

# BMAT

## About BMAT

BMAT is a 2-hour, pen-and-paper test divided into three sections. You can see what is in each section and also a list of courses that require BMAT below.

### Section 1: Aptitude and Skills

What does it test?	Questions	Timing
Generic skills in problem solving, understanding arguments, and data analysis and inference.	35 multiple-choice questions	60 minutes

### Section 2: Scientific Knowledge and Applications

What does it test?	Questions	Timing
The ability to apply scientific knowledge typically covered in school Science and Mathematics by the age of 16 (for example, GCSE in the UK and IGCSE internationally).	27 multiple-choice questions	30 minutes

### Section 3: Writing Task

What does it test?	Questions	Timing
The ability to select, develop and organise ideas, and to communicate them in writing, concisely and effectively.	One writing task from a choice of three questions	30 minutes

## Who uses BMAT?

All details below were correct at the time of being published in February 2017.

University	Course
Brighton and Sussex Medical School (B74)*	A100 Medicine
Imperial College London (I50)	A100 Medicine A109 Graduate Medicine (5 year course)
Keele University (K12)†	A100 Medicine A104 Health Foundation Year
Lancaster University (L14)	A100 Medicine & Surgery A900 Foundation Year for Medicine & Surgery
Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine)	Medicine: MBBS degree jointly awarded by Imperial College London and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Mahidol University	Medicine
Thammasat University: CICM and Dentistry**	642901 Doctor of Medicine (English language) 642902 Doctor of Dental Surgery (bilingual English/Thai)
University College London (U80)	A100 Medicine
University of Cambridge (C05)	A100 Medicine
University of Leeds (L23)	A100 Medicine A200 Dentistry
University of Melbourne‡	DDS Doctor of Dental Surgery
University of Oxford (O33)	A100 Medicine A101 Graduate Medicine BC98 Biomedical Sciences

You have already given you examples of section 3 essay questions. What follows below are examples of section 1 and 2 questions.

## Sample of BMAT essay questions:

(You can find a list of essay questions from after 2014 at <https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/preparing-for-bmat/practice-papers/> Note that from 2017 onwards there are only three writing tasks.)

2014:

**1. There is no such thing as dangerous speech; it is up to people to choose how they react.**

Explain the reasoning behind this statement. Argue to the contrary that there can be instances of dangerous speech. To what extent should a society put limitations on speech or text that it considers threatening?

**2. Science has been a process of continuous advancement towards objective truth.**

Explain what is meant by this statement. Argue to the contrary. To what extent do you agree that science is a continuous process of advancement towards objective truth?

**3. There is money to be made from not curing disease.**

What do you think is meant by this statement? Argue to the contrary. To what extent do you agree that there is money to be made from disease?

**4. Modern veterinary medicine is more for the benefit of humans than the animals under its care.**

Explain what you understand by this statement. Argue to the contrary that veterinary medicine is concerned more with the benefit of non-human animals. How might human and non-human interests diverge within the practice of veterinary medicine?

2013:

**1 "When you want to know how things really work, study them when they are coming apart." (William Gibson)**

Explain what this statement means. Argue to the contrary. To what extent do you agree with the assertion?

**2 Good surgeons should be encouraged to take on tough cases, not just safe, routine ones. Publishing an individual surgeon's mortality rates may have the opposite effect.**

Explain what this statement means. Argue to the contrary. To what extent do you think league tables should change a surgeon's behaviour?

**3 "Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge: it is those who know little, and not those who know much, who so positively assert that this or that problem will never be solved by science." (Charles Darwin)**

Explain what you think is meant by this statement. Argue to the contrary. To what extent do you think it is true?

**4 In a world where we struggle to feed an ever-expanding human population, owning pets cannot be justified.**

Explain what is meant by this statement. Argue that pet ownership is indefensible. How should moral or ethical concerns influence a decision to own a pet?

2012:

**1 "Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd." (Voltaire)**

Explain what this statement means. Argue to the contrary that to be certain about something is not necessarily absurd. To what extent do you agree with Voltaire?

**2 "There is something attractive about people who don't regard their own health and longevity as the most important things in the world." (Alexander Chancellor)**

Explain what this statement means. Argue that nothing is more important than one's own health and longevity. To what extent do you agree with Alexander Chancellor?

**3 The scientist is not someone who gives the right answers but one who asks the right questions.**

Explain what this statement means. Argue to the contrary that the right answers are more important than the right questions. To what extent do you agree that the right questions must be asked before science can progress?

**4 "... Dolphins are very intelligent and so similar to humans that they are worthy of a special ethical status: that of 'non-human persons'."**

Explain what this statement means. Argue to the contrary that dolphins should not be given special ethical status. To what extent do you agree that intelligence and similarity to humans bestows special ethical status?

2011:

**1 Democratic freedom means there should be no restriction on what may be said in public.**

Explain what you think democratic freedom means. Argue that there should be restrictions on what is said in public. To what extent do you agree that there should be limitations on what can be said in public?

**2 The art of medicine consists of amusing the patient while nature cures the disease.**

*Voltaire*

Explain what this statement means. Argue to the contrary that medicine does in fact do more than amuse the patient. To what extent do you think Voltaire is correct?

**3 A scientific man ought to have no wishes, no affections - a mere heart of stone.**

*Charles Darwin*

Explain what this statement means. Argue that scientific enquiry benefits from personal wishes and affections. To what extent do you think a scientist should have 'a mere heart of stone'?

**4 Veterinary pet care in the UK should be free at the point of delivery, as human care is.**

Explain the argument behind this statement. Argue to the contrary, that if people choose to keep pets they should pay for all aspects of their care. To what extent do you agree that there should be free pet care?