

@thesixthformgas

#ThinkBig



How to apply for Medicine



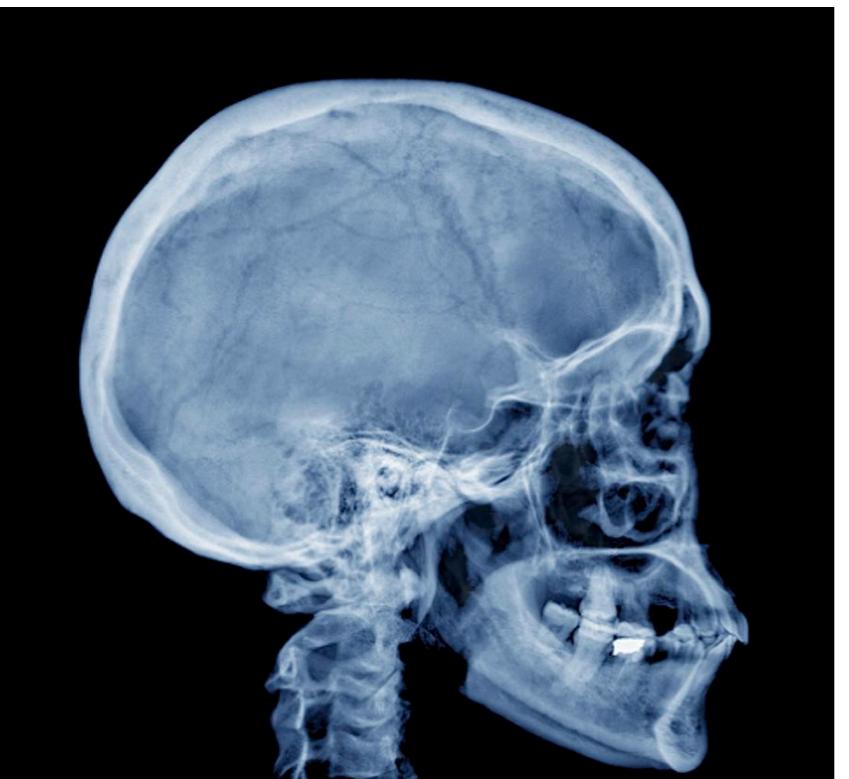
Why do you want to become a doctor?

It is important that you have thoroughly considered this as:

- the course is five or six years in duration
- once you have qualified you will be working long hours with a 24/7 duty rota which includes bank holidays and weekends. It is not a job you can just leave at the end of your shift. In times of emergency you are the front-line. Plus you will still need to study for your next rotation or promotion whilst working these extended hours
- you will have to address emotional situations for example informing a cancer patient that there are no further treatments that will help them or informing a family that their loved one has died
- you will witness the best and the worst aspects of people
- you will witness terrible injuries both accidental, self-inflicted and inflicted by others
- you will experience such tiredness that you can't imagine how you can carry on with your shift... but you will
- you will have to address difficult decisions and ethical dilemmas
- you will have ensure that you can cope with the pressure of the high level of responsibility
- and so on...

Again, why is it that you want to be a doctor?



