



Unit 5

Two British universities

International cultural knowledge – University life

- 1 Look at the photo and title of the text. Where do you think you would find this article?
- a in a national newspaper c on an educational website
b in a school magazine d on the letters page of a fashion magazine
- 2 Read the text and check your answer.

Success stories

This month we interview a brother and sister from our school who have gone to two very different universities. Ellie is at Christ's College, Cambridge, and Rob is at Dundee, in the north-east of Scotland. We asked both of them ... why there, and how did they get in?

ELLIE Cambridge is one of the oldest universities in the world and has an excellent reputation. Both Cambridge and Oxford have college systems, and the colleges are beautiful old buildings with lovely gardens. The teaching is first class and the extracurricular music activities are perfect for me. I love singing in the college choir and playing in the orchestra.

ROB Dundee is a Scottish university. The city itself is quite poor and not very attractive. But the medical school is one of the best in the country. If you study medicine there, you can work on the hospital wards in your first year, which is what I wanted.

ELLIE The interview was very scary. I was studying A-levels in music, English, French, maths and general studies at school and was expecting to get all grade As at A-level – basically, you don't apply to Oxford or Cambridge University unless you're pretty sure you'll get As in the right subjects. At the interview, you have to convince the interviewer that you've got something extra to offer to the college. I don't know why he liked me – I think I made him laugh! Still, I was surprised when I heard I'd got a place there.

ROB My interview was quite enjoyable actually. Medicine is a hard course to get into – lots of people want to do it and the



places are limited. You have to be sure of top grade A-levels. I was doing chemistry, biology, maths, general studies and history in the sixth form but I wasn't confident I'd get the grades. So I didn't really expect to get in, and that made me very relaxed in the interview. One of the interviewers asked me why I wanted to be a doctor. The only honest answer was that I didn't know, it was just something I had wanted to do since primary school. They seemed to like the honesty, and they also liked the fact that I was doing history as well as science subjects. So I got a place!

WORD BOOSTER

Match the words and definitions.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1 confident | a make somebody believe something |
| 2 convince | b sure about your abilities |
| 3 honest | c truthful, not lying |
| 4 relaxed | d the opinion people have about something or someone |
| 5 reputation | e large room in a hospital where people sleep |
| 6 ward | f calm and not worried |

- 3 Read the text again and decide if these statements are true (T) or false (F). Correct the statements that are not true.

- 1 The college system is only for students of medicine.
2 Ellie doesn't like singing in the college choir.
3 Rob is happy because he can study in the hospital.
4 Rob was sure he'd get top grade A-levels.

- 4 Answer the questions with information from the text.

- 1 What subjects did Ellie study at school?
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- 2 What subject did Rob study that was unusual for a medicine applicant?
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- 3 Name three things that Ellie likes about Cambridge University.
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- 4 What does Ellie think her interviewer liked about her?
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- 5 What does Rob think his interviewers liked about him?
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- 5 Answer the questions.

From the information in the text, which university would you prefer to go to. Why?