



# Applying to Study Medicine in the Virtual World

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**UCAT**



**Please note the Information in this Presentation is only valid for 2022 entry to Medicine**



# What are Medical Schools looking for ?

## Academic requirements

- GCSE and equivalents
- A levels and equivalents
- Other qualifications

## Aptitudes tests

- UCAT
- BMAT

## UCAS Personal statement and Reference

- NHS Work experience is **not** required

## Interviews





# Preparing to apply

## Thinking about Medicine as a career

- Medical Schools Council
- Virtual NHS work experience
- Reflecting on / news / documentaries / personal or family experience
- Volunteering for opportunities at school / in the community
- Finding paid employment working with the public
- Learning about themselves, strengths and weaknesses, developing useful skills

## Widening Participation Programmes

- Universities
- National organisations

## University Websites and Virtual Open Days

- Information about selection process / courses / blogs / videos / webinars



# Academic Requirements – What has changed

## Standard Medicine Courses

- A levels
- Other academic qualifications
- GCSEs

## Gateway or Foundation Year Courses

- Widening Access / Widening Participation / Contextual criteria
- A levels
- Other academic qualifications
- GCSEs

## Graduate Entry Courses

- Degrees
- A levels / GCSE

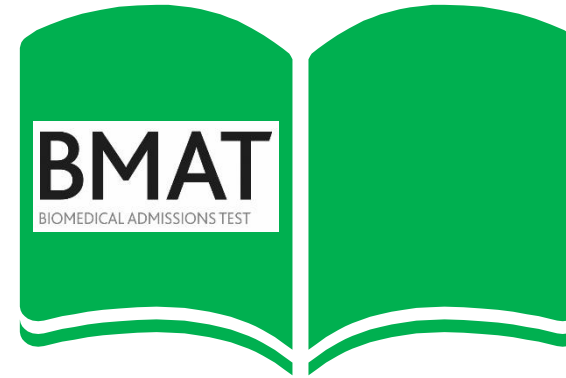


# Aptitude tests



## University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)

- 31 UK universities
- 2-hour computer-based test
- Assesses cognitive and non-cognitive abilities deemed important by medics
- Sat at a test centre
- Testing from 26<sup>th</sup> July – 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021



## BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT)

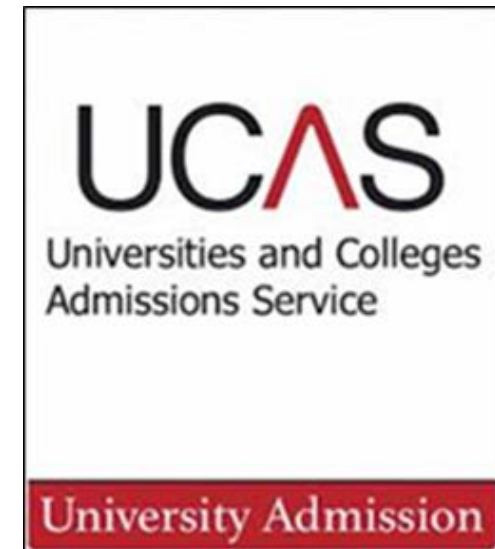
- 7 UK universities
- 2-hour pen and paper test
- Assesses aptitude, mathematical / scientific knowledge and written skills
- Sat at school
- Testing takes place on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2021



# UCAS Personal Statements and Reference

## How are they used and what has changed in the virtual world?

- Personal Statement
- NHS Work experience is **not** required
- Widening Participation Programmes
- Reference
- 15<sup>th</sup> October UCAS deadline
  - 4 Medicine courses
  - 5<sup>th</sup> choice not Medicine
- Deferral / Gap Year





# Virtual Interviews

Students should check their home IT equipment and WiFi  
Have they got a quiet room where they will not be disturbed during the interview  
Offer the opportunity for students to do their interviews in school / college  
Support students to practice answering questions on line  
Helpful advice on Medical School Council website

## **Synchronous**

- Structured panel interview with at least two interviewers asking questions
- Multiple short interviews with different interviewers for each scenario
- Can include role play
- Can include a written component eg testing mathematical skills