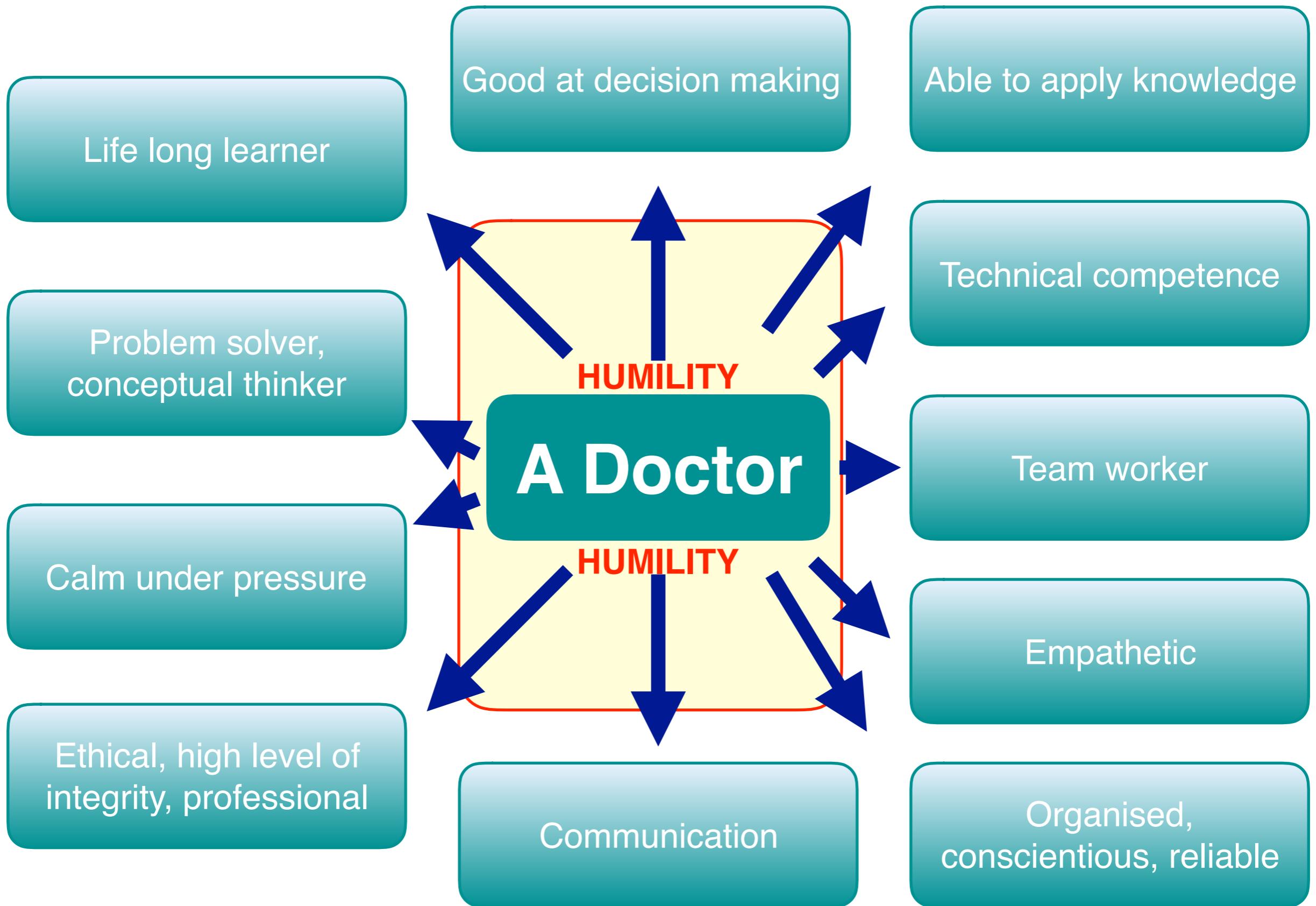


Reasons to become a doctor

- you enjoy scientific problem solving linked to helping people
- you want to make a difference by helping people
- you want a rewarding career
- you thrive on academic challenge
- you know that you want to serve in a public system in a challenging working environment

Reasons to not become a doctor

- salary
- because your parents want you to
- because medical careers run in the family
- status
- you do not like people



