

Yours faithfully, Amrit Lohia.

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/sixth_term_examination_papers_ma#out

Link to this

Saul Carey (Admissions Testing Service), 7 June 2016

##- Please type your reply above this line -##

Please see below for an update to your query ([1]#250241).

To provide additional information, or to ask for an update at any point, please reply to this email or click the link below:

[2]http://support.admissionstestingservice....

(http://support.admissionstestingservice.org/hc/requests/250241)

[3] Saul Saul Carey (Admissions Testing Service)

Carey

7 Jun, 13:45 BST

Hello Amrit

Thanks for contacting us. I'll follow up on this with our Legal team (who deal with FOI requests) and will get back to you as soon as I have further information on your request.

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/sixth_term_examination_papers_ma#i

Amrit Lohia 2 July 2016

Delivered

Link to this

Dear University of Cambridge,

You have still not responded to my request, and so you are acting unlawfully under Section 2(1) FOIA.

Yours faithfully,

Amrit Lohia

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/sixth_term_examination_papers_ma#out

Link to this

Saul Carey (Admissions Testing Service), 4 July 2016

##- Please type your reply above this line -##

Please see below for an update to your query ([1]#259594).

To provide additional information, or to ask for an update at any point, please reply to this email or click the link below:

[2]http://support.admissionstestingservice....

(http://support.admissionstestingservice.org/hc/requests/259594)

[3] Saul Saul Carey (Admissions Testing Service)

Carey

4 Jul, 13:42 BST

Hello Amrit

Sorry for the delay in replying. I do still have this in hand, and am just liaising with colleagues in other departments now - I hope to be able to send a response to you later this afternoon.

With best wishes,

Saul

Saul Carey | Helpdesk Analyst

[4]Amrit Amrit Lohia

Lohi

4 Jul, 09:26 BST

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Yours faithfully,

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show quoted sections

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Saul Carey (Admissions Testing Service), 5 July 2016

##- Please type your reply above this line -##

We believe that your query ([1]#250241) has now been solved. Please see below for the latest update.

If you need to reopen this query for any reason, please reply to this email or click the link below within 5 working days:

[2]http://support.admissionstestingservice....

(http://support.admissionstestingservice.org/hc/requests/250241)

[3] Saul Saul Carey (Admissions Testing Service)

Carey

5 Jul, 09:14 BST

Dear Amrit

I write further to the request you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You have requested the STEP mark schemes from the years 1998 to 2014 inclusive.

Much of the information is already freely available on our website in STEP Solutions documents, which have been posted on our website each year since 2004, along with the question papers. The STEP Solutions document draws on the information in the mark scheme, but presents it in a format that is intended to be more useful to candidates preparing for the test.

From 2015, following recent, similar requests we now also publish the mark schemes on the Admissions Testing Service website. The 2015 mark scheme can be found on this page of the site:

[4] http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/... (http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/step/preparing-for-step/)

There is also an explained example mark scheme for the 2011 STEP Paper I, which is also available on the same webpage.

Please also find attached mark schemes within the zip folder, for:

2009: STEP I, II and III

2011: STEP II *

2012: STEP I and II

2013: STEP I

2014: STEP I, II and III

*Please note: the 2011 mark scheme on the website is only for STEP 1. With best wishes, Saul Saul Carey | Helpdesk Analyst Attachment(s) [5]Amrit Lohia FOI.zip [6] Saul Saul Carey (Admissions Testing Service) Carey 7 Jun, 13:45 BST Hello Amrit Thanks for contacting us. I'll follow up on this with our Legal team (who deal with FOI requests) and will get back to you as soon as I have further information on your request. With best wishes, Saul Saul Carey | Helpdesk Analyst [7]Amrit Amrit Lohia Lohi 7 Jun, 08:43 BST Dear University of Cambridge, I am writing to request the mark schemes that were used for the Sixth Term Examination Papers (STEP) in Mathematics from the years 1998 to 2014 inclusive. If any of these are unavailable, please supply as many as possible from those that you do possess. Yours faithfully, Amrit Lohia. Please use this email address for all replies to this request: [8][FOI #338336 email] Is [9][University of Cambridge request email] the wrong address for Freedom of Information requests to University of Cambridge? If so, please contact us using this form: [10]https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/change_re... (https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/change_request/new?body=university_of_cambridge) Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies: [11] https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/offi... (https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/officers)

For more detailed guidance on safely disclosing information, read the latest advice from the ICO:

[12] https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/ico-... (https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/ico-guidance-for-authorities)

If you find this service useful as an FOI officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's FOI page.

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(http://support.admissionstestingservice.org/hc/requests/259594)

[3] Saul Saul Carey (Admissions Testing Service)

Carey

5 Jul, 09:16 BST

Hello Amrit

I have sent a separate message to you, under the original form you submitted (ref [4]#250241), along with a zip folder including all the mark schemes available.

