



CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT

BioMedical Admissions Test

4500/13

Wednesday 7th November 2012

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 "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?

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