Important information on work experience



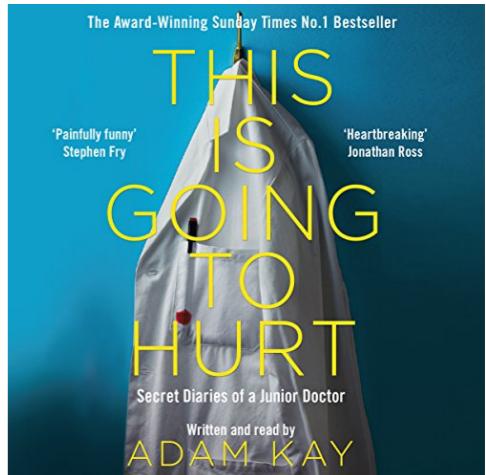
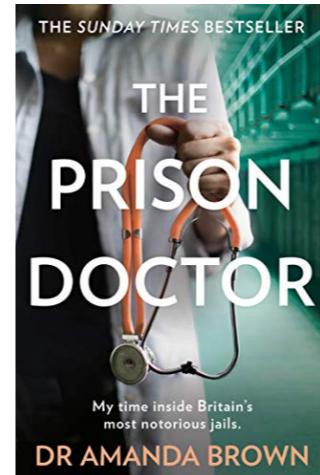
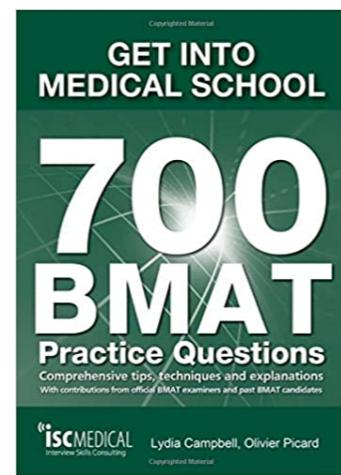
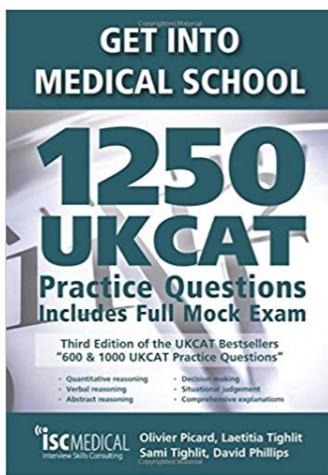
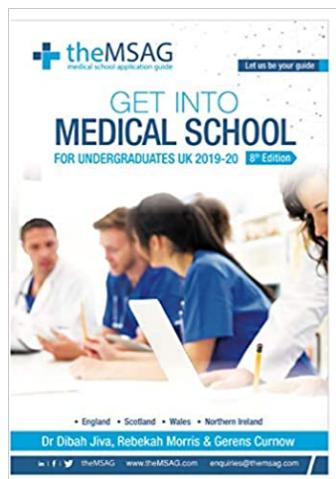
You can find more information on virtual work experience and courses at:
www.georgeabbot.surrey.sch.uk/careers

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/media/2636/guidance-on-gaining-relevant-experience-for-studying-medicine-in-the-time-of-covid-19.pdf>

A screenshot of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) website. The top navigation bar includes links for COVID-19, eLearning, Trainee ePortfolio, Contact us, and Login. The main content area is titled 'Observe GP' and describes it as an alternative to work experience for aspiring medics aged 16 and over. It features a video thumbnail showing a person wearing glasses and a white coat, with options to 'Watch later' and 'Share'.

The Royal College of GPs have put together a virtual work experience
<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/training-exams/discover-general-practice/observe-gp.aspx>

It is essential that you read The NHS Constitution



Books to read about being a doctor - most available to borrow from the HE Office in USIC

Routes into medicine



Standard entry medicine

5 or 6 year courses depending on university.

Biomedical sciences degree with transfer

Direct transfer after year 1 of a specific science degree. Very limited places.

Medicine with a preliminary year

6 year course designed those who achieved high in A-levels but did not take the required subjects.

Medicine with a gateway year

For students who have had barriers to their education for example those students who come into ‘widening participation’. Six year course including a foundation year.

Graduate entry medicine

For students who already have a bachelor’s degree in a science or health-related subject
4 or 5 year courses depending on university.

Students who apply for medicine need to be able to achieve A* and A in their A-levels in specific subjects.

You can only apply for four medicine courses.

You can only apply to either Oxford or Cambridge, not both.

Your medicine choices have to be submitted by **18:00 on 15 October 2021**.

You can add your fifth choice after this date but before the **18:00 on 15 January 2022**.

Most students choose a biomedical science-type course as their fifth choice.

Some universities offer a scheme whereby students who have completed at least one year of a biomedical science course can apply for a transfer to a medical course at the same university.



Admission Tests

All UK medicine course require you to take an entrance test - UCAT and / or BMAT

UCAT

Applicants must register for the UCAT between May and late September and the test can be sat between July and early October. Results are available to applicants on the day of their test. After the UCAS deadline, results are sent directly to the medical schools to which the applicant has applied. Thirty medical schools use the UCAT.

BMAT

There are two BMAT test dates per year. The first is in early September and applicants must register for this by early August. The second is in late October or early November and students should aim to register for this by the end of September, but late registrations are possible until the UCAS application deadline on 15 October. The results of those in the second sitting are sent directly to the medical schools to which they have applied.

GAMSAT

For graduate entry.

NB You can only take UCAT and BMAT once in a 12 month period.



Personal Statement

When you are writing your personal statement include:

- What is your motivation to study medicine - be specific
- What is your understanding of a career in medicine
- How have you demonstrated your breadth of experience, for example: work experience, community - volunteering, interests - sport, music, drama
- Do not repeat information that is elsewhere on your application form
- Do not write about anything that you are not prepared to discuss at interview
- What is special about YOU?