You should hopefully have received this by now.

With best wishes,

Saul

Saul Carey | Helpdesk Analyst

[5] Saul Saul Carey (Admissions Testing Service)

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show quoted sections

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Link to this

Amrit Lohia 5 July 2016

Delivered

Dear University of Cambridge,

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of University of Cambridge's handling of my FOI request 'Sixth Term Examination Papers (Mathematics) - Mark Schemes'.

You have provided some of the mark schemes that I requested, for the years 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. However, 2010 appears to have been omitted, as well as those for 1998-2008. Given that mark schemes were presumably produced for all of these years, I am at a loss to understand why you have not either provided them or stated the reason(s) why you don't have them.

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/s...

 $(https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/sixth_term_examination_papers_ma)$

Yours faithfully,

Amrit Lohia

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/sixth_term_examination_papers_ma#out|

Link to this

Jackie Rippeth, 5 July 2016
Dear Amrit
Thank you for requesting an internal review of our handling of your FOI request.
I have contacted the team who compiled the set of mark schemes for you. They and I would like to apologise for not making it clear that they provided all the mark schemes that are in our possession. The others existed but were not retained after they were used and are therefore not available to provide to you. Although mark schemes would have been produced for all of these years, these were working documents used in marker training and during the marking session.
Following a similar FOI request last year, we now routinely publish the mark schemes in addition to the STEP Solutions document.
I am therefore satisfied that there is nothing further that we should provide to you
If you are unhappy with my findings then you have the right to make a formal complaint to the Information Commissioner. Their address is:
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Regards

Jackie

Jackie Rippeth
Group Finance Director
Finance

New cost centre codes go live 1 August. Visit the [1] project Rayleigh page to find out more.

Cambridge Assessment 1 Regent Street, Cambridge CB1 2EU Telephone: +44 (0) 1223 553297

[2]www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk

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References

Visible links

- 1. http://insite.ucles.org.uk/our-group/cor... (http://insite.ucles.org.uk/our-group/corporate-services/group-is/business-technology-services/Pages/Rayleigh-project.aspx)
- 2. file:///tmp/www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk
- 3. http://www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/ab... (http://www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/about-us/whowe-are/our-structure/)

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/sixth_term_examination_papers_ma#i

Link to this

Amrit Lohia 5 July 2016

Delivered

Dear Jackie Rippeth,

Please could you clarify what is meant by "not retained" - were the mark schemes physically deleted/destroyed, or have your organisation simply been unable to locate them? If they were deleted, please could you supply the approximate date of deletion (month and year will suffice), and state whether or not you have attempted to locate the mark schemes on any backup tapes or archives that you possess.

I am requesting the above information as it will assist me in determining whether I may have an arguable case before the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

Amrit Lohia

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/sixth_term_examination_papers_ma#out

Link to this

Admissions Testing Service, 6 July 2016

##- Please type your reply above this line -##

Hi,

We're always looking to improve the service we offer and we'd be very interested to hear what you thought of the customer service you received during your recent query ([1]#250241).

Please take a moment to let us know by clicking one of the links below:

How would you rate the support you received?

[2]Good, I'm satisfied

[3]Bad, I'm unsatisfied

Your feedback will be made available to the person who helped with your query, as well as their line manager.

Please don't reply to this message.

Here's a reminder of what your query was about:

[4] Saul Saul Carey (Admissions Testing Service)

Carey

5 Jul, 09:14 BST

Dear Amrit

I write further to the request you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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Saul Carey | Helpdesk Analyst

Attachment(s)

[6]Amrit Lohia FOI.zip

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Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

[9][FOI #338336 email]

Is [10][University of Cambridge request email] the wrong address for Freedom of Information requests to University of Cambridge? If so, please contact us using this form:

[11]https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/change_re...

(https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/change_request/new?body=university_of_cambridge)

Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies:

[12] https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/offi... (https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/officers)

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[13] https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/ico-... (https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/ico-guidance-for-authorities)

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Yours faithfully,

Amrit Lohia

show quoted sections

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/sixth_term_examination_papers_ma#i

Link to this

Jackie Rippeth, 8 July 2016

Dear Amrit

I have obtained further information about how mark schemes were created and used and what became of them. I have summarised this below:

In the past, the mark schemes were typically produced by the principal examiner remotely, used in the training of markers and throughout the marking session, and the final versions used by the principal examiners to produce the Hints and Answers/Solutions document. We did not routinely collect the mark schemes unless they were needed to process an appeal. Hence, we have some, but not all of them on file.

By making the hints and answers document available, the intention was to reproduce much of the information contained in the mark schemes, but in a format that is more useful to students preparing for STEP.