## **Asynchronous**

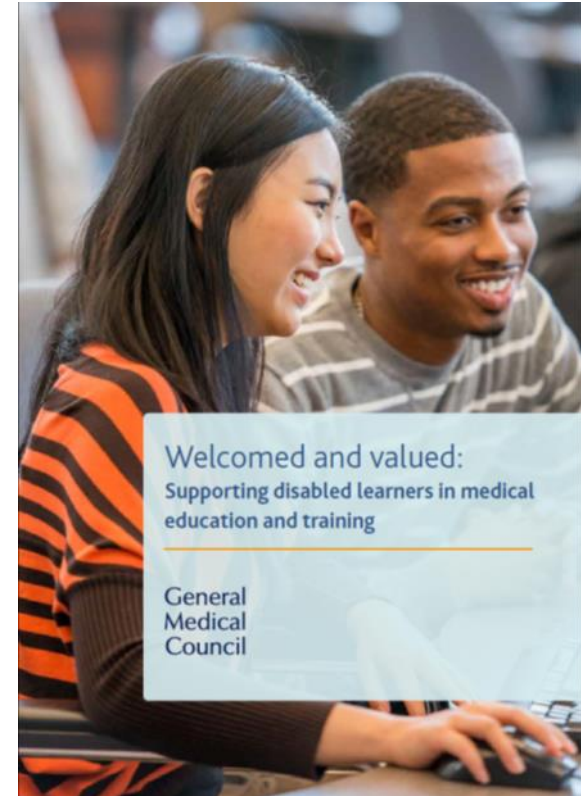
- Students video record answers to set questions
- Submit video to Medical School for assessment





# Health and Disability

- Adjustments for Aptitude Tests
- Provide information on UCAS application
- Adjustments for interviews
- When offer accepted
  - Key contact and support plan
  - Preparing for arrival and induction
  - Adjustments ahead of starting the course







## What is the UCAT?

- Admissions test used by the majority of UK medical and dental schools
- You sit the test in same year that you apply through UCAS
- You can only sit the test once each year
- 2 hour, multiple-choice, computer-based test
- No curriculum content; the test assesses a range of mental abilities across 5 separately timed subtests
- Sat at your nearest Pearson VUE test centre

## Key Dates

- Registration and booking are already open
- Testing opens 26<sup>th</sup> July and ends 29<sup>th</sup> September
- Deadline for web booking and Access Arrangements is 22<sup>nd</sup> September



## UCAT Fees

Tests taken in the **UK £75**, Tests outside the UK £120

## Bursaries

Cover the full test fee - available to UK candidates from low-income households  
Bursary Scheme webpage states full details

## Access Arrangements

Applications for Access Arrangements (with supporting evidence) must be approved by the UCAT Office

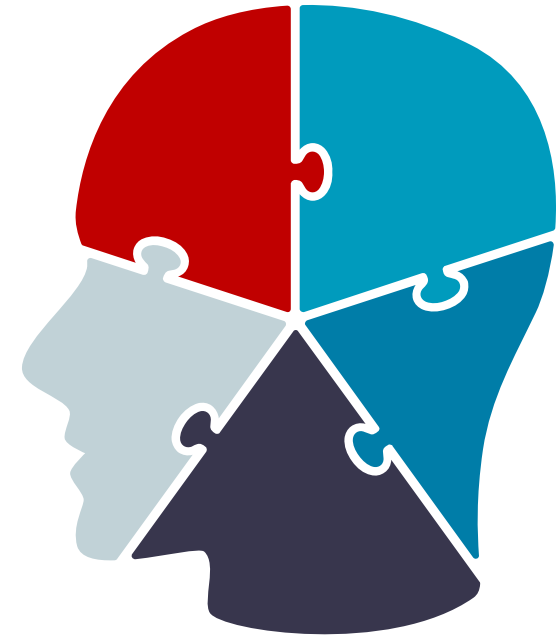
If students are entitled to extra time and/or rest breaks for public exams based upon a medical diagnosis or SpLD assessment we offer a number of versions of the test (UCATSEN = 25% extra time, rest breaks, etc.)



## Cognitive subtests

- Verbal Reasoning (scored 300-900)
- Decision Making (scored 300-900)
- Quantitative Reasoning (scored 300-900)
- Abstract Reasoning (scored 300-900)

**Situational Judgement Test** (Band 1 – 4)





# Verbal Reasoning

UCAT

UNIVERSITY CLINICAL  
APTITUDE TEST

- The test assesses the ability to read and think carefully about information presented in passages and to determine whether specific conclusions can be drawn from information presented
- Candidates are not expected to use prior knowledge to answer the questions
- Some questions assess critical reasoning skills, requiring candidates to make inferences and draw conclusions from information
- For other questions they decide whether the statement provided follows logically from the information in the passage

**21 minutes**



**44  
questions**



**11  
passages**



Many stretches of coastline around the United Kingdom provide world-class conditions for the increasingly popular sports of surfing and bodyboarding. While there are obvious hazards connected with any recreational use of the sea, regular surfers face more insidious, hidden dangers. Several independent studies suggest the risk of becoming ill from water pollution can increase three-fold with more frequent immersion and ingestion of water. As such, untreated or poorly processed sewage pumped from coastal treatment works is a major concern to the surfing community.

