



# Applying for Medicine UCAT Information Session

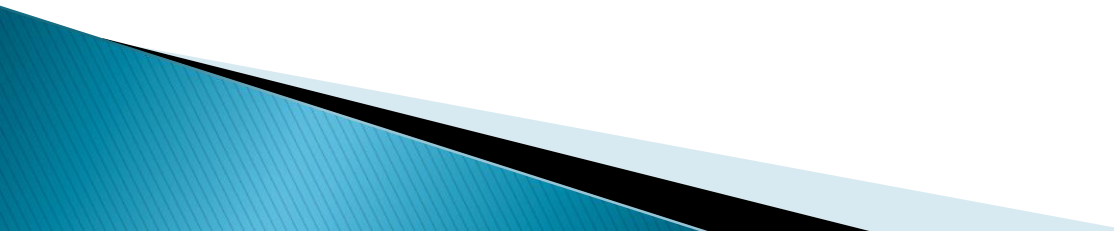
23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

# What is it?

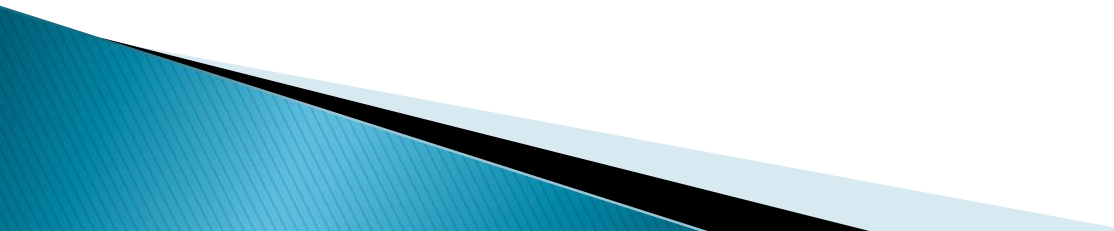


- ▶ UK Clinical Aptitude Test
- ▶ Aptitude: an innate, learned or acquired ability
- ▶ Assesses mental abilities, attitudes and professional behaviour
- ▶ Does not contain any curriculum or science content
- ▶ Multiple choice questions

# Why?

- ▶ To ensure that candidates selected have the most appropriate attributes required to be a medical student and junior doctor
  - ▶ Achieving greater fairness in selection
  - ▶ Some independent indication of medical school performance
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# Will COVID-19 impact on UCAT

- ▶ This year, UCAT intend for students to sit their tests in Pearson-VUE test centres as normal.
  - ▶ Students who have to self-isolate for any reason before their test will be allowed to reschedule their tests.
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# Deadlines for 2022

- ▶ **Step 1: Register**

- ▶ Registration is now open (since 24<sup>th</sup> May)

- ▶ **Step 2: Booking a Test**

- ▶ Booking opens: 6am, 20 June 2022  
The UCAT can be sat between 11 July – 29 September 2022 at Pearson VUE test centres.
- ▶ Registration and web booking closes at 12 noon BST on 22<sup>nd</sup> September
- ▶ Students already booked for a test can reschedule up until the 28<sup>th</sup> September.

# Verbal reasoning



Ability to read and think about information in a passage and determine whether certain conclusions can be drawn



Doctors have to be able to read complex information and process it e.g. scientific articles



11 passages, 4 questions for each



22 minutes

Restorative justice was promoted as a response to the 2011 riots in the UK, bringing victims and offenders face to face. By helping each to understand the other, it breaks down rigid stereotypes – youngsters seeing the elderly as hostile and unsympathetic, the elderly seeing all youngsters as violent and threatening – and seems to be successful in helping to reduce crime and reoffending.

When a 15-year-old boy convicted of violent disorder heard from the owners of local businesses how they had been affected, he not only apologised but added that he had been foolish. Roy, manager of a fast-food outlet in Brixton, said: 'I was willing to tell him how the attack made me and my staff feel. Judging by his reaction a lot of good has come from this, for both of us. I could tell he was being genuine and was facing up to his actions. We both got a lot out of our meeting; we can move on from all that now.'