Admission Interviews

The purpose of your UCAS application is to get you to the interview stage

There are different styles of interview - panel interviews, multiple-mini interviews or assessment centres



Preparing for your interview:

- Re-read your UCAS personal statement
- Re-read The NHS Constitution
- Be ready to debate your views and opinions
- Be up-to-date on scientific and medical breakthroughs
- Be up-to-date on humanitarian and ethical issues

Be prepared to talk about / show your:

- Motivation to study medicine
- Understanding of a medical career
- Empathy
- Teamwork and leadership
- Resilience
- Communication
- Maturity
- Contribution to medical school life / community
- Values aligned to the NHS Constitution

I strongly recommend that you read the:

Medical Schools Council's Entry requirements for UK medical schools 2020

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/news/entry-requirements-to-medicine-updated-for-entry-in-2020>

However, as with most publications things change and the university's own website will carry the most up-to-date information.

This document goes through the requirements of each medical school including:

- Duration of the course
- Number of students applying
- Number of places
- Exam requirements
- Subject requirements
- Personal statement
- Admissions test
- Interview method
- Work experience requirements

Also try and read:

Getting into Medical School 2020

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/becoming-a-doctor-in-the-uk/getting-into-medical-school>



Styles of learning

Generally there are three separate styles of course:

Traditional

Students spend the first 2 or 3 years (pre-clinical) focusing on the academic aspect of the course via lectures.

Subsequent years are spent on clinical placement supported by additional lectures.

Problem based learning

Learning is undertaken in small groups structured around patient cases. Students identify what they already know and what they need to know. These questions are then addressed in lectures, workshops or private study.

Integrated / system based learning

Learning is based on body systems. For example students will study the anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and pharmacology of the respiratory system before going onto the next system.



What if I don't get any offers?

Nowadays, there are usually a few places available through UCAS Extra and / or UCAS Clearing.

If you applied for biomedical science degree at a university which offers a transfer scheme you could apply for a medical course after the first year.

Apply the following year. Most universities allow a student to reapply for the following year without disadvantage.

If you feel you need to retake your A-levels some universities may ask for a higher tariff as you will have had three years to complete them.



Useful websites

https://www.edx.org/course?search_query=medicine

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk>

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/becoming-a-doctor-in-the-uk>

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/general-practice-doctor>

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects/medicine-and-allied-subjects>

<https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/outreach-and-support/resources-for-teachers-and-students>

<https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/medicine/pre-clinical/applying/reading>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/the-nhs-explained>

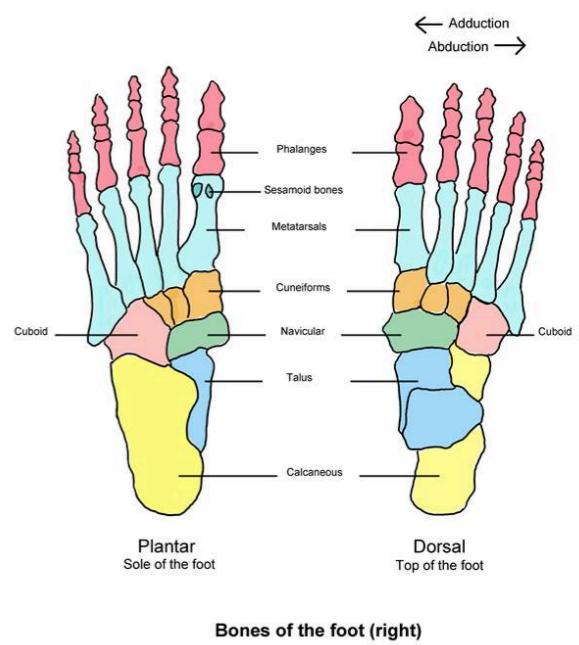
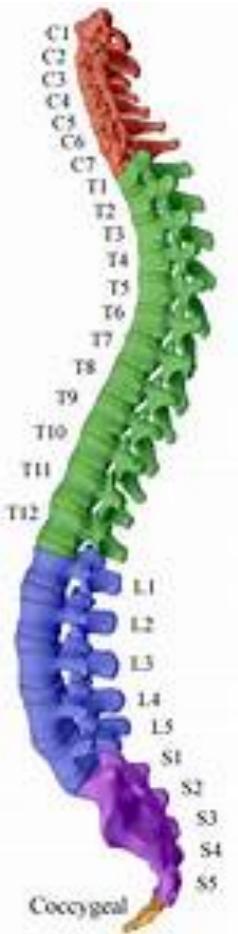
<https://www.futurelearn.com/subjects/politics-and-society-courses/social-issues>