More recently, we became aware of speculation on student forums about how each of the 20 marks for each STEP question is allocated. Much of the speculation was inaccurate. To remedy this, we published an example mark scheme on our website (STEP Paper 1 2011). We have also changed our policy relating to mark schemes, and since 2015 we routinely publish the mark schemes on our website along with the question papers, examiners' report, and solutions.

So, the simple answer is that mark schemes have not been deleted by us, as they were not routinely held by us in their original form, but were written-up and submitted to us in the form of the Hints and Answers/Solutions document.

We have also checked with our archivist and the Archives hold the Hints and Answers documents for the period 1998 to 2014 (and earlier), but not the mark schemes. Our back up system is used for recovery of operational systems and not as an archive and it has therefore not been searched.

I am therefore satisfied that there is nothing further we can provide to you.

If you are unhappy with my findings then you have the right to make a formal complaint to the Information Commissioner. Their address is:

Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK95AF

Regards

Jackie Rippeth

Group Finance Director

Finance

Cambridge Assessment

1 Regent Street, Cambridge CB1 2EU

Telephone: +44 (0) 1223 553297

www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk (http://www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk)

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Link to this

Saul Carey (Admissions Testing Service), 21 September 2016

##- Please type your reply above this line -##

We believe that your query ([1]#291460) has now been solved. Please see below for the latest update.

If you need to reopen this query for any reason, please reply to this email or click the link below within 5 working days:

[2]http://support.admissionstestingservice....

(http://support.admissionstestingservice.org/hc/requests/291460)

[3] Saul Saul Carey (Admissions Testing Service)

Carey

21 Sep, 13:00 BST

Dear Amrit

In our earlier response to your request for STEP mark schemes, we provided all the information that we held on file. We have since contacted our examiners and have been able to find some further mark schemes and related material. I should stress that, as with other mark schemes that we have provided previously, these are principally only drafts and working documents. The further information that has been provided to us is as follows:

2005: STEP 2 (scan of hand-annotated hard copy)

2006: STEP 2 (three separate documents containing draft mark

schemes for all questions, but not in order)

2007: STEP 2 (two documents containing draft mark schemes for

all questions, in order)

2008: STEP 1 (version of solutions document with additional

indication of mark allocation)

STEP 2 (draft mark scheme)

2010: STEP 1 (version of solutions document with additional

indication of mark allocation)

STEP 2 (two documents containing mark schemes for all questions,

in order)

STEP 3 (mark scheme)

2012: STEP 3 (mark scheme)

These are included in PDF format in the attached ZIP file.

With best wishes

Saul Carey | Helpdesk Analyst

Attachment(s)

[4]Amrit Lohia.zip

Find help and answers to FAQs online at our support websites:

[5] Cambridge English [6] Admissions Tests [7] IELTS

[1V6Q6Y-X84N]

Reverse link: [8]unknown

References

Visible links

1. https://support.admissionstestingservice...

(https://support.admissionstestingservice.org/hc/requests/291460)

2. http://support.admissionstestingservice....

(http://support.admissionstestingservice.org/hc/requests/291460)

4. https://support.cambridgeenglish.org/att...

(https://support.cambridgeenglish.org/attachments/token/COLSHjxsEZBIMd8sUU8XlOo0b/?name=Amrit+Lohia.zip)

- 5. https://support.cambridgeenglish.org/ (https://support.cambridgeenglish.org/)
- 6. https://support.admissionstestingservice... (https://support.admissionstestingservice.org/)
- 7. https://ielts.org/ (https://ielts.org/)
- 8. https://support.admissionstestingservice...

(https://support.admissionstestingservice.org/hc/requests/291460)

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Link to this

Admissions Testing Service, 22 September 2016

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How would you rate the support you received?

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in order)

STEP 3 (mark scheme)

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[1V6Q6Y-X84N]

References

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2. https://support.admissionstestingservice...

(https://support.admissionstestingservice.org/requests/291460/satisfaction/new/gquEPYBtLElSHm06B51KHTo4g? locale=1176&intention=16)

3. https://support.admissionstestingservice...

(https://support.admissionstestingservice.org/requests/291460/satisfaction/new/gquEPYBtLElSHm06B51KHTo4g? locale=1176&intention=4)

5. https://support.cambridgeenglish.org/att...

(https://support.cambridgeenglish.org/attachments/token/COLSHjxsEZBIMd8sUU8XlOo0b/?name=Amrit+Lohia.zip)

- 6. https://support.cambridgeenglish.org/ (https://support.cambridgeenglish.org/)
- 7. https://support.admissionstestingservice... (https://support.admissionstestingservice.org/)
- 8. https://ielts.org/ (https://ielts.org/)

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10/13/2016 Sixth Term Examination Papers (Mathematics) - Mark Schemes - a Freedom of Information request to University of Cambridge - WhatDoTheyKn...

A site to help anyone submit a Freedom of Information request. WhatDoTheyKnow also publishes and archives requests and responses, building a massive archive of information.

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