Ministry of Justice research into restorative justice for serious offences such as violent crime and burglary showed the approach reduced reoffending by 27%. For every £1 spent on providing restorative justice £9 are saved for the criminal justice system in reduced crime compared to community punishments or prison services alone.

Source: adapted from <http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk>

Ministry of Justice research supports the use of restorative justice:

- A. for minor crimes only.
- B. because victims like it.
- C. for first time offenders only.
- D. because it is cost effective.

# Decision Making



Ability to apply logic to reach a decision or conclusion, evaluate arguments and analyse statistical information



Doctors often have to make decisions in complex situations, requiring problem solving skills



29 questions referring to text, charts, tables, graphs or diagrams



31 minutes



Calculator  $\pm$  handwritten notes



A primary school class has been split into groups of five to learn about size. Each group needs to establish who is tallest and who is shortest. They know the following:

- Cora is shorter than Angie.
- Emma is shorter than Belle.
- Dee is taller than Belle but shorter than Cora.
- Belle is shorter than Cora and Angie.

Who are the tallest and shortest members of the group?

- A. Emma (tallest) and Dee (shortest)
- B. Angie (tallest) and Emma (shortest)
- C. Belle (tallest) and Angie (shortest)
- D. Cora (tallest) and Belle (shortest)

All crows are black. All doves are white. This bird is either a dove or a crow.

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

This bird is white.

This bird is either white or a crow.

If not a crow this bird is a black dove.

This bird is either black or a dove.

This bird is neither black nor white.

Yes
No

# Quantitative reasoning

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Ability to use numerical skills to solve problems

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Numbers standard to a good pass at National 5

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Doctors need to do drug calculations, also need to assess and interpret data and use statistics

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36 questions

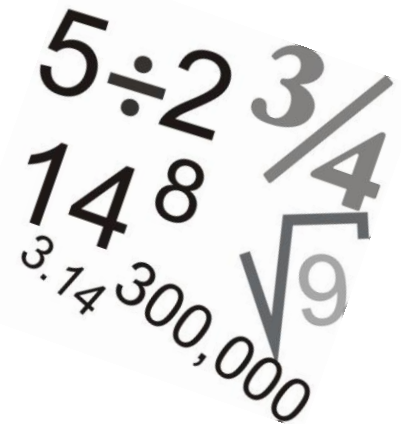
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25 minutes

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### Train timetables 1907 and 2007

- The timetable below is fictitious but loosely based on actual railway lines in the West Midlands. In 1907 trains called at some stations which do not exist now and train times have been adjusted to provide a fair comparison.

Arrival (A) and departure (D) times - the first trains of the day					
		1907 timetable		2007 timetable	
Farrsgate	(D)		8:00		8:00
Gerrenal	(D)		8:12		8:17
Hettery	(D)		8:24		8:34
Ilter Road	(D)		8:40		8:57
Ilter Bridge	(D)	8:10	.....	8:00	.....
Ilter Downs	(D)	8:30	.....	8:29	.....
Ilter Junction	(A)	8:44	.....	8:50	.....
Ilter Junction	(D)		8:50		9:11
Jadsey Park	(D)		9:16		9:49
Kendleton	(A)		9:30		10:10

- In both 1907 and 2007 trains arrived at all stations two minutes before they departed.
- In 1907 trains travelled at 60mph.
- Trains travelled at constant speeds between stations so differences in departure time at one station and arrival at another reflect the relative mileages between stations.
- However, in 2007 fares did not necessarily reflect such mileages – they are sometimes set to eliminate under use or reduce overcrowding.

At what speed did trains travel in 2007?

- A. 40 mph
- B. 42 mph
- C. 48 mph
- D. 54 mph
- E. 60 mph

# Abstract reasoning



Assesses ability to identify patterns among abstract shapes with other material present to distract you

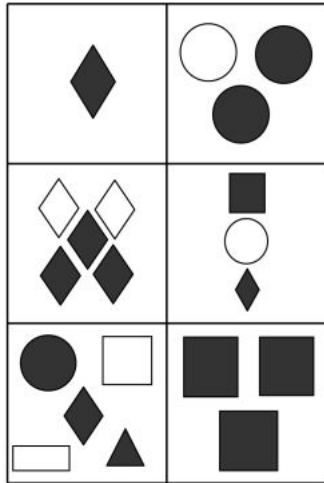


Doctors need to make judgements about information provided by patients, tests etc and use this to assess their possible diagnosis as they go along