<https://causeway.education/blog/2020y/1m/16d/widening-participation-workshops-kan3m>

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/research-and-impact/>

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/impact/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nhs-constitution-for-england>



Information on UCAT

<https://www.blackstonetutors.co.uk/ucat-articles.html>

<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/>





Cambridge Assessment
Admissions Testing

BMAT

BIOMEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST

An introduction to the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT)

admissionstesting.org/bmat



Why do universities use BMAT?

BMAT
BIOMEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST

Gives the university one piece of information about all

Helps identify whether you have the skills to succeed on your chosen course

Just one part of the application process

Visit university websites to find out how they use BMAT results



Which UK universities/courses require BMAT?

BMAT
BIOMEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST

Universities	Courses
Brighton and Sussex Medical School	A100 Medicine
Imperial College London	A100 Medicine
Lancaster University	A100 Medicine & Surgery A104 Medicine & Surgery with a Gateway Year
University College London	A100 Medicine
University of Cambridge	A100 Medicine
University of Leeds	A100 Medicine A101 Gateway Year to Medicine A200 Dentistry
University of Oxford	A100 Medicine BC98 Biomedical Sciences A101 Graduate Medicine
<u>'Overseas for fees' applicants only</u> Keele University	A100 Medicine
<u>International applicants only</u> University of Manchester Medical School	A106 Medicine A104 Medicine (with foundation year)



Cambridge Assessment
Admissions Testing

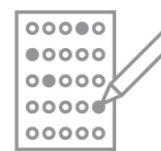
What's in BMAT?

BMAT
BIOMEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST

1 Thinking Skills



60 minutes



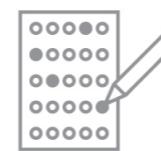
32 multiple-choice
questions

Tests: **problem solving and critical thinking**

2 Scientific Knowledge and Applications



30 minutes



27 multiple-choice
questions

Tests: **ability to apply knowledge: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics**

3 Writing Task



30 minutes



1 short essay
question

Tests: **ability to organise and effectively communicate ideas in writing**



Section 1 Thinking Skills

Problem Solving

Janet's mother has sent her to the greengrocer to buy oranges. Janet's mother knows the oranges were 12p each yesterday and gave Janet the exact money to buy a certain number. When Janet gets there she finds there is a special offer: if you buy 8 or more, the price of all oranges bought is reduced by 2p each. She finds she can now buy 2 more oranges than her mother thought with the money given.

How many can she buy?

- A 8
- B 10
- C 12
- D 18
- E 20

Section 1 Thinking Skills

Critical Thinking

Peat is organic matter which develops in wetland areas. It is the ideal growing medium for plants, and there is a tremendous demand for it from gardeners, both amateur and professional. But only three per cent of the earth's land surface is covered in peatland, and continued harvesting of peat will endanger these unique wetland habitats. Peat harvesting should be stopped immediately and gardeners should be encouraged to use an alternative.

Which of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the argument above?

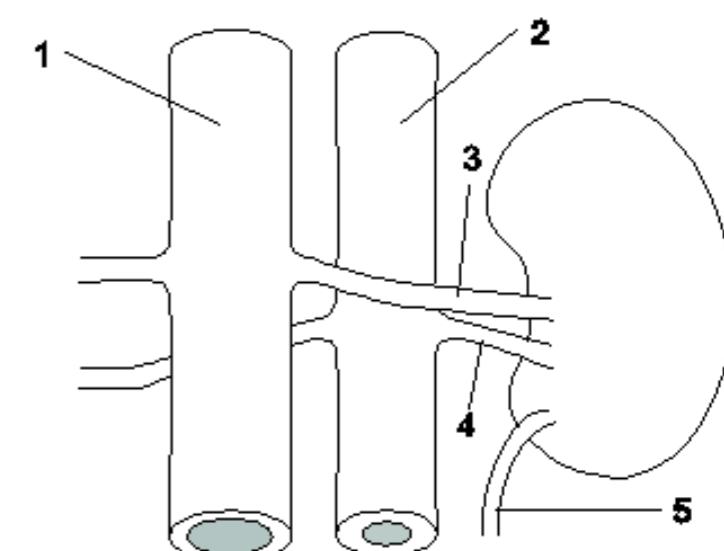
- A** Only three per cent of the land on our planet is covered in peatland.
- B** Taking too much peat will destroy the unique wetland areas in which it develops.
- C** Peat cannot develop except in wetland areas.
- D** No more peat should be extracted and a different growing medium for plants should be promoted.
- E** Peat is a very popular growing medium used by amateur gardeners and professional growers.



