



# Past Paper

## BioMedical Admissions Test

4500/03a

Time allowed: 30 minutes

### SECTION 3 Writing Task

#### Instructions to Candidates

**Please read this page carefully, but do not open this question paper until you are told that you may do so.**

A separate answer sheet is provided for this section. Please check you have one.

Please first write your initials in the space provided at the top of the answer sheet. For example, Noora Louise Al-Musalam should enter her initials like this:

Candidate initials

N	L	A	M	
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Please also write your BioMedical Admissions Test candidate number and centre number in the spaces provided. Please write very clearly.

This question paper contains a choice of three tasks, of which you must answer only **one**. It also provides space in which you may make any preliminary notes you wish, but **your answer must be written on the single page answer sheet.**

The tasks each provide an opportunity for you to show how well you can

- select, develop and organise ideas and
- communicate them effectively in writing.

Before you begin writing, take time to think carefully about what you need to say and the ways in which the organisation and layout of your response might help convey your message. Diagrams etc. may be used if they enhance communication.

Take care to show how well you can write and be concise, clear and accurate.

Dictionaries may NOT be used.

Remember that when you are told that you may begin you will have only 30 minutes to choose and complete your task, and that your complete response must be contained on the single page provided for your answer. The disciplines involved in this are regarded as key features of the task.

**Please wait to be told you may begin before turning this page.**

*This paper consists of 2 printed pages and 2 blank pages.*

**Use this space and the back page for notes *etc.* if you wish. Remember that your response must be written on the single page answer sheet provided.**

**YOU MUST ANSWER ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

- 1 The technology of medicine has outrun its sociology.**  
Henry E. Sigerist (1891-1957)

Write a unified essay in which you address the following:

What do you understand by this statement? Give an example of a technological advance to which it might apply. How might this problem be addressed?

- 2 Our unprecedented survival has produced a revolution in longevity which is shaking the foundations of societies around the world and profoundly altering our attitudes to life and death**  
Tom Kirkwood, BBC Reith Lectures, 2001

Write a unified essay in which you address the following:

This is a statement concerning ageing and longevity; explain what you think it means. Advance an argument against this statement, i.e. in favour of the proposition that 'a revolution in longevity is *not* shaking the foundations of societies around the world'.

- 3 Irrationally held truths may be more harmful than reasoned errors.**  
Thomas Henry Huxley

Write a unified essay in which you address the following:

This is a statement concerning truth in science; explain what you think it means. From what Huxley says in this statement, what do you think he means by 'irrationally held truths'? Advance a contrary argument, that reasoned errors are more harmful than irrationally held truths.

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