

BMAT Section 3 essay tips

General

- Ensure that all three parts of the question are clearly and fully addressed.
- Make points as precisely as possible and avoid repetition.
- Group similar points together, rather than splitting them across the essay.

Engaging with the statement

- Engage closely with the wording of the statement and the question.
- Take a broad and nuanced view of any general or abstract terms.
- Avoid discussing the topic area in an unfocused or overly general way.

Arguing effectively

- Always try to see both sides of the argument.
- Use targeted, concrete examples to support your arguments.
- Avoid arguments that rest solely on examples – examples should not be overly general or given without context.

The counter-argument

- Strengthen the counter-argument by including a range of points.
- Cover different aspects of the same argument from different angles, where possible.
- Avoid the inclusion of irrelevant background information.

Expressing your view

- Make sure that your view is clearly expressed and in enough depth.
- Support your view by reference to your arguments in the rest of the essay.
- Do not simply summarise what you have already said in the essay.

Planning

- It is a good idea to plan your answer for 5 to 10 minutes before starting to write.
- In your plan, group your ideas around the three different parts of the task (argument, counter-argument, your reasoned position).
- Use your plan to ensure you express your ideas as persuasively and concisely as possible.

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