Section 2 Scientific Knowledge and Applications

The diagram shows a kidney and its associated vessels from a healthy individual. Which row correctly identifies the vessels along with the concentration of urea they contain?

	<i>lowest concentration of urea</i>	<i>highest concentration of urea</i>
A	1 is the aorta	2 is the vena cava
B	1 is the vena cava	2 is the aorta
C	3 is the renal artery	5 is the urethra
D	3 is the renal vein	5 is the ureter
E	4 is the renal vein	5 is the ureter
F	4 is the renal artery	5 is the urethra





Section 3 Writing Task

The health care profession is wrong to treat ageing as if it were a disease.

What do you understand by this statement?

Argue that it is not wrong to treat the effects of ageing as if they were a disease.

To what extent do you agree with the statement?

- ▶ You have a single side of A4 to write on.
- ▶ The essay is scored on the basis of the quality of the content in the response and on the quality of the English used.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

https://www.admissiontesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/bmat-november/?utm_campaign=at-bmat-email-alerts&utm_medium=email&hs_mi=88769032&hsenc=p2anqtz-9x3nn2do5zpesvsae97g2uys776xfbdjc7wym3k5nuixu9joiqb9guurzrkv-st1pj6tztetukm-6nhg4ae0bbkplpr1vsxpmfu4auk4&utm_content=88769032&utm_source=hs_email



Cambridge Assessment
Admissions Testing

Two One BMAT test dates in 2020

BMAT
BIOMEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST

5

September



Registration opens:
12 June

Registration closes:
9 August

Results:
25 September

4

November



Registration opens:
1 September

Registration closes:
Standard fee 1 October
Late fee 15 October

Results:
27 November

Oxford will
only accept results
from the November
test

Five top tips to help you with BMAT preparation

BMAT
BIOMEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST

- 1** Download the **BMAT preparation guide**.
- 2** Watch **videos of medical students** sharing their BMAT preparation tips.
- 3** Read the **BMAT test specification** to learn more about what to expect in the test.
- 4** Use the **Section 2 guide** to revise your science and maths if you need to.
- 5** Practise under test conditions with our **BMAT practice papers**.

We have made a small change to BMAT Section 1 this year – check the website for information.

Everything you need to prepare for the test is available, **for free**, on our website:

admissionstesting.org/bmat-preparation

We advise against paid-for preparation courses

BMAT
BIOMEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST

We advise against paid-for preparation courses.

**Our research shows no evidence of a link between
commercial coaching courses and improved test
performance.**

FAQs

I get access arrangements for my school exams. What about for BMAT?

- ▶ Access arrangements are offered in line with the arrangements you get for your school exams.
- ▶ If you require modified papers, please note there is an early deadline for requesting these.

I don't take A-level Physics. Am I at a disadvantage?

- ▶ No, the science knowledge you need is GCSE level, and the questions focus on applying that knowledge.
- ▶ We have a free science revision guide covering all the topics you are expected to know.

I don't do any subjects where I write essays. Am I at a disadvantage?

- ▶ No, BMAT Section 3 requires you to use skills you will already have gained from your school work (e.g. GCSE English) and have used in any report writing you may have done on your current courses.
- ▶ We also provide guidance, past papers and sample essays to help you prepare.

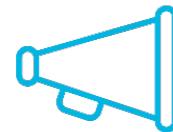
I can't afford the test. What can I do?

- ▶ We offer a reimbursement of test fees to people who meet financial criteria showing they are unable to afford the test.

**Visit our website for further details and more
FAQs**

And remember...

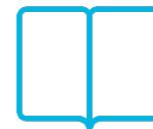
BMAT
BIOMEDICAL ADMISSIONS TEST



Don't panic!



Practise



Know what's in the test



**Show your
potential!**