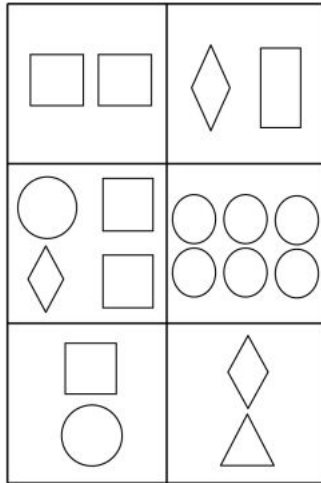


55 questions 14 mins

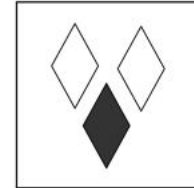
Set A



Set B

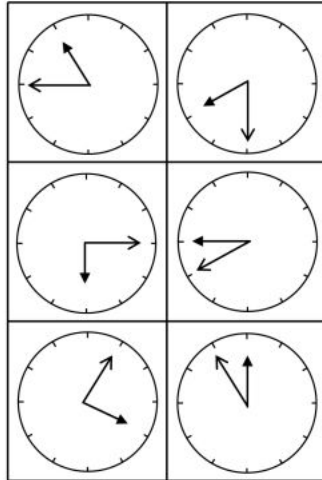


Test shape:

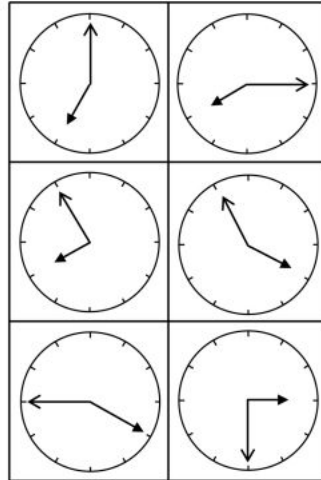


- A. Set A
- B. Set B
- C. Neither

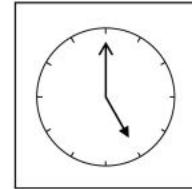
Set A



Set B



Test shape:



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

# Situational Judgement

Capacity of understanding real life situations and determining appropriate behaviour in dealing with them

Widely used in postgraduate training, applicable to everyday life as a doctor

22 scenarios, 69 questions

27 minutes

Questions ask you to rate the 'appropriateness' and the 'importance' of a particular action

Two medical students, Chris and Justine are about to complete a joint patient interview as part of an educational assessment. Both students are required to take part in the interview as part of the assessment. Chris informs Justine that he does not feel able to take part in the interview. He admits that this is because he has taken some illegal drugs this morning, to which he may be addicted.

How **important** to take into account are the following considerations for **Justine** when deciding how to respond to the situation?

That the joint patient interview is completed as planned so as not to adversely affect the assessment

- A. Very important
- B. Important
- C. Of minor importance
- D. Not important at all



Two medical students, Chris and Justine are about to complete a joint patient interview as part of an educational assessment. Both students are required to take part in the interview as part of the assessment. Chris informs Justine that he does not feel able to take part in the interview. He admits that this is because he has taken some illegal drugs this morning, to which he may be addicted.

How **important** to take into account are the following considerations for **Justine** when deciding how to respond to the situation?

That Chris does not interact with patients if he is not in a fit state to do so

- A. Very important
- B. Important
- C. Of minor importance
- D. Not important at all



# University of Glasgow

## School of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing

For 2021 Interview 879 applicants

Lowest interviewed UCAT score in 2021 was 2620

	2019				2018			
	Applications	Interviews	Offers	Intake	Applications	Interviews	Offers	Intake
Minimum UCAT	1640	2600	2600	2600	1530	2680	2680	2680



- Minimum cut off **NOT** used
- Allocate a score based on the total numerical score from the four subtests: verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, abstract reasoning and decision making.
- The SJT will not be scored, but it may be used in offer making when there are candidates with similar scores
- In 2021 the lowest interviewed score was 2370

