

Oxford, City of Dreaming Spires

Complete the text with the appropriate form of the words given in capitals.

Oxford is the county town of Oxfordshire and _____

FAME

worldwide for its _____ university, the oldest in

PRESTIGE

the English-speaking world. In his poem 'Thyrsis' the Victorian

poet Matthew Arnold called Oxford 'the city of dreaming spires'

after the _____ architecture of these university buildings.

STUN

Two rivers run through Oxford, the Cherwell and the Thames (Isis),

and it is from this riverside situation that Oxford got its name in

Saxon times, 'Oxenaforda' or 'Ford of the Oxen'.

In the 10th century Oxford became an important _____ town

FRONT

between the kingdoms of Mercia and Wessex and was

also _____ important to the Normans who in 1071

STRATEGY

built a castle there, first in timber and later in the 11th century, in stone.

Oxford Castle played an important part in The Anarchy in 1142

when Matilda was _____ there, and later,

PRISON

like many other castles, was mostly destroyed during the English Civil War.

The University of Oxford is first _____ in the 12th century

MENTION

although the exact date of its foundation is _____ .

KNOW

The University expanded _____ from 1167 when Henry II

RAPID

banned English students from attending the University of Paris

and the returning students settled in Oxford.

However, in 1209 a student fled the city after apparently murdering

his mistress, and the townsfolk retaliated by _____ two students.

HANG

The ensuing riots resulted in some academics fleeing to _____

NEAR

Cambridge and establishing the University of Cambridge.

The relationship between “town and gown” was often uneasy – as many as 93 students

and townspeople were killed in the St Scholastica Day Riot of 1355.

Complete the text with a word that best fits the gap. Use only one word.

Oxford is a collegiate university, made up _____ 38 colleges and six permanent private halls. _____ oldest of Oxford’s colleges are University College, Balliol, and Merton, established sometime between 1249 and 1264. Founded _____ Henry VIII with Cardinal Wolsey, Christ Church is the largest Oxford college and uniquely, the Cathedral seat of Oxford. Most of the colleges are open _____ the public, but visitors should check opening times. As the colleges are in use by students, visitors _____ asked to respect the areas marked as private.

The historic centre of Oxford is small enough to explore _____ foot and within easy walking distance of the bus and rail stations. There are many ways _____ discover this beautiful city: open bus tours, walking tours, river cruises and you can even hire a punt or _____ rowing boat from Folly Bridge, Magdalen Bridge or Cherwell Boathouse.

One of the _____ iconic buildings in Oxford is The Radcliffe Camera in Radcliffe Square with its distinctive circular dome and drum. Built _____ 1749 to house the Radcliffe Science Library, the Radcliffe Camera (camera is another word for 'room') is now a reading room _____ the Bodleian Library.

Complete the text with the given words. There are two extra words which you do not need to use.

**FROM RELIGIOUS INTO WAS PARTS WHO WERE ANY
ADMISSION AROUND HAS REIGN TO FORM MUSEUM EXCEPT**

The building is not open to the public _____ as part of a tour of the Bodleian Library. Known informally as "The Bod", the Bodleian Library on Broad Street _____ opened in 1602 by Thomas Bodley with a collection of 2,000 books. Today, there are 9 million items.

In 1555 during the _____ of the Catholic Queen Mary ('Bloody Mary') the Oxford Martyrs were burnt at the stake for their _____ beliefs. The martyrs were the Protestant Archbishop Thomas Cranmer and bishops Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley (all incidentally educated at Cambridge) _____ were tried for heresy and subsequently burnt at the stake. The site is marked on what is now Broad Street by a cross set _____ the road and there is also a plaque in the wall of Balliol College. Designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and erected in 1843, the Martyrs' Memorial stands just _____ the corner from Broad Street on St. Giles.

Officially opened in 1683, Oxford's Ashmolean Museum on Beaumont Street is Britain's oldest public _____ and possibly the world's oldest museum. It is home to Oxford University's art and archaeology collections and _____ is free.

Completed in 1914 to connect two _____ of Hertford College, Hertford Bridge is often called the Bridge of Sighs because of the similarity _____ the famous bridge in Venice. Actually it was never intended to be a replica of _____ existing bridge.

Oxford's beautiful historic centre _____ starred in many films and television series. Scenes from the Harry Potter films _____ shot at Oxford University; the Great Hall was the setting for Hogwart's dining room and the Library doubled as Hogwart's Infirmary.