

UCAT TIPS SHEET by MediTeach

2 hour **computerized** exam consisting of 5 Subsections:

- 1) **Verbal Reasoning** - Score between 300 – 900
- 2) **Decision Making** - Score between 300 – 900
- 3) **Quantitative reasoning** - Score between 300 – 900
- 4) **Abstract reasoning** – Score between 300 – 900
- 5) **Situational judgement** – Band 1 – 4

Decision Making – Tests ability to draw logical conclusions

29 Questions to interpret – 31 minutes. This section is a bit of a combination between VR & QR. Only have about 64 seconds/question!

Q types include: interpreting info and drawing conclusions, evaluating arguments: After evaluating the STRONGEST argument- AVOID ASSUMPTION. Be evidence based.

Construct + be able to read **Venn diagrams** to help answer questions

Learn **basic** probabilities (1= certain 0=impossible 0.1= one in ten) and statistics to help answer q's.

For answering the syllogism questions- **do not use** external knowledge

Situational Judgement – Judging responses to real life situations

Generally two type of Q's: **Rating** how appropriate a response to a scenario is and rating how important an action is based on the scenario.

Read the **GMC** books such as good medical practice.

Understand **key concepts** in a scenario to help you answer- eg If scenario is taking about patient confidentiality this is usually very important.

Pay attention to the **WORD CHOICE** in the question – if there are strong **negative words** used eg abuse/ threatening, this usually entices an inappropriate response.

Top tip: Always act within your remit and be SAFE! Don't feel pressured and always take **advice** from your senior where necessary.

Our Top tips:

- Get used to **computer** format! Practice q's ONLINE
- Use your **online calculator** for QR section and not a pocket calculator to replicate UCAT exam.
- **Light** reading on day of exam e.g. newspaper.
- Practice the **UCAT official tests** at similar **time** to your real exam! Get studying at least 3 weeks before!
- Many strategies available online but find the best one for you and write them down.
- Start practicing questions untimed before dealing with added time pressure.
- Always answer all questions as there is **NO negative** marking!
- Master the art of **FLAGGING**: If stuck and wasting time, take a guess, flag the q and come back to it at the end!

Verbal Reasoning – Tests text comprehension

Around 11 passages – 4 questions each = 44 Qs

30 secs per question – some will take less time than others!

2 Question types: 1) True, false, can't tell, 2) Single best answer e.g. most/least likely

Read the question FIRST- then Identify **keywords** and scan passage. Get used to skimming and **scanning** for key words- Read newspapers!

Try doing the True, false, can't tell questions first and coming back to the others if you're struggling by flagging them.

DO NOT USE outside info, only what is IN the passage!

Quantitative reasoning – Solving numerical problems

Practice basic arithmetic + Understand **terms** eg Perimeter, Area, Circumference, Percentages, Pie charts, Ratios.

Try to eliminate implausible options first.

Get used to doing percentage increase or decrease

% change = Difference/ORIGINAL x 100

% = Given amount/ Total amount X100

Average/ Mean = sum of No's / number of No's

Speed = Distance/Time

Perimeter = Sum of all sides

Be extra careful with which **UNITS** the final question asks for and practice alternating between units.

Abstract reasoning – Tests pattern recognition

55 Questions – 14 mins

Many questions come in sets of 5 – Approx. 70 secs per set

Don't get too caught up in finding 1 pattern – Some shapes can be put in as **distractions**.

Start by looking for **obvious** patterns e.g. No. of shapes, colour, size, position.

Look at the **simplest** boxes in each set first! Make sure your rule applies to each set.

If you are struggling, change **your perspective**; step back from the screen or come back to the question.

- **Alt + f** = Flags the current question **Keyboard**
- **Alt + c** = Opens the calculator
- **Alt + n** = Next page **Shortcuts!**
- **Alt + p** = Previous page