One of the most effective disinfecting technologies available to water companies is Ultra Violet (UV) light. All typical wastewater pathogens with the potential to cause health issues can be neutralised by a system of UV light emitters. These include Gastroenteritis, the virulent Ecoli 0157H bacteria and, of particular significance, Hepatitis A. If contracted, the Hep A virus causes inflammation of the liver and while rarely fatal, may lead to hospitalisation and can make a sufferer extremely ill for up to 6 months.

Unsurprisingly, decisions by some water companies to deactivate UV treatment systems outside the traditional 'bathing season' have been disputed by organisations such as Surfers Against Sewage (SAS). Many areas affected by this action get their best surf between October and April, and an ongoing campaign to have all-year-round UV treatment in some sites has met with success. In two landmark cases, the Environment Agency refused UV deactivation by Northumbrian Water on the grounds of significant surfer use thanks to evidence collected by SAS.

What is the most influential factor on water quality for surfers and bodyboarders, regardless of the time of year?

- A. UV treatment of wastewater between October and April.
- B. Continual UV treatment of wastewater.
- C. UV treatment of wastewater between May and September.
- D. Annual UV treatment of wastewater.



# Decision Making

UCAT

UNIVERSITY CLINICAL  
APTITUDE TEST

- This subtest assesses the ability to apply logic to reach a decision or conclusion
- The ability to evaluate arguments and analyse statistical information is important, particularly when dealing with uncertain / ambiguous situations
- There are a number of different question types including logical puzzles, syllogisms and Venn diagrams
- All questions are standalone and do not share data
- Candidates can make notes using a whiteboard / marker pen (provided at the test centre)

**31 minutes**



**29  
questions**



**Associated  
with  
diagrams,  
text, charts  
or graphs**



Not all the people present at the literature festival were poets but all the poets at the literature festival were authors and some poets were not writers.

Place 'Yes' if the conclusion does follow. Place 'No' if the conclusion does not follow.

Some writers at the literature festival were authors.

Some authors at the literature festival were both poets and writers.

All the authors at the literature festival were either poets or writers.

Not all authors at the literature festival who were poets were writers.

All the writers at the literature festival who were authors were also poets.

Yes

No



# Quantitative Reasoning

UCAT

UNIVERSITY CLINICAL  
APTITUDE TEST

- This subtest assesses the ability to use numerical skills to solve problems
- It assumes familiarity with numbers, e.g. ratios, percentages, averages, fractions, etc.
- Candidates need to understand the problem, find the relevant information, and then solve it, disregarding surplus or distracting information
- A basic calculator is available for use in this section
- Although using mental maths may save time
- Candidates can make notes using the whiteboard / marker pen provided

**24 minutes**



**36  
questions**



**Associated  
with tables,  
charts and/or  
graphs**





The table shows the prices to place different sized advertisements in the main section of a newspaper.

**Advertisement Prices**

Size of the Advertisement	Colour	Mono
24 x 10	£11,368	£7,533
22 x 5	£5,573	£3,836
8 x 10	£4,706	£3,348

How much more does it cost a company to place two 24 x 10 mono advertisements and one 22 x 5 mono advertisement combined than four 8 x 10 colour advertisements?

- A. £56
- B. £78
- C. £3,758
- D. £5,510
- E. £9,485



# Abstract Reasoning

UCAT

UNIVERSITY CLINICAL  
APTITUDE TEST

- The test assesses the ability to identify patterns amongst abstract shapes where irrelevant and distracting material may lead to incorrect conclusions
- The test therefore measures the ability to change track, critically evaluate and generate hypotheses and requires candidates to query judgements as they go along
- When considering possible diagnoses, medical practitioners may be presented with a set of symptoms / results – some may be more reliable or relevant than others
- There are 4 different questions types in this test

