BioMedical Admissions Test

Wednesday 3 November 2010 Morning 30 minutes

SECTION 3 Writing Task

Instructions to Candidates

Please read this page carefully, but do not open the 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 complete the answer sheet with your name, BMAT candidate number, centre number and initials. Your answer sheet should be completed in black ink.

This question paper contains a choice of four tasks, of which you must answer only one. There is space on the question paper for preliminary notes. Your answer must be written on the answer sheet provided. No additional answer sheets may be used. Candidates with permission to use a word processor must not exceed 550 words.

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.

Any rough work should be done on this question paper.

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.

Dictionaries and calculators may NOT be used.

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 Anyone who has a serious ambition to be a president or prime minister is the wrong kind of person for the job.

What is the reasoning behind this statement? Argue to the contrary that without serious ambition to be a leader a person would not be suited to the job. To what extent is ambition required to succeed as a political leader?

2 People injured whilst participating in extreme sports should not be treated by a publicly funded health service.

Explain the reasoning behind this statement. Suggest an argument against this statement. To what extent, if any, does the statement justify a change in public attitudes to personal risk taking?

3 A pet belongs to its owner - it is their property. Thus, if a client asks for their healthy cat to be painlessly euthanased, a veterinary clinician should always agree to this request.

Explain the reasoning behind the statement. Argue to the contrary that a veterinary clinician should never agree to such a request. To what extent should pet owners influence clinicians’ decisions?

4 Science only tells us what is possible, not what is right.

Explain what this statement means. Argue to the contrary that science helps us to judge what is right. To what extent can decisions about what is right and wrong be informed by science?