

BioMedical Admissions Test

4500/13

Wednesday 6th November 2013

30 minutes

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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 "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?

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