

# Cambridge praises Scottish school exams

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THE integrity of Scottish school qualifications was yesterday praised by one of the UK's leading universities. Cambridge University said the restructuring of its entry rules would not affect Scottish pupils because of the "robust" reputation of Advanced Highers.

The university yesterday unveiled a revamp of entry requirements because of the increasing numbers of candidates gaining three As at A-level. Cambridge turned away record numbers of pupils last year who reached that standard.

Now, it will up its entry grades for A-level students to take advantage of the new A\* rating, with the standard offer in most subjects now two As and an A\*. However, the requirements for Scottish students studying Advanced Highers will remain unchanged at two As and a B or three As.

Dr Geoff Parks, director of admissions for Cambridge, said: "It is harder to get an A in Scotland than it is in England so there will be no change in the entry requirements for Scottish students."

Janet Brown, chief executive of the Scottish Qualifications Authority, said: "This reflects well on the robust and appropriate nature of our qualification system and fur-

ther rewards our candidates for all of the hard work which they put in."

The Cambridge move came as a report into university funding in England found support for an increase in top-up fees, which would threaten the competitive nature of Scottish universities.

A study by Universities UK, which represents vice chancellors in England, found that they supported an increase from £3000 to £6500. Scottish universities cannot charge top-up fees.

