

Vocabulary: education 词汇: 教育

If you ask most people what the best universities in the UK are, they will probably answer Oxford or Cambridge. These **elite** educational establishments were founded 800 years ago; since then **being offered a place** has been seen as the pinnacle of **academic life**.

Despite these being the places to go to for **high-achieving** students, the number of **undergraduate** students from the UK attending Oxbridge (Oxford and Cambridge) has dropped. Student figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency and from the universities show 7% fewer UK undergraduates at Oxford and 5% fewer at Cambridge compared with 2007-08.

Of course competition for places is **intense**, and British students **compete with** those from abroad. Overseas undergraduate student numbers rose by 51% at Oxford and 65% at Cambridge. Oxford says it **recruits** the "best **talent** from around the world"; and on **postgraduate** courses at Cambridge, there are now more overseas students than those from the UK.

The BBC's education correspondent Sean Coughlan explains that in the UK "there have been calls for more places for **disadvantaged** youngsters as well as ethnic minority students and white working-class youngsters." But despite an ambition to improve **social mobility**, the total number of UK students being awarded places at Oxbridge has gone down.

Sir Peter Lampl, chairman of the Sutton Trust social mobility charity, told the BBC that "Oxford and Cambridge attract many international students, but they must ensure that their **student body** is balanced... This means letting in UK and international students based on **ability** and not on ability to pay." But an Oxford spokeswoman said "Sustaining **excellence** requires **diversity**, and our commitment to achieving this balance, and making Oxford more reflective of modern society includes reaching out to and selecting the best talent from all over the world."

With overseas students from outside the EU paying higher fees for **tuition**, is the decline in places for British students inevitable? This is not known, but other **prestigious** British

universities such as UCL and Exeter have seen numbers of UK student rise. One solution may be to expand and offer more places. But whatever happens, competition for an Oxbridge place will always remain high.

词汇表

elite	精英的
being offered a place	被（大学）录取
academic life	学术生涯
high-achieving	成绩优秀的
undergraduate	本科的
intense	激烈的
compete with	与...竞争
recruit	招录
talent	人才，有天分的人
postgraduate	研究生的
disadvantaged	贫困的，生活条件差的
social mobility	社会流动性
student body	全体学生
ability	才能，能力
excellence	优秀，卓越
diversity	多样性，多元化
tuition	学费
prestigious	享有盛誉的

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What has happened to the number of overseas students attending Oxbridge universities?
2. Which types of people would benefit from social mobility in the education system?
3. True or false? *Oxford University aims to get the best talent from the rest of the world?*
4. According to the article, who pays the highest fees?
5. Which word used in the article means 'impossible to prevent from happening'?

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Helga seems to have a _____ for art and as had her latest painting displayed in a major gallery.

excellence	talent	ability	prestigious
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2. He is a _____ student and is expected to finish school with some very good grades.

high-achieved	high-achiever	high-achieving	highly-achieve
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3. Unfortunately, piano _____ is expensive so it's not available to everyone.

tuition	competition	state school	ability
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4. For a successful _____, you need to study hard, sleep well and not party too much!

academic lives	academy life	academic lifes	academic life
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5. The athlete said it was the fierce _____ that resulted in her coming second in the race.

disadvantaged	competition	talent	ability
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What has happened to the number of overseas students attending Oxbridge universities?

Overseas undergraduate students rose by 51% at Oxford and 65% at Cambridge.

2. Which types of people would benefit from social mobility in the education system?

Disadvantaged youngsters, as well as ethnic minority students and white working-class youngsters, would benefit from improving social mobility.

3. True or false? *Oxford University aims to get the best talent from the rest of the world?*

False. Oxford University aims to get the best talent from the all over the world, including the UK.

4. According to the article, who pays the highest fees?

Overseas students from outside the EU tend to pay higher fees for tuition at Oxbridge.

5. Which word used in the article means 'impossible to prevent from happening'?

Inevitable. ("With overseas students from outside the EU paying higher fees for tuition, is the decline in places for British students inevitable?")

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Helga seems to have a **talent** for art and as had her latest painting displayed in a major gallery.

2. He is a **high-achieving** student and is expected to finish school with some very good grades.

3. Unfortunately, piano **tuition** is expensive so it's not available to everyone.

4. For a successful **academic life**, you need to study hard, sleep well and not party too much!

5. The athlete said it was the fierce **competition** that resulted in her coming second in the race.