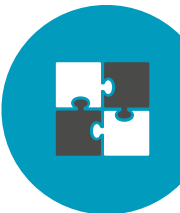
**13 minutes**



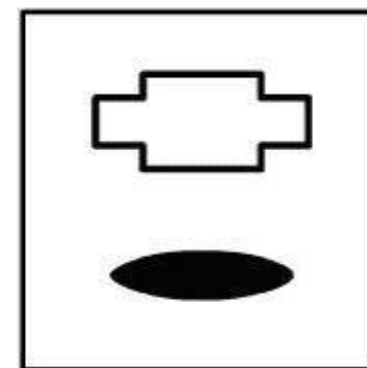
**55  
questions**



**Associated  
with  
numerous  
sets of  
shapes**



Set A		Set B	



- A. Set A
- B. Set B
- C. Neither



# Situational Judgement Test

UCAT

UNIVERSITY CLINICAL  
APTITUDE TEST

- The test measures the capacity to understand real world situations and to identify critical factors and appropriate behaviour in dealing with them
- It assesses the key traits of integrity, perspective taking and team involvement, resilience and adaptability
- SJTs are used widely in medical selection, including selection of Foundation Doctors, GPs and other medical specialties

**26 minutes**



**69  
questions**



**22 scenarios  
(with up to 6  
associated  
questions)**



A junior doctor, Naomi, is working on a hospital ward, which is particularly busy today due to a member of staff being ill. After lunch she receives a call from the surgical team telling her that they are running behind schedule with today's surgical procedures. They explain that she needs to tell the last patient on their list, Harry, that his operation will be delayed until tomorrow, and they will make him first on tomorrow's list. This makes no difference to Harry's safety. However, Naomi knows this operation is to remove a tumour and that Harry has been very anxious about the surgery. She explains to Harry that she has been asked to tell him that his surgery will not happen today.

How **appropriate** are each of the following responses by **Naomi** in this situation?

Ask another medical student on the ward to explain to Harry the reasons why his surgery is postponed until tomorrow

- A. A very appropriate thing to do
- B. Appropriate, but not ideal
- C. Inappropriate, but not awful
- D. A very inappropriate thing to do



## Preparing for the test

Although it is a test of aptitude rather than academic knowledge, students should still allow time to prepare thoroughly for the UCAT

Recommend at least 25-30 hours / start at least 4-6 weeks before test date

Use the official resources available from UCAT (over 1,000 example questions)

**Note - we do not endorse or recommend any commercial preparation materials**

## Tips and Advice

Timing is key, students should try to answer all the questions

No negative marking / don't leave blanks

Use the Flag and Review

Use the 4 x official practice tests wisely

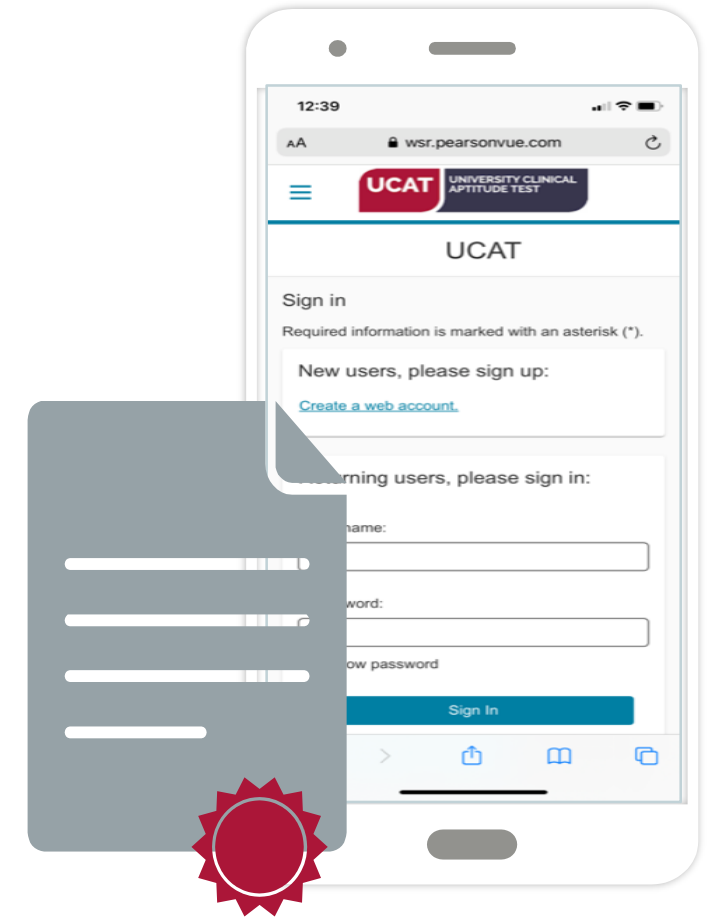


## Scores

- Results are available on the day of the test
- The UCAT result will comprise of
  - a total score of between 1200 and 3600,
  - and a Banding 1 – 4 for SJT
- No pass / fail mark
- Average scores are published on our website

## How universities use the UCAT Score

- Candidates should research how universities use the test before submitting their UCAS application
- Some may have thresholds, etc.





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**Applications to Medicine**