**Highest & Lowest UCAT Scores Invited to Interview**

	<b>2019 Entry</b>	<b>2018 Entry</b>	<b>2017 Entry</b>	<b>2016 Entry</b>	<b>2015 Entry</b>
Home Fees	Highest: 3280 Lowest: 2360	Highest: 3150 Lowest: 2380	Highest: 2480 Lowest: 1660	Highest: 3350 Lowest: 2180	Highest: 3290 Lowest: 2440
Rest of UK Fees	Highest: 3230 Lowest: 2340	Highest: 3090 Lowest: 2440	Highest: 2280 Lowest: 1920	Highest: 3240 Lowest: 2420	Highest: 3440 Lowest: 2550
International Fees	Highest: 3190 Lowest: 2300	Highest: 3010 Lowest: 2580	Highest: 2480 Lowest: 1850	Highest: 3140 Lowest: 2210	Highest: 3220 Lowest: 2620



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

“We accept all UKCAT scores and have no minimum requirement. We also consider the Situational Judgement section of the UKCAT test separately.”

Now use the SJT alongside the interview. Only have a small number of interview places. Interviews are used more to confirm selection, instead of inform selection.

Lowest interviewed score in 2021 was 2300

The interviews at Edinburgh are changing yearly while they attempt to achieve a fair process.



**“No cut off”**

**Selection for interview based on  
academic performance and UKCAT  
score**

**Clean slate at interview.**

**On average they offer around 500  
interviews**

**Lowest interviewed score = 2140**



# University of St Andrews

The School has a limited number of interview places (around 400). To be considered for interview, applicants must have:

- a strong academic record
- a positive reference
- relevant, medically related work experience

Those meeting this criteria are then ranked based on global UKCAT score, and the top 400 will be given an interview.

Offers will then be made based solely on interview score (clean slate model)

In recent years the lowest score for applicants called to interview at St Andrews has been in the region of 2400.

SJT is used as a part of the Interview score and is not used to determine if applicants receive an interview.

# Preparation

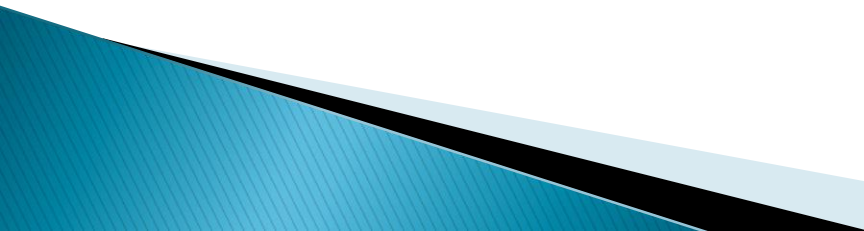
- ▶ Free 'Candidate Preparation Toolkit'
  - Practice question
  - Tours
  - 3 full, timed practice tests
  - Videos from previous candidates
- ▶ Recommend 21–30 hours preparation
- ▶ Books, courses, websites
  - Kaplan, Medic portal, Passmedicine
- ▶ Medic Mind (the application guide) has lots of useful information about UCAT scores and how universities use them

# Info

- ▶ Can only sit once
- ▶ £65 – £87 depending on when you book.
- ▶ Bursaries available, linked revision bursaries
- ▶ <http://www.ukcat.ac.uk/>
- ▶ [AT](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/UKCAT)



# Access Information

- ▶ You may be entitled to access arrangements if you have:
  - ▶ Cognition and Learning Needs e.g. General and/or Specific Learning Difficulties such as Dyslexia or Dyscalculia.
  - ▶ Communication and Interaction Need e.g. Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
  - ▶ Sensory and Physical Needs e.g. a Hearing or Vision Impairment; Physical Disability.
  - ▶ Social, Mental and Emotional Needs e.g. Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD); Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD); Mental Health Conditions.
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# Extended test versions

- ▶ You must apply for approval if you want to sit one of the extended versions of the test:
- ▶ **UCATSEN** (150 minutes) 25% extra test time
- ▶ **UCATSA** (140 minutes) Standard test time with 5 minute rest breaks before sections
- ▶ **UCATSENSA** (168.75 minutes) 25% extra test time with 5 minute rest breaks before sections
- ▶ **UCATSEN50** (180 minutes) 50% extra test time